Dear Readers,

Being an ambitious project, the Bavarian Journal of Applied Sciences (BJAS) is still trying to find its feet in its second year of existence. Two refinements were made compared to the first issue. Firstly, the entirety of articles has undergone a peer review process before being published and secondly, the current issue can be divided into two sections by discipline: three articles belong to the fields of engineering and IT and three contributions are from economics. The contributions in engineering/ IT deal with methods aiming at improving and enabling optical processes and measurement techniques as well as visual displaying through software applications. The contributions in economics address the relationship between prices and exchange rates, explanatory variables for interest rate development as well as the discrepancy between legislative intent and effect.

The first section related to engineering and IT starts with two contributions dealing with new optical methods. Gerald Fütterer's article, pertaining to the area of photonics, discusses the implementation of Bragg diffraction based volume gratings which allows for a small form factor and high-definition, natural viewing experience of 3D objects. This method is relevant for modeling 3D data, prototyping, CAD-CAM, computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM) as well as for global 3D teleconferencing systems and mobile infotainment.

The reprint by Engelbert Hofbauer, Rolf Rascher, Johannes Liebl, Manon Schilke and Jan-Peter Richters presents a new optical method called vignetting field stop procedure. The method uses a deflectometric approach to acquire big optical surfaces which allows for measuring nearly any shape or form using a scanning routine. As even sign changes in the curvature may be detected, aspheres and freeform surfaces of any size can be evaluated and reconstructed with the aid of this technique.

The contribution by Peter Faber, Stefan Schuster and Tanja Maier is dedicated to the maintainability of software projects and to this end, they evaluate software metrics as tools in software development. The authors have accompanied an in-car app within the framework of a research project on electric mobility in rural areas and in this context, they examined the contribution of software metrics to the in-car app's quality. The app collects the car's situation during a trip and provides drivers with information on the infrastructure for charging stations as well as the range of the remaining battery level on a map. The software significantly improves the precision of state-of-charge/remaining range monitoring and contributes to the reduction of barriers to electric vehicle adoption.

This issue's second section on economics is introduced with a contribution by Kersten Kellerman and Carsten-Henning Schlag who study the exchange-rate pass-through (ERPT) in Switzerland between 1980 and 2014. They argue that the effects of changing exchange rates on import prices, on consumer prices for imported goods and on the consumer price index were not significant as the ERPT has been primarily absorbed by cross-bordering trade.

Harm Bandholz, Jörg Clostermann and Franz Seitz study the development of interest rates in the United States (U.S.) as a long-term phenomenon. Their econometric analyses show that despite the recent expansive monetary policy of the Federal Reserve System (FED), the development of long-term interest rates is still primarily

influenced by traditional factors such as central bank interest rates, expectations on inflation rate and the foreign demand for U.S. bonds. Moreover, the FED's bond purchasing program does have a measurable impact on long-term interest rates. The authors state that these correlations, however, have become less stable in the light of the FED's recent expansionary monetary actions.

Last, but not least, Hanjo Allinger reviews the nursing law of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which was implemented in 2014 with the aim of better regulating the supply of nursing home beds. According to the author, first of all, stepping up the number of nursing home beds does not necessarily lead to an increase in social expenditures if it is assumed that newly-built nursing homes would also enhance competition, which could in turn entail price reductions. Secondly, he questions whether this law could at all achieve the legislators' intention to prevent the establishment of allegedly unnecessary new nursing homes.

The BJAS editorial team would like to specifically thank all reviewers for the time and energy spent on reviewing the contributions. Their invaluable constructive comments have helped to improve the quality of the articles and to keep up the journal's quality standards. Special thanks go to Esther Kinateder for her editorial work and to Sabrina Rockinger for the journal's technical realization.

In order to provide secure walking grounds, further changes will be introduced along with the third issue. First, forthcoming volumes will be published under an annually changing, specific topic that can be approached from different disciplinary and methodological angles. The call for the third issue, which will be published in December 2017, is announced alongside the current issue. Secondly, all articles will undergo a double-blind peer review. With the publication of this volume, reviewers' identities will be disclosed in a list on the journal's website.

The editorial team wishes you inspiring insights when reading this new issue of the Bavarian Journal of Applied Sciences.