

## **Preface**

This special issue contains some of the papers presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Nordic Seminar on Computational Mechanics (NSCM-24), held at the Marina Congress Center, Helsinki, Finland, 3-4 November 2011, and hosted by Aalto University School of Engineering.

The Nordic Association of Computational Mechanics (NoACM) was founded in October 1988. Its objective is to stimulate and promote research and applications within the area of computational mechanics. The main activity of NoACM is the annual two day seminar which provides a forum for personal contacts and for the exchange of ideas. Young researches, including doctorate and graduate students, are particularly welcome. Thus, making a friendly and creative atmosphere for the participants is considered important.

Especially, we thank the authors in this special issue as well as the reviewers for their efforts under a very strict time constraint.

Finally, we thank all the sponsors: ETI Products, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, FEMdata, Finnforest, Finnish Association of Civil Engineers RIL, FMC Group – (Finnmap Consulting, KPM-Engineering, Aaro Kohonen), Konecranes, Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation, Magnus Malmberg Consulting Engineers, Numerola, Pontek Consulting Engineers, Process Flow, Ruukki Construction, SITO, STX Finland, TVO, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, whose support was indispensable for the organisation of this seminar.

Otaniemi, 17 October 2011

Jouni Freund and Reijo Kouhia