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Preface

The Latin American Journal of Solids and Structures is permanently increasing its importance as a qualified forum for publication and dissemination of original research work related to the fields of mechanical sciences and engineering. The scientific contribution of Brazil and other South American countries has increased significantly along the last decade, as a consequence of the number and quality of our graduate schools. This means that the scientific community in South America demands for new archival value journals for publication of its research results. It is also worth mentioning that the evaluation procedure adopted by various institutions and research agencies has also played an important role, particularly in Brazil, in the sense of encouraging scientific publications.

The Brazilian Society of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering (ABCM) is proud of supporting the Latin American Journal of Solids and Structures, since a significant number of ABCM Members are using the Journal both for their scientific work and for submitting their manuscripts for publication. Besides, the Board of ABCM considers that scientific societies and journal editors in the field of engineering should study ways of expanding the possibility of publication by creating electronic journals. This is an international trend in many fields of science and engineering. However, we should never forget that the excellence of the publications as determined by peer review is of paramount importance to assure the quality of new Journals.

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