Acknowledgment

We were initially motivated to edit this book when we were managing the multiyear multinational research project entitled “Business process fusion based on Semantically-enabled Service-oriented Business Applications”—code named FUSION. FUSION was a specific targeted research project partially funded by the European Commission under the Information Society Technologies programme under contract No 027385 (2006-2008).

The FUSION project aimed to promote efficient business collaboration and interconnection between enterprises (including SMEs) by developing a framework and innovative technologies for the semantic fusion of heterogeneous service-oriented business applications. Led by SAP AG, the FUSION consortium consisted of 14 partners from five European countries (Germany, Poland, Greece, Hungary and Bulgaria).

We had the opportunity to interact with many people during the development of the FUSION solution as well as during the preparation of this book. We would like to thank the European Commission for partially funding our efforts. We thank Cristina Martinez of the European Commission for her continuous support and guidance. We are also grateful to the reviewers of the project: Prof. Nada Lavrac of the Jozef Stefan Institute (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Ms. Man-Sze Li of IC Focus (London, UK) and Prof. Robert Meersman of the Vrije Universiteit (Brussels, Belgium). Their comments and recommendations have been extremely constructive and helped us shape our ideas and work.

We would also like to acknowledge Julia Mosemann, Development Editor of IGI Global. We are appreciative of her interest, persistence, and feedback.

A warm thank you to our families for the support and continuous encouragement they provided us during our work on this book.

Gregoris Mentzas
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Andreas Friesen
SAP, Inc., Germany