

What's in It for Us?

For academics like us, the research opportunities are incredible. Decision scientists will find that information currently available on the specific times, dates, intervals, and participants at the bid level has never been available in such volume as it is now. The opportunity to have transaction-level data on thousands of auctions will make some of us salivate at the challenge of modeling the process. Management types will hypothesize the import of various auction and participant characteristics in the final auction results. Human resource specialists will predict changes in the job functions, skills, and abilities of those involved in e-business. Operations managers will identify cost savings due to changes in the supply chain and, further, strategists will forecast shifts in industry structure caused by the impact of an online, real-time model in business.

As far as practitioners are concerned, if industry provides the data to the academic community, both will be able to participate in a true synergistic relationship. The outcome of academic research has the potential to remove billions of dollars from the cost of goods and services. We can understand what works and what doesn't.

A challenging research arena and a more competitive business environment? Sounds like the classic "win-win"! ■

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

CAROL LATTA, Feature Editor, Home Office, Georgia State University

Ira Horowitz, University of Florida, is spending seven months as a visitor at Adelaide University (Australia) and loving every minute of it. In the fall, he will be teaching in an overseas study program in Paderno Del Grappa (Italy).



Rui Sousa, Assistant Professor in Operations Management at Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal), has been awarded the 2000/2001 EFQM PhD Thesis Award for his thesis entitled "Quality Management Practice: Universal or Context Dependent? An Empirical Investigation." This international award is given by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) for the best PhD thesis in TQM, recognizing an outstanding contribution to the further development of TQM, learning value for management, and degree of innovation and applicability of the findings. Rui received his PhD from the London Business School (advised by Prof. Chris Voss). He has published in *Production and Operations Management* and in major interna-

tional refereed conferences. His present research interests include quality management, manufacturing strategy, and e-operations/e-services.



Steve Walton, Assistant Professor of Decision and Information Analysis at Goizueta Business School, Emory University, has been selected as one of the *Journal of Operations Management* 2000 Reviewer Excellence Award recipients. Steve has also recently been recognized for his efforts teaching. He was awarded the Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award, a university-wide teaching award, and has twice been chosen as the BBA Distinguished Educator. ■

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