



## Announcement

# Call for papers Special issue of the International Journal of Forecasting on “Forecasting Support Systems”

We invite you to submit a paper for a special issue of the *International Journal of Forecasting* on forecasting support systems.

In many circumstances, forecasts are delivered through forecasting support systems (FSSs) which allow statistical methods to be combined with judgments made by users. These judgments can pervade all aspects of a system's use, ranging from the choice of statistical forecasting methods and the selection of appropriate historic data sets to direct judgmental estimates of future outcomes that override the statistical forecasts. In many circumstances, judgment is the only route for incorporating soft or limited data into a forecast. However, judgments can be inefficient, biased and inconsistent. They are also often applied when the use of a statistical forecasting method would lead to greater accuracy.

In the field of decision making, computerized decision support systems have been developed to try to mitigate these deficiencies so that judgment can be used appropriately and to maximum effect. However, in forecasting, most commercial software development has focussed on database issues or on extending the availability of statistical methods; the provision of support for judgment has been largely neglected. This raises the question of how forecasting software can be enhanced so that support for judgment can be provided which improves accuracy, is acceptable to potential users and is feasible from a commercial perspective.

We are seeking papers from researchers working in a broad range of relevant areas, including information systems, human-computer interaction, psychology, software development, organisational adoption patterns and use, and econometrics. Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- The adoption of forecasting support systems by organisations
- The effectiveness of FSSs
- Judgment versus statistical or econometric forecasting methods
- The role of judgment in modelling
- Expert systems in forecasting
- Organisational use of FSSs
- User requirements for FSSs and software selection
- The human-computer interaction aspects of FSSs
- Demonstrations of the effectiveness of particular forms of support, such as decomposition, feedback and intelligent agents
- The role of advice and guidance in forecasting
- The role of user participation in the design of support systems
- Group forecasting support systems.

If you are interested in contributing a paper to this special issue, please initially submit an abstract to *both* editors so that we can give you a quick assessment of its suitability. The deadline for the submission of full

papers is May 2011, and we are aiming for the special issue to be published in 2012. All papers will be refereed in a double-blind review process and will be expected to meet the usual requirements and standards of the IJF. Please refer to the guidelines for preparing papers for submission at <http://www.forecasters.org/ijf/>. All papers are to be submitted at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijf>.

Please send your initial abstract by email to both of the editors listed below:

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