



October 16, 2020

Prof. Yoshiyuki Yamashita and Prof. Manabu Kano
Co-Chairs of the 14th International Symposium on Process Systems Engineering (PSE 2021)

Dear Profs. Yamashita and Kano,

The recent pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 has challenged us in many ways, not the least of which is organizing and running scientific meetings in an effective and productive way. The PSE meetings, a triennial symposium series reaching its 14th next year, have provided the process systems engineering community a unique gathering place to review various new developments and discuss how activities of different PSE subfields can be better integrated and coordinated. One of the critical elements for its success has been the informal atmosphere where participants freely exchange ideas in a face-to-face setting.

We have recently learned that you are planning a virtual or hybrid style meeting for PSE 2021 due to the uncertainty regarding the current pandemic situation and its impact on the global travel. Though this may be unavoidable for a meeting scheduled for next summer, it would be a real pity to sacrifice the level of participation and exchanges, which would inevitably result from a meeting of such style.

The PSE Executive Committee, which is composed of the three regional representatives, the chairs of the past three meetings, and an advisor, has recently met and agreed to recommend to you that the meeting be delayed by a year, i.e., to summer of 2022, to increase the chance of a face-to-face meeting. Though the decision of delay ultimately lies with the organizers, I hope that you will give our recommendation a serious consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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