Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Supply chains have become more and more complex because of the increasing diversity of customer demands. The state-of-the-art technologies in a variety of engineering disciplines, information sciences and computational engineering necessitate building physical and logical linkages among different supply chains to create additional flexibility and plasticity enabled by the hyperconnected resources. As a result, the separated supply chain structure is underlying a transition to an interconnected intelligent logistics system, for example, the Physical Internet (Ballot et al. 2014, Pan et al. 2017), Intelligent logistics (McFarlane et al. 2016, Sallez et al. 2016), or hyperconnected logistics (Crainic and Montreuil 2016). During this transition, there are many technical and economic challenges to be addressed, such as system planning, operation management, IT integration, business model, which require interdisciplinary research (Bányai et al. 2017). The optimal design and operation of interconnected intelligent logistics systems can led to increased efficiency, traceability, utilization, availability and capability while operation cost and ecological footprint is decreased.

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Guest Editors