## Welcome Message

On behalf of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society and on behalf of the organizing committee of INDIN'04 we would like to welcome you at the Second IEEE Conference on Industrial Informatics INDIN'04 in Berlin. Going back to an idea born at a special session at IECON02 in Sevilla, our first INDIN was held last year in Banff, Canada, and in 2005 INDIN will be organized in Perth, Australia.

As it results from the strong feedback to the Call for Papers, this initiative is meant to become the major forum for integration of the dispersed efforts led by academia and industry around the world into a strong, unified community dedicated to development and deployment of information technologies into industrial arena. Our purpose is to bring together a community balancing academia and industry leaders into a joint effort to find solutions in the area of industrial information technologies.

This conference would not have been possible without the outstanding contributions from Armando Walter Colombo, Rolf Bernhardt and Gerhard Schreck guided by the encouraging support of Alf Weaver, Aleksander Malinowski, Leopoldo Franquelo, Carlos Couto, John Hung and Paul Drews.

This INDIN04 has been organized with the very active support of the technical track and special session chairs, who accompanied the submission-evaluation process and supported us with the completion of an educational conference program: Michael Höpf (Fraunhofer Society-IPA), Christian Diedrich (University Magdeburg), Rainer Unland (University Duisburg-Essen), Karel Jezernik (University Maribor), Paul Drews (European Mechatronics Center), Adolfo Steiger-Garcao (New University of Lisbon), Georg Stark (University of Augsburg), Jürgen Kaltwasser (PSI AG Berlin), Frank Golotowski (University Rostock), Duc Pham (Manufacturing Engineering Centre, Cardiff), Jose L. Martinez Lastra (University of Tampere), Omar J. Lopez (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey) and Valeriy Vyatkin (Martin Luther University of Halle).

We also would like to thanks all direct contributors for keynotes and prepared papers. Our review process, thanks to the strong support of the IPC, and the excellent quality of the accepted and published papers will certainly inspire a deep and fruitful exchange and friendship among scientists and engineers.

Yours truly



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