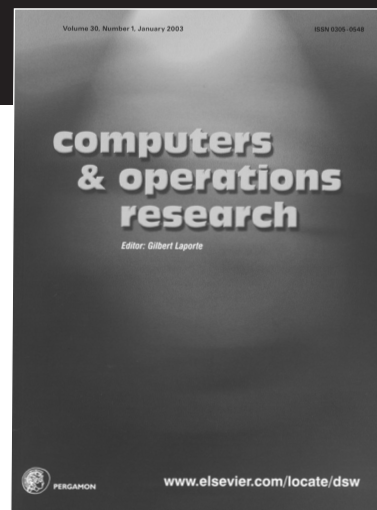




# CALL FOR PAPERS



## Special Issue of *Computers & Operations Research* **Disruption Management and Robust Planning in Optimization**

During the last decade commercial implementation of optimization methods have found their way into an increasing number of industrial sectors. In addition, the classical applications e.g. airline, transportation, and manpower planning have been driving the development of better and faster techniques. The developments in the areas of linear programming and integer programming have made it possible to solve very large and complex problems optimally. Finally, the developments within IT hardware have also made quantum leaps with respect to computing power and its price. The implication of the enhanced planning methods in some areas have resulted in plans becoming "too good". In planning of schedules for cabin crew in the airlines, the utilization of time between flights can now be made so good that there are hardly any buffers left in the plan to accommodate for potential disruptions. As a consequence, two new lines of research within the Operations Research community have been initiated: 1) *Disruption management* - using optimization to plan for an optimal or near-optimal return to schedule after a disruption. 2) *Robust planning* - instead of producing the optimal plans for a normal situation, which seldomly occurs, and where recovery can be a complex operation, the aim is to produce plans/schedules that at a minimum premium incorporate buffers, or other characteristics, helping the schedule to remain feasible after a disruption or easing the recovery. These lines of research are relevant not only within the transportation sector but also for a wide number of other sectors that are based on schedules. This includes a number of production planning settings such as the food industry where timing is of great importance as the produced goods may be perishable. This special issue will feature contributions describing the current state-of-art within disruption management and robust planning from various industries. We welcome academic results as well as real-life examples from different industrial contexts.

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**Submission of papers: 1 January 2007    Notification of acceptance: May 2007**