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Preface

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Preface

The Japanese 'R&D for Smart Materials and Structures System' project started in late 1998 as a five-year program, supported by NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization), Japan. The project was one of the Academic Institutions Centered Programs, namely, collaborative research and development among universities, industries and national laboratories. At first, it consisted of four sub-themes which were (1) Health Monitoring, (2) Active and Adaptive Structures, (3) Smart Manufacturing, and (4) Actuator Materials and Devices. In early 2000, the Concept Demonstrator Program was added to the project. It was aimed at evaluating to what extent research and development items of sub-themes had attained their targets and establishing common basic technologies for a future 'Smart Structure System'. The Concept Demonstrator was focused on an aircraft fuselage of composite structures and designed to integrate several research and development results into it. Two demonstrators were manufactured. One was aimed at Damage Detection and Damage Suppression, and the other at Noise and Vibration Reduction.

This ACM special issue includes some significant results obtained in the two Demonstrators, based on the papers presented in a Special Session at SPIE 10th Annual Symposium on Smart Structures and Materials held in San Diego, USA, on March 14–18, 2003. The presentations were well accepted as unique accomplishments in smart composite systems in Japan. The two Demonstrators were also open to the Public and the Press in February 2003, and several articles were written in some major Japanese newspapers.

We appreciate the continuing support provided by NEDO. Special thanks are extended to Mr. Tateo Sakurai, Mr. Naoyuki Tajima and Mr. Mikio Sasajima of RIMCOF (Research Institute of Metals and Composites for Future Industries) for organizing the Project. We also thank all the participating researchers for their excellent efforts to make the Project successful.

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