

Foreword

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Production and Operations Management (POMS) African International Conference was held from 18 to 26 November 2025 at the Future Africa Campus in Pretoria, South Africa. POMS conferences are renowned for their dynamic blend of research presentations, interactive panel discussions and valuable networking sessions, and are centred on advancements and industry trends and advancements in production and operations management. The 2025 POMS Africa International Conference again embodied these key features to provide a comprehensive and enriching experience to conference delegates from countries all over the world, including Australia, Botswana, Canada, Kuwait, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Conference papers and presentations focused on health and humanitarian operations management, manufacturing operations management, operational excellence, service operations management, supply chain management and sustainable operations management, along with other topics related to operations management.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Authors were invited to submit abstracts featuring novel research in the fields of production, operations and supply chain management. Abstracts were reviewed for suitability and relevance. After abstract acceptance, authors were invited to submit full papers for possible inclusion in the *Proceedings of the 2025 Production and Operations Management (POMS) Africa International Conference*, subject to a rigorous evaluation process, described below.

All submitted papers underwent an initial screening and similarity check to ensure relevance to the conference scope, compliance with formatting requirements and adherence to basic quality standards. Eligible papers were then subjected to a double-blind peer review process, with each paper evaluated by at least two expert reviewers who assessed its novelty,

scientific rigor, presentation quality, overall merit and language use. This review process was managed through an online conference management system that allowed reviewers to provide online feedback and recorded all reviewer feedback and editorial decisions taken during the process.

Based on reviewer recommendations, track chairs made recommended acceptance or rejection of the full paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings. Accepted papers were revised by the authors, resubmitted and subjected to a final screening and review to verify that reviewer comments had been adequately addressed and that formatting and language standards had been met. Only papers that successfully completed this process were included in the conference proceedings.

We received 23 full paper submissions from seven local and international academic institutions. Not all of the submitted papers were accepted for inclusion in the proceedings after the peer-review process. The top five papers (as scored by reviewers) were selected for inclusion in a special edition of the South African Journal of Industrial Engineering (SAJIE) in 2025. Consequently, these papers were withdrawn from the proceedings. The remaining accepted papers are included in the full conference proceedings. No single institution contributed more than a third of the papers published in the proceedings.

PROCEEDINGS AND EDITORIAL TEAM

The editorial process of the proceedings was supported by the following team of academics and practitioners:

Dr Dino Petrarolo - North-West University, Next Renewable Generation

Prof Wilna Bean - University of Pretoria

Ms. Samantha Hebler - Private consultant

Prof. Ezutah Olugu - University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Rojanette Coetzee - North-West University

Dr. Blessed Sarema - University of the Witwatersrand

Dr. Maria van Zyl - North-West University

Ms. Anthea Venter - Stellenbosch University, University of Pretoria

Ms. Ilse Doyer - University of Pretoria

Mr. Johan de Villiers - University of Pretoria