Foreword

I am pleased and honoured at the opportunity to write a short Foreword to Optimum Decision Making in Asset Management. The book’s editors, Vicente González-Prida Díaz and María Carmen Carnero Moya, bring a wealth of experience to bear on their topic, they are good friends and well recognized authors of research papers and manuscripts within the field of assets management, and more precisely, assets’ warranty and predictive maintenance technologies management.

Vicente González-Prida Díaz is a member of the SIM Research Group (Sistemas Inteligentes de Mantenimiento) of the University of Seville. He has managed warranty and technical services departments in various multinational companies in the military and in the utilities sectors. María Carmen Carnero Moya is Associate Professor (with tenure) at the Higher Technical School of Industrial Engineering of the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Ciudad Real, in the Department of Business Administration. He has published extensively in the area of predictive maintenance management and has been involved in many maintenance projects, especially within the Health sector.

Many of the contributors of this book, included the two Editors, are members of the Network of Excellence on Assets Management (DPI2014-56547-REDT), Promoted in Spain by the Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación 2013-2016, released by the Economy and Competitiveness Ministry of the Government of Spain. Because of my responsibility as the coordinator of this network, I am glad to see this work as another interesting outcome of our academic and research community (Section 1 of the book contains papers in which at least one of the authors is a member of our network), dealing with the topic of assets management.

The field of Physical Assets Management is an emerging field of action in industry and in other sectors, which has given renewed attention to the maintenance of industrial equipment, buildings and infrastructure in general. The main concern of assets management is to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the assets, paying at the same time special attention to their eco-efficiency over their life cycle.

This book is a good example of how the industrial maintenance concept has evolved over time with the advent of new technical and organizational capabilities to the industry. Concepts like risk and uncertainty management, or life cycle cost analysis and management are becoming a must for modern assets and maintenance managers. Good examples of this reality are also presented in Section 2 of the book, from very diverse and enriching perspectives.

It is also importance to notice the emergence of standards such as the family ISO 55000, introducing new challenges especially for industrial organizations. The open nature of the standard, besides the number of different areas it deals with, makes essential the search for collaboration between companies and research institution interested in this field.
I think this book will contribute to connect different research centres together with practitioners and other interested parties, in order to facilitate the identification and to face the challenges of emerging needs of modern industry, within the context of asset management.

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Adolfo Crespo Márquez is currently Full Professor at the School of Engineering of the University of Seville, and Head of the Department of Industrial Management. He holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering from this same University. His research works have been published in journals such as the International Journal of Production Research, International Journal of Production Economics, European Journal of Operations Research, Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management, International Journal of Agile Manufacturing, Omega, Journal of Quality in Maintenance Engineering, Decision Support Systems, Computers in Industry, Reliability Engineering and System Safety and International Journal of Simulation and Process Modeling, among others. Prof. Crespo is the author of 7 books, the last four with Springer-Verlag in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2014 about maintenance, warranty and supply chain management. Prof. Crespo leads the Spanish Research Network on Dependability Management and the Spanish Committee for Maintenance Standardization (1995-2003). He also leads a research team related to maintenance and dependability management currently with 5 PhD students and 4 researchers. He has extensively participated in many engineering and consulting projects for different companies, for the Spanish Departments of Defense, Science and Education as well as for the European Commission (IPTS). He is the President of INGEMAN (a National Association for the Development of Maintenance Engineering in Spain) since 2002.