

## Competitive Facility Location

Terry L. Friesz

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This issue presents a snapshot of recent research activity in the field of competitive facility location modeling (CFLM). The central problem addressed in this field of inquiry is that of where and when and at what scale should one locate a production activity on either a pre-established network or a two-dimensional spatial continuum.

The order of the papers appearing in this special issue is the following:

- Paper 1: Plastria and Vanhaverbeke: Aggregation without loss of optimality in competitive location models
- Paper 2: Fernández, Pelegrín, Plastria and Tóth: Planar location and design of a new facility with inner and outer competition: an interval lexicographical-like solution procedure
- Paper 3: Santos-Penate, Suárez-Vega and Dorta-González: The leader–follower location model
- Paper 4: Silva and Serra: Incorporating waiting time in competitive facility locations models and heuristics
- Paper 5: Miller, Friesz, Tobin and Kwon: Reaction function based dynamic location modeling in Stackelberg–Nash–Cournot competition

The first paper in this collection recognizes that the level of spatial detail needed to consider the competitive aspect of location decisions must be decided upon carefully and that aggregation of spatial detail cannot be done in an *ad hoc* fashion without undermining the quality of decision support. Increasingly, the intrinsically bi-level nature of CFLM has also been recognized, and several Stackelberg leader–follower game theoretic formulations have been proposed. In fact papers 2, 3 and 5 in this special issue take the leader–follower perspective. A more recent consideration in the CFLM literature is the intrinsically dynamic nature of competitive location decisions. Papers 4 and 5 look at specific dynamic considerations—namely waiting time and time of market entry.

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T. L. Friesz (✉)

Harold & Inge Marcus Chaired Professor of Industrial Engineering,  
The Pennsylvania State University, 305 Leonhard Building, University Park, PA 16802, USA  
e-mail: tfriesz@psu.edu

*Networks & Spatial Economics* is pleased to offer this collection of recent work on competitive facility location as part of its editorial strategy of providing snap shots of specific disciplines of special topical importance. Such special topics will be revisited through the vehicle of special issues every few years. This notion of periodic special issues for key topics of inquiry is meant to provide readers with a sense of emerging consensus as well as familiarity with new research questions that have arisen since a topic's prior special issue.