

Book review

Safety and Reliability – Proceedings of ESREL 99, The 10th European Conference on Safety and Reliability, by G.I. Schuëller and P. Kafka, eds, A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 1616 pp. (2 vols), ISBN 905809-1104 (vol. 1), ISBN 905809-1112 (vol. 2).

The two volumes contain the proceedings of the 10th European conference on Safety and Reliability, held in Munich-Garching in the Federal Republic of Germany, 13–17 September 1999. Between them, they contain over 250 papers.

The first volume begins with a section that contains the four keynote lectures presented at the conference. The topics covered include relation between product reliability and quality of business processes (by A.C. Brombacher), optimal structural design under stochastic uncertainty (by K. Marti), risk assessment of offshore platforms (by J.E. Viennem), and infrastructure transport, safety and reliability (by K. Petersen). The remainder of Vol. 1 consists of seven sections, which contain topics on reliability, human factors, Bayesian analysis, and multiple models.

The second volume comprises ten sections, that range between the mathematical methods to the cost

benefit analysis.

The proceedings show clearly the progress and recent developments which are being made in safety and reliability in Europe. The organizers are to be congratulated on their achievements. The book is a must for those who are in charge of safety and reliability; it will appeal to both researchers and practicing engineers. It is especially interesting for those who want to learn about possible engineering dangers and the appropriate responses to them. It appears to this reviewer that it is recommendable to each engineering organization to study possible failure mechanisms, human errors and other related issues, in order to make the world a safer place. Perhaps an introduction of the daily “More Reliability Study Hour” to discuss possible failure scenarios, in engineering (and not only in engineering) organizations could increase the appreciation of safety issues, and mitigate some, if not all, disasters.

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