CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue
on
Rail Terminal Operations

Special Issue Editors: Nils Boysen, Dirk Briskorn, Sigrid Kunst

Submission deadline: 31st July 2016 / Special Issue Completion: End of 2017

Strengthening the railway system is among the top priority issues of many national authorities. Rail transportation relieves the often overloaded road networks and is preferred on the basis of its reduced environmental impact. An important driver to increase the attractiveness of the railway system is to establish more efficient train handling processes in existing railway terminals, e.g., by employing suitable optimization approaches and decision support systems.

The special issue on “rail terminal operations” covers all kinds of freight and passenger rail terminals, i.e., traditional shunting yards, intermodal rail-road terminals, modern rail-rail transshipment yards, rail terminals in seaports, depots for rolling stock, and (last but not least) conventional railway stations for passenger trains. We invite researchers and practitioners to contribute to this special issue by submitting papers on the development and application of quantitative approaches for planning the operations in rail terminals. While the main focus is on operational scheduling problems, also papers on long-term problems such as layout issues are welcome, if rigorously tackled with quantitative approaches.

The topics of special interest include, but are not limited to the following:
- train assembly in shunting yards
- load planning of freight trains
- gantry crane scheduling
- scheduling container delivery processes with trucks
- planning of intermediate container storage
- overnight storage of railcars in depots
- assignment of passenger trains to platforms

All papers submitted to this special issue should report original work and will be peer reviewed according to the standard of OR Spectrum. According to the politics of OR Spectrum, high quality OR papers are wanted that are relevant to the scope of the journal, rigor in applying state-of-the-art OR techniques, innovative, and promising to have an impact on future work of the scientific OR community.

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