



CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS
17th International Material Handling Research Colloquium (IMHRC 2025)
Trondheim, Norway
24 – 27 June 2025

Extended abstracts are now being accepted
Deadline: December 15, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The **College Industry Council on Material Handling Education (CICMHE)**, powered by MHI, is pleased to announce the **17th International Material Handling Research Colloquium (IMHRC)** planned for **24-27 of June 2025**, in the beautiful city of **Trondheim, Norway's Tech Capital and Innovation Hub**.

The venue sponsor is the **Production Management Research Group** and **Logistics 4.0 Lab** at the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the **Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)**, the largest university in Norway.

The IMHRC has taken place every two years since 1990 in different locations in the USA and Europe. The event provides a **unique platform** to disseminate **world-class research accomplishments, projects, and trends in the field of material handling and logistics**. The event is structured to facilitate dialogue and collaborative research among teams of university researchers on leading-edge topics. With a philosophy of **complete participation by participants**, the program includes a mix of invited presentations, facilitated discussions, poster sessions, facility tours, and social events.

To keep abreast with this rapidly changing field, **researchers whose interests are in areas that directly support material handling within facilities and at facility interfaces are encouraged to submit an extended abstract**, as well as **researchers who focus more directly on material handling itself**. Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- Design and operation of warehouses, distribution centers, ports, container terminals, etc.
- Design and operation of material handling systems in various sectors.
- Technology and automation in material handling, from assistive technologies to automated and robotic solutions.
- Cyber-physical systems with applications in material handling.
- Humans in material handling systems.
- Material handling and supply chain.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are encouraged to submit an extended abstract on recently completed or ongoing research addressing problems that directly support material handling within facilities and at facility interfaces, as well as research that focuses more directly on material handling itself.

Three types of research that are particularly appropriate for IMHRC are:

- A. *Systems* that introduce a new material handling logistics system, technology and/or application by presenting a modeling approach, thorough description, and justification.
- B. *Models* that address an important problem related to a type of facility or system through development and solution of a formal model and computational results.
- C. *Paradigms* that rigorously introduce a new approach or framework for thinking, exploring, designing, representing and modeling facilities, systems or equipment.

Other types of research will also be considered if the authors clearly demonstrate creativity and innovation that will contribute to the value of IMHRC.

Submissions

Extended abstracts for IMHRC should be between two to five pages in length and address the scope of the work, the type of research (of the three types identified above), and the expected contribution. Figures and references are encouraged to aid in the reviewers' understanding of the topic but will be counted toward the page limit. **Extended abstracts that exceed the 5-page limit will be immediately rejected.**

A website with more information about the event can be accessed via [this link](#). Please use [this link](#) to submit your extended abstract no later than December 15, 2024. Submissions should include the name, affiliation, and faculty status of all authors; the extended abstract; and identification of the presenting author. Due to the highly selective nature of IMHRC, the presenting author must hold a full-time faculty appointment or be an industrial researcher.

Review and Selection

Participation in the colloquium is **by invitation only**, based on a competitive review process of the extended abstracts by the Scientific Committee. As a limited number of papers are accepted (30-35), the IMHRC brings together some of the world's best researchers.

The criteria for paper selection include: (a) originality, (b) potential for transfer to industrial practice, (c) alignment with the purpose of IMHRC, and (d) readability and conformance to the guidelines.

Following the review of extended abstracts, formal invitations to participate will be sent by **February 1, 2025**.

Participation requirements

Researchers who are selected to attend IMHRC **must agree** to the following:

- **Submit their full papers no later than April 26, 2025.**
- **Submit a poster synthesizing the paper's contribution by May 31, 2025.**
- **Attend ALL sessions** for the full duration of IMHRC.

Due to its highly selective nature, IMHRC requires that the presenting author holds a full-time faculty appointment or is an industrial researcher. **Only the first author listed on an invited paper will be invited to attend IMHRC. In addition, participation by co-authors must be approved and requires payment of a registration fee.**

Costs

- Travel costs to and from the IMHRC hotel will be paid by the attendees.
- On-site costs will be paid by the sponsors (cost of housing, up to four nights, based on single occupancy, organized meal functions, and social gatherings) only for all invited full-time faculty registered as a primary presenter.
- Invited industrial researchers and approved co-authors must pay for all the costs to attend the event.
- Attendees are responsible for covering the expenses of their spouse and guests, including costs associated with social events, tours, and other additional activities, prior to the event.

The greatest value of IMHRC lies in the interaction between participants during the entire event. Those who do not attend the full duration must pay a registration fee equivalent to the full cost of individual participation and are not eligible for assistance.

For any questions, please contact:

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Additional information

Relevant dates

- **15 December 2024:** deadline for extended abstracts
- **1 February 2025:** notification to authors
- **26 April 2025:** deadline for full papers
- **31 May 2025:** deadline for posters
- **24-27 June 2025:** IMHRC 2025 in Trondheim

Collaboration with FLEXIBLE SERVICES AND MANUFACTURING JOURNAL

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10696>

For this edition of IMHRC and through a collaborative effort between MHI-CICMHE and the FLEX journal, a selected group of authors will be invited to submit an extended version of their work to a special issue in the area of "Transportation and Logistics" (Area Editor: Prof. Fabio Sgarbossa).

Regards,

2025 IMHRC Scientific Committee

Fabio Sgarbossa, NTNU (Conference Chair)
David Porter, Oregon State University (Conference Co-Chair)
Manjunath Kamath, Oklahoma State University
Shanthi Muthuswamy, Northern Illinois University
Jennifer Pazour, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute