

9<sup>th</sup> Open Workshop on Decision-Based Design  
Vancouver, Canada  
January 3, 2000

Panel Session on

The Role of DBD Theory in Engineering Design

**Objective**

Our objective in holding this panel session is to invite researchers who work in the field of engineering design to lead in-depth discussions or even a debate on the proper role of the Decision-Based Design theory in engineering design. The discussions will be centered around the open research issues that are posted at the DBD web site (<http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/Research/DBD/>). The content of this panel session will be made available to the large number of DBD open workshop participants via the web, and is expected to provide the direction necessary to get the real interactions out on the web.

**Questions to be Addressed**

Our goal is to seek convergence for the following questions:

1. What are the key activities designers perform in the design process? Is concept generation a part of the decision making activities?
2. What is engineering design all about? Are there any real and perceived limitations to Decision Based Design?
3. How can an underlying science of design and lexicon of design be developed? What should it look like?
4. How should we continue the discussions on the preceding questions more effectively via the web?

**Format**

In keeping with our objective of fostering in-depth discussions, we will follow the format of a town hall meeting as the structure of the panel session. Specially, each panelist will have opening remarks for ten minutes. This will be followed by a Question and Answer (Q & A) session (open floor discussion) for one hour. The workshop participants could ask questions to the whole panel or the individual panelist. At the end, each panelist will deliver concluding remarks for five minutes.