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Editorial

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The national conference in computational mechanics (Colloque national en calcul des structures) is organized every two years by the French Computational Structural Mechanics Association (CSMA). CSMA is affiliated to the "Association Française de Mécanique" (AFM), the International Association for Computational Mechanics (IACM) and the European Community on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences (ECCOMAS). This regular and well-established event is the unique national meeting dedicated to this field. Since its inception in 1993, this Conference attracts an ever-increasing audience of junior and senior scientists, engineers and doctoral students.

This 9th edition of the CSMA meeting, held on May 25 to 29, 2009 at the village of Giens (near Toulon, France), was organized by the LMT Cachan laboratory of ENS Cachan. It gathered 350 participants from all French research centres active in computational mechanics, and also about 25 participants from Belgium, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, Spain, Switzerland, USA and a few other countries. Moreover, about 12% of the delegates came from industry.

This special issue of the Mechanics & Industry gathers 18 papers selected, after an independent review process, from over 240 communications presented at the Conference in an attempt to provide a general overview of contemporary research work in the field of computational mechanics.

We warmly thank all the authors of the papers featured in this special issue, and more generally all the authors of communications presented at Giens 2009.

Christian Rey, LMT, ENS Cachan Michel Raous, LMA, CNRS Philippe Pasquet, Samtech Marc Bonnet, LMS, École Polytechnique Frédéric Feyel, ONERA