



Lean and Green Manufacturing

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Message from the Guest Editors

Today's agenda on industrial competitiveness demands a truthful coalescence of approaches. On one side, operational smoothness and effectiveness must be granted in complex production environments, where timing, quality and cost are sovereign, while global innovation and competition sets the pace. On the other side, the world of production is constrained and bound by natural and human constraints, where ecosystem provisions and regeneration limits must be acknowledged and granted, and the wellbeing and health of humans secured and sustained. A combined Lean and Green Manufacturing (L&G) approach seems to have great potential for covering many of these challenges. Lean provides the setting and a plethora of tools, techniques and an appropriate framework for the never ending quest of doing more with less, i.e., to provide valuable goods with less human effort, less space, lower inventories, in shorter timeframes, among other things. We require products to be truly safe goods, with no hidden drawbacks and well thought out lifecycles, the processes to be clean, systematically designed and engineered, and the workers to prosper along with their families and local communities.





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