

# **CALL FOR PAPERS**

## ***International Journal of Production Economics***

Special Issue

on

**Meta-Heuristics for Manufacturing Scheduling and Logistics Problems**

### **Special Issue Guest Editors**

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### **Introduction**

Nowadays, customer demand for order variety, short-lead time, and fast delivery has created a great impact on manufacturing problems such as production scheduling, job sequencing, vehicle routing, bin-packing, and loading. The related problems of manufacturing scheduling and logistics support are even more crucial than ever. Traditional approaches are incapable

of dealing with the challenges of such intractable problems. There is a need for the development of new solution methods to address these challenging issues. Meta-heuristics based on ant colony optimization, evolutionary algorithms, particle swarms etc. provide a new problem-solving paradigm for academic researchers and industrial practitioners.

Manufacturing scheduling and logistics problems are practical decision-making problems in organizations and factories. Scheduling and transportation logistics problems are notoriously difficult problems in the domains of production economics, operations research, optimization, and computer science. Due to their theoretical challenges and practical values, scheduling and logistics problems have attracted a considerable amount of research attention in the literature. However, traditional approaches can only solve small-scale scheduling or logistics problems optimally as the computational efforts to solve large-sized problems are beyond the capability of contemporary computational resources. This limitation has prompted researchers and practitioners to develop problem-specific heuristics or use meta-heuristics to solve such problems quickly with reasonable solution quality.

This special issue of *International Journal of Production Economics (IJPE)* is devoted to publishing new and significant results on developing new approaches that combine meta-heuristics with other problem-solving paradigms to yield highly effective solution methods for manufacturing scheduling and logistics problems. In view of the recent advances and breakthroughs in Computational Intelligence, various techniques such as Neural Networks, Fuzzy Theory, and Evolutionary Algorithms can be deployed to develop more reliable and accurate solution approaches. New tools, techniques, or models that can be applied to cope with manufacturing scheduling and logistics problems are all welcomed. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Application of ant colony optimization, evolutionary algorithms, and related meta-heuristics (e.g., particle swarm, artificial immune system, DNA approach, bee system etc.) to deal with manufacturing scheduling and logistics problems
- Design and development of conventional optimization based heuristics
- Design and development of new meta-heuristics or bio-inspired algorithms
- Solving practical problems using heuristics, meta-heuristics, or hyper-heuristics
- Methods for dealing with stochastic, dynamic, and multi-objective problems

- Comparisons with other meta-heuristics (tabu search, local search based methods etc.)
- Hybrid methods and hyper-heuristics

### Manuscript Preparation and Submission

To prepare their manuscripts, authors are asked to closely follow the *IJPE* “[Guide for Authors](#)”. Authors should submit their papers via the EES <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijpe> and select “Special Issue: [Meta-heuristics for MSLP](#)” when asked to indicate the “Article Type” in the submission process. Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Manuscripts will be refereed according to the standards of *IJPE*.

### Publication Schedule

INFORMATION	DEADLINE
Manuscript submission	15 October 2011
Reviewer reports	1 February 2012
Revised paper submission	30 April 2012
Final manuscript submissions to publisher	15 July 2012

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