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THE SECOND JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIBODY  
SYSTEM DYNAMICS – IMSD 2012 – WAS HELD MAY 29 TO JUNE 1, 2012  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART, GERMANY

The IMSD conference is a biannual series that serves as a meeting point for the international multibody community and as an opportunity to exchange high-level, current information on the theory and applications of multibody systems. As a rapidly growing branch of mechanical dynamics, multibody system dynamics is seeing more and more use, and is becoming increasingly important in the development of complex engineered systems. The continual new challenges faced by the IMSD community demand productive conference forums where ideas are freely exchanged and a spirit of cooperation is encouraged.

Institutional Sponsors of the IMSD are the ASME – American Society of Mechanical Engineers, IFToMM – International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science, IUTAM – International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, JSME – The Japanese Society of Mechanical Engineers, KSME – The Korean Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The conference was attended by 301 participants from 29 countries and 199 talks were delivered including 7 keynote lectures and 11 sessions about different areas of multibody dynamics have been organized. One important aspect of multibody dynamics is its wide use in industry and there are many extremely demanding applications. Therefore, this Special Issue of 'The Archive of Mechanical Engineering' was planned. Based on recommendations of the members of the Scientific Committee and the Session Organizers, the enclosed 9 papers have been selected. All these papers have been peer-reviewed to guarantee high quality and a good representation of various application fields of multibody dynamics.

Detailed information about the conference is available at  
[www.imsd2012.uni-stuttgart.de](http://www.imsd2012.uni-stuttgart.de)

We wish you a most interesting reading.

PETER EBERHARD  
*Chairman of IMSD 2012*

PASCAL ZIEGLER  
*Conference Secretary of IMSD 2012*