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Editorial

We are very pleased to introduce to the scientific community, from both the academia and industry, this very first issue of the Latin American Journal of Solids and Structures. The idea of a journal in this branch of the engineering has long been discussed by many of us.

Partially due to the lack of a suitable medium, much important and original research work of many Latin American universities have not gained full recognition. This is evident when one pauses to reflect on the large number of articles published in conferences in Latin America, the increasing number of Master and Doctoral theses, and the widespread organization of new research groups in strategic areas.

Without the aid of a suitable forum, this high quality research work is at risk of being obscured or even completely lost to the general scientific community. Therefore, this journal was conceived to give prospective researchers a mean to publish their results and to receive due international acknowledgment for their work. Accordingly, the idea of such a journal has been welcomed enthusiastically by many of the internationally recognized scientists who are now acting on the editorial board.

It is our experience that certain factors rule the success of a modern journal: namely an electronic handling of the papers, a site where they can be easily downloaded anywhere in the world, a high quality typesetting and an agile efficient peer reviewing system. All these elements have received a careful attention from us, but we are aware that these alone are not enough. Indeed, a journal can only gain a wider recognition and international visibility if it publishes high quality articles, as the ones in this issue.

We sincerely thank the many researchers who embraced this idea, all the members of the editorial board and reviewers for their enthusiastic support. We share this enthusiasm now with all the scientific community and welcome their future support for this new publication.

Marcílio Alves and Paulo de Mattos Pimenta

on the behalf of the

International and Latin American Editorial Board