

Editorial

This second issue of ORiON Volume 27 contains three interesting papers. As usual the three papers span a wide range of operations research related topics.

The first paper, titled “Decision support for grape harvesting at a South African winery” by Adri van der Merwe, Estbeth van Dyk and Jan van Vuuren, proposes a decision support system for grape harvesting operations. This system optimises two nested scheduling problems, namely the *active cellar scheduling problem* and the *harvest scheduling problem*. The first problem is concerned with an optimal assignment plan of grape intake batches to different processes within the cellar. The second problem is concerned with selecting good dates on which to harvest vineyard blocks to optimise the overall quality of the harvested grapes. This nested scheduling problem is solved by means of a tabu search implementation. This approach have been implemented in a decision support system and its worth has been demonstrated by means of a case study.

The second paper marks a historical event. It is the first paper of a mathematical nature written in Setswana – one of the eleven official languages of South Africa – that is published in a blind peer reviewed scholarly journal. My congratulations goes to Tumo Baitshenyetsi, Giel Hattingh and Hennie Kruger for this achievement. They had to coin several new terms and terminology in Setswana to describe the technical aspects in the paper. This paper is titled “Tiragatso Ya Itlhagiso Ya Setlhare Se Se Okeditsweng Ka Kgetsi Mo Bothateng Jwa Popo Ya Metato Ya Dipeipi Tsa Oli” (English: Applying an extended tree knapsack approach to an oil pipeline design problem). This paper presents a tree knapsack approach to network design. A known case study from literature regarding the design of an oil pipe line network is considered. It is concluded that the specific network flow and design problem is solvable within a reasonable time frame by means of a extended tree knapsack approach.

The final paper by Dag Ericsson is titled “Demand chain management — The implementation.” This paper is a follow-up on the paper “Demand chain management — The evolution” by the same author that was published in the previous issue of ORiON. As the title suggests, it describes the implementation of demand chain management (DCM). An overview of the theory regarding DCM is presented. The paper then highlights the important aspects and pitfalls during the change management of implementing DCM in an existing company. The paper describes on a practical level how to move from a channel (silo) approach to a network approach.

I would like to thank all the authors of papers in this issue for supporting ORiON by submitting their work for publication. My sincerest thanks also go to the referees who contributed selflessly to this issue of ORiON. Referee reports have led to substantial improvements in the quality of papers in most of the cases. Without the authors and referees it would be impossible to publish papers of high quality in ORiON.

I would like to convey my sincerest thanks to Martin Kidd, the journal manager, and Anton de Villiers, the typesetting assistant. Both of them are performing an excellent and professional job at respectively handling the management and typesetting of ORiON. Without their help and dedication the publication of ORiON would be near impossible.

Authors of new submissions are invited to use ORiON's online submission system. It is available at <http://orion.journals.ac.za>. Not only does it ease the administrative burden of the editorial team, but authors can track the refereeing process of their submitted papers on the online system. Referees can also register and complete their referees' reports on this online system. Please contact the journal manager, Martin Kidd, if you need any assistance to use this new facility.

I hope that the range of papers included in this issue will contain something of interest to all of ORiON's readers. Readers are welcome to contact the editor-in-chief with any recommendations or suggestions regarding the publication of ORiON.

Stephan Visagie
December 2011