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Abstract Title (18 font bold center)

Bingwen Yan (12 font bold center)
Industrial and Systems Engineering
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Cape Town, South Africa
YanB@cput.ac.za

Ahad Ali and Don Reimer
A. Leon Linton Department of Mechanical, Robotics and Industrial Engineering (12 font center)
Lawrence Technological University
Southfield, MI 48075, USA
aali@ltu.edu, dreimer@ltu.edu

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Bingwen Yan is a Professor and Head of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). He holds a Doctor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering and has played a pivotal role in advancing education through his extensive involvement in teaching, learning, and curriculum development. Prof. Yan's research expertise spans a diverse range of fields, including industrial engineering, engineering management, operations management, and public administration. Throughout his academic career, Prof. Yan has made significant contributions to the academic community. He has successfully supervised eight doctoral candidates and approximately 30 master's students, fostering a culture of excellence in postgraduate research. His scholarly work is well-recognized, with numerous publications in ISI- and DHET-accredited journals, as well as presentations at esteemed international conferences. Additionally, Prof. Yan has contributed to academic quality as a member of organizing committees, a peer reviewer for leading journals and conferences, and an evaluator of NRF-funded research projects and grant applications. Prof. Yan is a registered member of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) and is committed to bridging academia and industry through his active engagement in community projects and industrial collaborations. His dedication to education, research, and professional service underscores his commitment to driving innovation and excellence in the engineering field.

Ahad Ali is an Associate Professor and Director of Industrial Engineering Program in the A. Leon Linton Department of Mechanical, Robotics and Industrial Engineering at the Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan, USA. He earned B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh, a Master's in Systems and Engineering Management from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has published journal and conference papers. Dr Ali has completed research projects with Chrysler, Ford, New Center Stamping, Whelan Co., Progressive Metal Manufacturing Company, Whitlam Label Company, DTE Energy, Delphi Automotive System, GE Medical Systems, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, International Truck and Engine Corporation (ITEC), National/Panasonic Electronics, and Rockwell Automation. His research interests include manufacturing, simulation, optimization, reliability, scheduling, manufacturing, and lean. He is a member of IEOM, INFORMS, SME and IEEE.

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Don Reimer is working as a chief operating officer of IEOM Society International. He is a managing member of The Small Business Strategy Group, LLC and serves as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University**.** Mr. Reimer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from Lawrence Technological University and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Detroit/Mercy. He has been recognized as a professional management consultant with over 45 years of experience in working with closely-held businesses. He has taught courses in entrepreneurship, management and corporate entrepreneurship and innovation for engineers. Mr. Reimer served as a member of the Minority Economic Development Committee of New Detroit. He has served as a KEEN Fellow for The Kern Family Foundation. He is a member of the Lawrence Tech Alumni Board of Directors and has been elected a Fellow of the IEOM Society International. Mr. Reimer is a faculty advisor of the Student Chapter of the IEOM Society at Lawrence Tech.

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