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Foreword

High value products with long life require through-life engineering services (TES) to achieve required performance throughout their operational life. Examples of the high value products include high-tech machine tools, aircraft engine, nuclear power station, train, defence equipment, high-end car, medical equipment, and wind turbine. When manufacturers provide TES for a product they have developed, especially within an industrial product-service system context, it provides additional opportunities to improve the design and production of those products using the in-service feedback. This can lead to overall reduction of the through-life cost together with reduction in material consumption. Over the years the TES subject area has matured in terms of research and industrial applications. There are strong case studies from industry already. This is also in line with the European Commission's action plan on Circular Economy.

The International TES Conference in November 2016 has presented state of the art in TES. The conference presented 48 technical papers, including several keynotes. In addition, the conference also organised industrial workshops to involve industrial colleagues to set the requirements from the industry perspective. The workshops were very popular with both the industrial delegates and researchers from the academia. The papers covered areas like applications of virtual and augmented realities for TES, non-destructive testing, TES for railway industry, jet engine regeneration, diagnostics and prognostics, life extension and repair, Internet of Things (IoT) and maintenance informatics, condition based and predictive maintenance, TES for product service systems, no fault found – solution to the impact on availability and cost and TES for electronics. Discussion on the papers were very lively and the conference debated future research directions strongly.

Overall, the conference was a success for the authors with their high-quality research, the reviewers, the conference sponsors for their kind support, the industry partners and the local organisers. I would also like to thank our Programme Chair and the programme committee members for their sincere effort in improving the quality of the papers and the presentations at the conference.

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