A Virtual Enterprise results when a business outsources some function, choosing among a set of suppliers. In order to do so electronically the consuming business and its suppliers must expose service interfaces to each other. When this is done recursively a supply chain results.

A complex infrastructure is usually a reality in a virtual enterprise. For these enterprises to operate well they would need notions of workflows, global and local business processes, Service Level Agreements, and business transactions. Web Service Standards such as SOAP, WSDL, and BPEL4WS make virtual enterprise increasingly practical, speeding up the flow of business and reducing costs. These web services have to be interfaced with the internal business processes. The interchange of service results in the interaction of existing business processes and results in new distributed processes.

New standards are being proposed to manage these distributed processes, such as BPEL4WS, ebXML, BTP etc. However in a virtual enterprise distributed processes become more dynamic, allowing new participants and services to be selected and used at runtime, as the virtual enterprise responds to problems and opportunities, management of distributed processes becomes a major technical challenge. Particular challenges include:

- Languages and architectures: for description of business processes and execution control languages, namely WSFL, XLANG, ebXML, BPEL4WS, BPML, etc.
- Business Process Execution engines/platforms: for executing the processes and controlling them, HP Process Manager, IBM MQSeries etc.
- Management of infrastructure: Incremental automation, Quality of Service guarantees, Service Level agreements, contracts.
- Applications of Business Processes: Within the enterprise as in EAI, meeting business objectives, system management, or outside in extranets
- Special purpose brokers: That act as intermediaries between web services and provide value-add.
- Change Management: are the virtual enterprise participants notified of changes as necessary?
- Project Management: are the business objectives of the virtual enterprise being met on schedule?
- Transparency: is information about virtual enterprise processes being controlled so that proprietary information is not too widely shared?
- Service registration and discovery: How services and processes are described in terms of simple attributes, vocabularies and ontologies (DAML-S, RDF-S, TAP.) and discovery mechanisms using semantic information.
- Wrapping legacy applications and processes.
We especially want papers with novel technical contributions with an evaluation and relation to similar work. The evaluation may be a proof of claims or a test of an implementation. In all cases, we want a clear statement of why the technical design choices are better than others the authors of this and other papers may have considered. We will also consider tutorials, surveys, and case studies.

Please do not send papers in a single vendor proprietary encoding, such as binhex or doc formats. PDF, HTML, and PostScript are very much appreciated.