

Espaço Energia

Issue 10 – April, 2009

Editorial

In times of global economic crisis, companies have been forced to review their plans and to redefine their investment strategies. As in a domino effect, society is struck by negative waves generated by the crisis which come from different directions and contexts. The approaches adopted by companies vary according to the type of their business and also to their strategic vision. The most sensible way for the majority of them is to focus primarily on its survival, leaving development in the background.

For this reason, we are often confronted by a dilemma, since inadequate investment in issues related to the long term future may impact the investment in operational issues in such a way as to delineate the ultimate failure of an enterprise. On the other hand, companies which limit themselves focusing only on operational activities to guarantee their survival, discontinuing all investment towards the future, may seal their fate of being just another player in the market as long as they subsist. Indeed adversity is capable of changing the market course, allowing some companies to emerge as market leaders.

Therefore, more than anything else, it is time to stop and think, and to promote creativity for the generation of new solutions for both product and methodology.. It is time to redefine the direction of businesses, and in order to ensure not only survival but also to take advantage of new opportunities, created by adversity, to gain a significant competitive differential. Only an entrepreneurial vision, creative and well-founded, will be able to achieve success.

The editorial board is delighted to see that knowledge production still receives appropriate investments from institutions and companies in this country. This issue presents four papers which were carefully reviewed by the scientific committee, in a double-blind reviewing process, and later selected for publication by the editorial board based on the reports of the scientific reviewers. The paper acceptance rate is below 50%, which indicates the evolution of the periodic, as far as maturity is concerned, and the important role achieved as a scientific vehicle.

The first paper deals with the area of supervision and control of energy transmission systems, addressing data, voice and video transmission by means of a wireless communication infrastructure. Simulations performed in the work assert the feasibility of the use of wireless technology, particularly considering its characteristics of redundancy, fault-tolerance, auto-configuration and ease of implementation.

The second paper provides a study on the segmentation of large customers in the electric energy market based on specific niches, following market trends. Twelve potential classification forms are presented in the paper, which also proposes a methodology for identifying niches, highlighting their inductive and restrictive factors. Additional value for customers is expected to be reached as a result.

The third paper taps into adding new functions to electronic billing meters, aiming at detecting and recording events which can cause impact on power quality. The proposal is based on the fact that meters are permanently connected to the network, have remote communication channels and are distributed along the network.

Finally, the fourth paper approaches a study motivated by the various reactions of individuals towards corporate processes, aiming at identifying corporate relations with decision making within an organization, analysing pre-specified procedures and the way they can compromise the decision and the critical analysis performed by individuals. A case study is presented in order to demonstrate the proposed methodology.