Dear authors, colleagues and readers:

It is with great honor and pleasure, as well as with a sense of responsibility that I report to you about how JINT has evolved and matured over the years. I also want to assure you that the Springer team, the members of the Editorial Board, and I, will continue to work even harder to make our journal even better and more appealing to the readership and to potential authors. Our long-term goal is for JINT to be at the forefront of intelligent robotic systems research and development, and the flagship journal in unmanned systems.

We recently celebrated JINT's 30th anniversary - the July 2018 issue marked this special occasion. JINT has gone through many ‘phases’ and ‘changes’ before reaching its current state. We have witnessed continuous and sustainable progress, submission of more papers per year, better quality submissions, and, most important of all, submissions from more countries over the globe. At the same time, the review process became stricter, deeper and more thorough, which has resulted in publishing only top-quality papers.

A more detailed picture of how JINT has progressed over the years emerged from confidential data presented at the last Editorial Board meeting, and is sketched below:

JINT is ‘universally accepted’ as a technical venue/journal that publishes archive and original research. It spans the globe in terms of usage, web visits and submissions. It is not a surprise that Asia-Pacific and Europe are the two dominant regions from which JINT draws its visibility. However, over the period of the past five years, Latin American submissions (and interest in general) have increased, while from North America (USA, Canada) this remains stable.

Over the last 12 years we have gone from an rejection rate of 48% of submissions to 74% last year. JINT has no policy on ‘quotas’, that is, percentages of accepted versus rejected papers; however, the goal is to reach stability by publishing around 20% of all submitted papers.

The ‘universality’ of JINT in terms of submitted papers by country is improving. On the whole we see more submissions from countries that were underrepresented in the earlier years. At the same time, there are still ‘white spots’ in the form of areas and countries from which we receive hardly any or no submissions. The editorial board is making focused efforts to attract more papers from those specific regions.

In summary, JINT has reached a high maturity level. It is established, it is recognized and accepted as a global forum to publish original research findings in intelligent robotics and unmanned systems. Regardless, as previously mentioned, we will continue to work hard to improve JINT even more.
Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kimon.valavanis@du.edu should you have feedback, thoughts or comments.

Thank you for your support.