Dear reader,

It is our pleasure to present the special issue of the Aircraft Engineering and Aerospace Technology Journal (AEAT), dedicated to the exceptional event that was joined Research and Education in Aircraft Design (READ) and European Workshop on Aircraft Design Education (EWADE) conference. The conference has been hosted by Rzeszów University of Technology from 21 to 23 October of 2020.

The READ conference (former name: Recent Research and Design Progress in Aeronautical Engineering and its Influence on Education [RRDPAE]) was established in 1994 by Prof. Zdobysław Goraj, who was the chair of the conference through 20 years. The seminar has been organized every two years as a general forum for exchange of information about progress in aerospace engineering research. The unique character of the seminar is given by its focus on aircraft engineering education and inclusion of juried student sessions.

Over the years, the seminar has travelled from Warsaw (Poland), through Vilnius (Lithuania), Riga (Latvia) to Tallinn (Estonia), Brno (Czech Republic), then to Warsaw, Brno, Vilnius, Warsaw, Brno and in 2020 for the first time to Rzeszów (Figure 1).

EWADE, which is the education activity of the Technical Committee Aircraft Design under Council of European Aerospace Societies (CEAS), has been started in 1994 in Madrid. Next, the workshops were organized every two years in Berlin, Bristol, Turin, Linköping, Brno, Toulouse, Hamburg, Samara, Seville and Naples. Next, a workshop was held in Linköping together with CEAS Air and Space conference, and after that, EWADE workshops travelled together with CEAS conferences through Delft and Bucharest. In 2018, EWADE joined READ conference and arrived at Brno for the second time. This time the second joined READ/EWADE conference was organized in Rzeszów (Figure 2).

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional form of conference was not possible, and all presentations were in online form. Despite this, within 7 sessions, 40 presentations, by authors from 10 countries, were made.

Finally, the following 13 conference papers have been selected for publication in this peer-reviewed special issue:
2. Kopecki G., “Aircraft Control With the Use of Model Reference Adaptive Control”
3. Rodzewicz M., “Comparative fatigue properties estimation of composite structural nodes”

Figure 1 RRDPAE-READ – travelling seminar
The articles deal with different solutions for future aerospace challenges in the areas of novel configuration, aerodynamics, design methods, multidisciplinary optimization, UAV and stress analysis.

With great pleasure, I would like to thank Prof. Tomasz Rogalski for his big effort in organizing, hosting and co-chairing of the conference. I would also like to thank all authors for writing such excellent technical papers and the reviewers for their insightful critique and suggestions, which contributed directly to improving the technical content of this special issue. Finally, I would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief of the AEAT, Prof. Philip Webb, for his agreement, and support of all editorial team of AEAT in making this issue possible.