

Announcement

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QRM Center Welcomes New Director

Ananth Krishnamurthy brings industry experience, academic expertise to new position



Ananth Krishnamurthy

Fourteen years after launching and continuously leading the Center for Quick Response Manufacturing, QRM founder Prof. Rajan Suri has handed the reins to Prof. Ananth Krishnamurthy.

“Every organization benefits from new leadership from time to time,” Suri says. “For personal and family reasons, I have decided that I will no longer be involved with the University of Wisconsin on a full-time basis.”

“However, I will continue to be active in the Industrial Engineering profession and the practice of QRM,” he adds, “and I intend to play a continuing role in the furthering of QRM knowledge and application.”

Krishnamurthy was selected after a yearlong nationwide search for a successor to Suri. He comes to the QRM Center from Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York, where he was an assistant professor from 2002–2007 in the Department of Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems. He was named recipient of Rensselaer’s Engineering Excellence in Education Award for 2007.

In addition to his QRM role, Krishnamurthy will serve as director of the Manufacturing

Systems Engineering Program, an interdisciplinary M.S. program with courses in engineering and business.

Krishnamurthy is UW graduate

Krishnamurthy earned his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from UW-Madison under Suri’s guidance. He holds an M.S. in Manufacturing Systems Engineering, also from UW-Madison, and an undergraduate degree in Mechanical

Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India.

Involved with the Center for Quick Response Manufacturing for a decade, first as a research assistant when he conducted and managed numerous QRM projects, Krishnamurthy returned as a speaker at several QRM workshops and conferences. Holding training events in the United States and Europe has earned him recognition around the globe as the leading expert on the implementation of POLCA, a material-control system for low-volume or custom-engineered products and a key component of the overall QRM strategy.

Krishnamurthy's research focuses on theories and methodologies that enable manufacturing enterprises and supply chains to take advantage of global opportunities by operating more efficiently and offering an increased variety of customized products within short lead times. His areas of expertise include the design of material-control strategies (including POLCA), assembly operations, warehouse systems, and supply chain coordination strategies to support lead time reduction and quick response.

Consulting, QRM projects, authorship contribute to Krishnamurthy's expertise

Krishnamurthy has consulted for leading firms that include Alcoa, Rockwell Automation, Ingersoll, Johnson Controls, John Deere and Trek Bicycle. He also has overseen several implementation projects dealing with the application of quick response manufacturing principles across the enterprise including manufacturing operations, office processes, and new product introduction.

The author of numerous publications in internationally recognized journals, Krishnamurthy sits on editorial boards of the *Journal of Flexible Services and Manufacturing* and *Applied Mathematical Modeling*, and he serves as a reviewer for several other leading technical publications. He held a visiting faculty position at IBM, and his work has been recognized by the National Academy of Engineers.

He is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Institute of Industrial Engineers, the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences, the Production and Operations Management Society, and the

American Production Inventory Control Society.

"I am delighted that the University of Wisconsin-Madison has selected Ananth to lead the QRM Center and the MSE Program," Suri says. "He is one of the most gifted Ph.D. students I have advised during my 26 years as a professor. He excelled in all facets of his studies: analytical skills, research ability, writing and communication, teaching, and interaction with industry.

"He has gone on to apply his talents on a broader scale, making substantial contributions in many areas of manufacturing research and industry applications. I am confident that he will take the theory of QRM as well as the QRM Center to new heights."



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Quick
Response
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