

SPOTLIGHT ON...



EPJ

WEB OF CONFERENCES

An open access publication series dedicated to conference proceedings from the whole spectrum of pure and applied physics. Part of the European Physical Journal (EPJ) series.

Meeting the requirements of clients

P&G is arranged by a local organising committee on behalf of the Association pour l'Étude de la Micro Mécanique des Milieux Granulaires. The local organisers are also responsible for choosing who will publish the proceedings which, unusually, are published before the event. The *Web of Conferences* team is happy to discuss individual requirements with clients and aims to deliver customer satisfaction for every event and every organiser.

"It's been a week or so that they were published. It was published very quickly. This is one of the main things about this conference. You have the commitment to publish the papers before the conference starts... So people can read the papers before the conference starts. This is mandatory."

Open access – a key factor

Web of Conferences is an open access platform from EDP Sciences which specialises in open access publishing. Open access is often given as a reason for contacting *Web of Conferences*. When we asked Dr. Pugnaroni which factors the organising committee considered before appointing *Web of Conferences*, he replied:

"Essentially of course, money. The price is important because you have to include this in the conference fees... But before money I think was the open access. For us that was almost mandatory... So, if you want those papers to be read, they have to be open access."

Powders & Grains 2021 – 9th International Conference on Micromechanics on Granular Media

Buenos Aires (Virtual), Argentina, 5, 13, 21 and 29 July and 6 August 2021

Editors: M.A. Aguirre, S. Luding, L.A. Pugnaloni and R. Soto

Powders & Grains (P&G) is a large, international conference held every four years to bring together researchers working both in fundamental aspects of granular matter and in technological applications. The volume discussed below collects the 195 papers presented during the 2021 edition of P&G, which provide an excellent overview of the current state-of-the-art in granular matter and new trends with contributions from six continents.

P&G 2021 was organised by a local organising committee in Buenos Aires chaired by Doctor Luis Pugnaloni who is also one of the P&G editors. He is a researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and also teaches at the Universidad Nacional de La Pampa. We spoke with Dr. Pugnaloni after all the papers had already been published and just before the start of the conference itself.

Personal recommendation – why P&G 2021 chose *Web of Conferences*

We often hear that a client has come to us through a recommendation and P&G was no different. “I have to say that the previous conference organizer in France used your service as well. It went smoothly and they recommended. They said that it was a good company to work with. It was very important for us.”

Dr. Pugnaroni went on to say he would also recommend *Web of Conferences* to the 2025 organisers.”

Living up to expectations and delivering for every client

Of course, it's one thing to be recommended and another to meet the expectations of a new client. We asked Dr. Pugnaroni if he was satisfied by the service he received. “Essentially yes, everything that Solange said will happen, actually happened. So nothing was outside of what was expected after the conversations we had, when they made the quotation and explained how the process was. Everything happened precisely in that way.” We are in close contact with clients every step of the way so that they have all the information they need at all times.

Hosting a large, international conference during a pandemic

Many conferences have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and it is clear that many organisers have shown great flexibility and adaptability to ensure that events take place and the exchange of research continues. P&G came up with a novel and ingenious way to ensure the best engagement for their virtual event.

“We changed the schedule. Now instead of having one week, now we have five days, but it's one per week. The conference is spread along the whole month of July and the first week of August... We were shifting also time zone, so that some of the continents got it in a reasonable time one of the days and they have to move a little bit their schedule for the rest of the days. So we share the burden of staying awake at unusual hours with all the continents.”

Although we are not directly involved in the events themselves, we are happy to accommodate inventive solutions even when the publishing schedule might be impacted.

Luis Pugnaroni, P&G 2021 editor and Chair of the local organising committee

“On the side of EDP Sciences everything was perfect, faster than planned. Any delays we had was because of the reviewers or stuff like this... The system is good. The backstage of all the submissions is good.”

Easy process, accurate publication

We work hard to ensure that every phase of the publication process is as easy as possible for busy organisers. When we spoke to Dr. Pugnaroni, his assessment was “The process is tough, because it's an editorial process. You have to handle the delays from the reviewers, but it's usual, it's not a problem with the system or the company. It's the natural process that you have in any editorial review process.” Indeed, when we asked about post-publication, he commented “So far, so good.”



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FLEXIBLE



The highlights of working with *Web of Conferences*

When we asked Dr. Pugnali to summarize P&G's 2021 experience with *Web of Conferences*, he highlighted:

- A good price
- Open access
- Everything was as expected
- Extra promotion in Europhysics News

In terms of room for improvement, Dr. Pugnali mentioned a couple of areas including inconsistencies between LaTeX and Microsoft Word templates and a wish for customisable e-mail templates. This feedback has been noted by the team for development. However, he also said that "I would say it's only minor things and that sometimes it's a matter of taste. If you ask any editor, they will tell you something different, because the way you like doing things, is different... But nothing too serious."

In summary, he told us "I think EDP Sciences has given us what we wanted. That was open access and reasonable price for it. But also, the other publishers offered something similar, but in the end we have decided that previous experience was important."

We are delighted by the feedback received from P&G. Successfully publishing 195 papers of such a large and important international conference brings us immense professional satisfaction.

Read the proceedings

The published proceedings are free to read in [EPJ Web of Conferences](#). Click the link below to access the volume directly.

[***P&G 2021 \(Volume 249\)***](#)

Our thanks

We would like to thank Luis Pugnali for his time and feedback and wish P&G every success for the future.

Collaborate with us

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