Issue 09
FEB 2012

HVM Catapult news

Newsletter of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult

CATAPULT High Value Manufacturing

Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation

CATAPULT
High Value Manufacturing

Investing in the future

Welcome to the ninth newsletter in the current series. In October 2010, the Prime Minister announced that over £200m will be invested in a network of elite technology and innovation centres, now named Catapult centres, to be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board. The Catapults will be an important part of the UK's innovation system. They will allow businesses to access equipment and expertise that would otherwise be out of reach.

They will also help businesses access new funding streams and point them towards the potential of emerging technologies. The new investment will further bridge the gap between universities and businesses, helping to commercialise the outputs of Britain's world-class research base.

This newsletter keeps you informed about the development of the first Catapult, in High Value Manufacturing, which opened for business in October 2011.

In this edition, we update you on the launch of the Catapult branding, and the opening of the National Composites Centre.

Catapult: Technology Strategy Board reveals name for elite network of technology & innovation centres

The Technology Strategy Board has announced the name for the elite network of technology and innovation centres which it is establishing. Catapult centres will help to drive economic growth by closing the gap between concept and commercialisation and enhance innovation in specific technology areas for years to come.

The origins and meaning of the name Catapult [verb] - to thrust forward or move quickly - is synonymous with the objectives of the centres and the impact they will have on businesses and the economy as a whole. Catapult centres will build on the UK's world-class research expertise. They will be business-focussed centres, supporting SMEs and large enterprises as part of a coordinated investment in innovation.

David Bott, Director of Innovation Programmes at the Technology Strategy Board said:

"We are excited to reveal the Catapult name to UK business. The Catapult centre in High Value Manufacturing is already open for business and Catapult centres in Cell Therapy and Offshore Renewable Energy are on track to open in 2012. The powerful and unusual new identity for the technology and innovation programme is another step towards creating an elite network of integrated centres of excellence with shared values, objectives and successful working practices."

Innovation, which lies at the heart of each Catapult centre, is paramount to improving the UK's competitive advantage and is also vital for growth, as a springboard to the high value global markets of tomorrow.

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

Advanced Forming Research Centre
Location: *Glasgow*
Key Competencies: *Billet Forging / Sheet Forming / Precision Forging*
Contact: *Bill Ion*
w.j.ion@strath.ac.uk

Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre with Boeing
Location: *Sheffield*
Key Competencies: *Machining / Materials and Component Testing / Hybrid & Metallic Composites / Assembly*
Contact: *Keith Ridgway*
k.ridgway@sheffield.ac.uk

Centre for Process Innovation
Location: *Wilton, Sedgefield*
Key Competencies: *Chemical Processing / Biotechnology / Printable Electronics*
Contact: *Nigel Perry*
nigel.perry@uk-cpi.com

Manufacturing Technology Centre
Location: *Coventry*
Key Competencies: *Automation & Tooling / Fabrication, Joining & Assembly / Additive & Net shape / Process Modelling*
Contact: *Clive Hickman*
clive.hickman@the-mtc.org

National Composites Centre
Location: *Bristol*
Key Competencies: *Design & Manufacture of Composites*
Contact: *Peter Chivers*
peter.chivers@nccuk.com

Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre
Location: *Sheffield*
Key Competencies: *Fabrication of Civil Nuclear Components*
Contact: *Stephen Court*
stephen.court@namrc.co.uk

Warwick Manufacturing Group
Location: *Coventry*
Key Competencies: *Lightweight Product System Optimisation /Energy Storage and Management / Digital Verification and Validation*
Contact: Alan Curtis
Alan.Curtis@warwick.ac.uk

A number of centres also offer competencies in: *Measurement & Verification / Cost Modelling / Design & Manufacturing Systems / Materials Analysis*

Opening of National Composites Centre (NCC)

An innovative car, a flight refueling kit and turbine blades showcased the latest in composite technology to the Rt. Hon Dr. Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills when Dr. Cable formally opened the National Composites Centre (NCC) in Bristol on Thursday 24 November 2011.

Dr. Cable was joined by more than 200 guests to see first-hand the fantastic capabilities of the NCC. He was shown around the centre and saw state-of-the-art machinery, including a world-leading £2.5m robotic, automatic fibre placement. Dr. Cable also met some of the highly skilled engineers that will assist UK manufacturers to develop and commercialise new technologies and products.

The event was accompanied by an exhibition of the NCC's members showing what composite technology can do across a wide range of industries. An innovative electric car built with a composite body, tidal turbine blades, and new aircraft wing components were amongst a range of items that showcased the potential applications of the latest composite technology.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "Here in the UK we are very good at invention, but we need to do more to innovate and turn our ideas into products and jobs. I don't want the UK to miss out on any opportunities to create economic growth through manufacturing.

This centre will work with our world class universities and international businesses based in the South West and across the UK, to develop and commercialise new technologies. Its work will strengthen our manufacturing sector, exploiting the next generation of advanced composite materials and helping maintain our global lead in this technology area. I look forward to seeing what they produce."

The NCC is a £25m investment: supported by £12m from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, £4m from the South West RDA (Regional Development Agency), and £9m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The NCC is also part of the High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult centre.

In addition the NCC has powerful support from industry. The private sector was involved from the inception of the NCC. Tier 1 members - AgustaWestland, Airbus, Rolls-Royce, GKN, Umeco and Vestas - have committed almost £5½m of work over three years, and that's not to underestimate the importance of small and medium sized enterprises. This year alone sees £5m of work from industry.

The NCC is hosted and owned by the University of Bristol. It is run by a Steering Board comprising the university and tier 1 members and is located on the Bristol and Bath Science Park.

Enquiries on the High Value Manufacturing Catapult should be addressed to: Margo Hutchison, margo.hutchison@strath.ac.uk or +44 (0) 141 534 5200
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