

## Key Note Address

### Intelligence, Innovation & Integrity - K D Tocher and the Dawn of Simulation

*Brian W Hollocks*

The Business School, Bournemouth University

It is now some 50 years since the advent of discrete-event simulation software in the form of the development of the General Simulation Program [GSP] Mk.1. The paper considers this innovative step, in the context of the earlier history of OR and simulation, and the pioneering work carried out by the leader of that development, K D Tocher, and his team. The paper reflects on the stimulus for the GSP idea and the industrial environment, as well as on the computing context of that work, for example being before the emergence of high-level languages. That GSP work opened the way to a tool that has grown in popularity steadily over time to be now recognised as the most frequently used of the classical Operational Research techniques across a range of sectors.

**Brian Hollocks** is Professor of Management Science at Bournemouth University Business School, although since 2006 on a part-time basis. Brian joined the University in 1993 from a career in industry, including OR, software, commercial and business management posts in British Steel and in AT&T Istel Visual Interactive Systems. His first contact with simulation was at the United Steel Companies' Cybor House site in 1964, where he was recruited by K D Tocher [then Head of the Department]. Brian continued to have contact with Tocher, whilst at Cybor House and elsewhere, until his untimely death.