



### Dear readers and authors!

In accordance with the Journal's tradition, the first issue of the year features an item by the Editor-in-Chief. In it, the Editorial Board and Council sum up the past year's activities and present the Journal's key objectives for the year ahead. The past year proved to be extremely hard for the humanity. It

brought an enormous number of difficulties and suffering. The pandemic took many lives. It created significant problems for the development of industry, science and education. That affected the number of papers submitted to the Journal for publication. Nevertheless, the Editorial Council not only maintained, but also improved the quality of the paper review process, which contributed to the Journal's higher rating and prospects of its inclusion into Scopus and Web of Science. The applications have been made and are being considered. A favourable decision is furthered by the provision of free access to the electronic version of the Journal, double reviewing of papers, significant extension of the scope of the covered matters of science and technology.

In the current year, it is proposed to engage into a wider discussion of the dependability-related terminology, e.g., in the area of functional dependability, including the matters of reliability of specialist training. In the past year, the contributors showed great interest in this subject matter. Safety-related discussion is to start as well. A great deal of attention will be given to the terminology of functional, industrial, fire, environmental safety, as well as information security in transportation.

The Journal's focus of attention, as always, is the analysis and synthesis of structural and functional dependability of technical and social systems, safety of fixed and mobile entities, risk management. Of special interest are the matters of risk assessment amidst incomplete and/or insufficiently reliable information.

This year, a significant attention is to be given to the application of methods and algorithms of artificial intelligence for the purpose of prediction and estimation of the state of dependability and safety of complex technical and social systems. Priority will be given to papers dedicated to big data processing using Data Sciences technologies as part of solving the above problems.

We are hoping for a strong partnership with the readers and authors. We wish you further creative success.

*Editor-in-Chief, Dependability Journal*  
I.B. Shubinsky