Preface

Intelligent agents in Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments

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1. This thematic issue

This issue of JAISE is focused on the theme of Agents in Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments. Agents have been the subject of much attention as they support the development of more complex computing systems, with higher degree of autonomy than previous paradigms supported. It is all natural then that agents are considered as a first choice when thinking of the development for systems in our area. There is less agreement however on how this development should be done. For example, there are systems which have been built attaching agents to physical elements of the system, for example, to sensors and actuators or to rooms of a house. Others have organized their agents guided by the services which are expected to be delivered by the system as a whole[1]. This Thematic Issue will examine and enrich this debate and provide good examples of agent-based systems developed in this area. These examples of agent software development are very interesting as the agents have to make autonomous decisions in real-time based on sensory data which can sometimes be spurious. As such, we believe the articles in this issue will be also of value to the agent-based software community as a whole.

As usual for an area active like AmI there are interesting events around the world. The last page of this issue provides information on an upcoming event.

2. Upcoming issues

As it is a tradition in our journal to alternate between regular and thematic issues, the issue to be published in July will be a regular issue and the issue to be published in September will be a Thematic Issue focused on *Design of Intelligent Environments*.

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[1]See more on this at www.iospress.nl/book/agents-and-ambient-intelligence/.