

MSSIP 2004

The Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize 2004 was the second to be awarded and was in the field of performance management and benchmarking. Submissions were invited covering data envelopment analysis (DEA), stochastic frontier analysis, benchmarking and balanced scorecard. There were nine high quality submissions all in the field of DEA which perhaps indicates a bias in the interests of the OR community.

The jury of Philippe Vincke, Maurice Shutler, Leopold Simar, Raymond Bisdorff, Jyrki Wallenius, Marin Keuhn (of the sponsors SAP AG Germany) and Robert Dyson (Chair) deliberated and communicated via virtual meetings. Two submissions emerged as front runners and finally there was a consensus that the prize should be awarded to Timo Kuosmanen, Laurens Cherchye and Timo Sipilainen for the paper entitled 'The law of one price in data envelopment analysis: restricting weight flexibility across firms'. The prize was awarded at the conference banquet and the paper presented in a semi-plenary session. A rewarding feature of the process was that several of the submitting authors had attended the Euro Summer Institute on DEA at the University of Warwick in 1998. It was good to see many of the young graduates of the Institute from across Europe realising their undoubted potential. The winning paper will be published in EJOR.

An unintended consequence of the process was that most of the submissions were not presented at the conference. Perhaps in future a short list might be drawn up and included in the conference programme with the final decision being confirmed after the presentations.

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