

Toulouse, 24th February 2020

Manufacturing in Europe: Official launch of 4 innovative projects supported by Aerospace Valley in the frame of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

In order to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate, the European Union launched a unique initiative in 2008 by creating the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), divided into several Knowledge Innovation Communities or KICs, addressing different activities.

Created in 2018, **EIT Manufacturing is the KIC dedicated to manufacturing** and includes 50 partners - industries, academics and research labs – from 17 countries. **Aerospace Valley, one of the founding-members (and the only French competitiveness clusters to be part of an EIT as a founding-member) is the only representative of the French aerospace industry.**

After its first call for proposals last year, **EIT Manufacturing has just confirmed the funding of 4 ambitious and innovative projects, in which Aerospace Valley plays a key-role**, either as a driver or as a partner.

The aim of these 4 projects is to **develop high technology European companies with a strong growth potential**, by enabling them to access new fields and **by increasing their visibility on the European market**. Since January, and during one year, dedicated teams composed of researchers, academics and manufacturers will support over one hundred promising technological companies :

- « **Innovation Projects** » category:

SOFT-DREAM: *this project, in partnership with Aerospace Valley, aims at developing software tools which will help to fully exploit the capacities of hybrid Additive Manufacturing, in order to master costs and time for large scale manufacturing of thermoplastic, metallic and multi-material parts. The results will allow to develop flexibility and reactivity, while reducing production, manufacturing and prototyping times, particularly in the manufacturing, automotive, aeronautic and building industries.*

This project is coordinated by the RISE research institute (Sweden), in partnership with ESTIA engineering school (France), Volkswagen (Germany) and the Technical University of Braunschweig (Germany).

AeroMC2: *in partnership with Aerospace Valley, this project aims at developing a new generation of solutions for batteries and engines for electric aircraft, thanks to optimised use of materials which combine cost and weight reduction, corrosion resistance, strength and fast manufacturing. The digitalisation of this new production process will lead to the creation of a platform aimed at developing a network across Europe and the world.*

This project is coordinated by the University of Aalto (Finland), in partnership with ESI Group (virtual prototyping - France) and Inegi (Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering – Portugal).

- « **Support to start-ups and SMEs** » category:

GAZELLE ACCELERATOR: *led by Aerospace Valley, this project aims at accelerating the development of 50 future « Gazelles » (high potential SMEs and start-ups), which will be selected according to their complementarity and links in order to offer a global and innovative solution addressing specific needs of major industry leaders.*

A partnership between Tecnalia Ventures (Spain), the CEA, the University of Technology of Delft (Netherlands), LINPRA (association of engineering companies in Lithuania) and LMS-univ. Patras (laboratory for manufacturing and automation systems of the University of Patras - Greece).

.../...

OPEN-MANUFACTURING: led by Tecnalia Ventures (Spain), in partnership with Aerospace Valley, this project aims at creating an innovation centre for the industry of the future, which will enable 20 selected start-ups and SMEs to benefit from an action plan and a personalised follow-up, so they can set up a new 4.0 managing model or access new European markets.

In partnership with POLIMI (Polytechnic Institute of Milan - Italy) RISE, (Swedish research institute), the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (Germany) and LMS-university of Patras (Greece).

All these projects have received funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This body of the European Union receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

True to its purpose of helping its members develop and find new markets, especially on an international level, Aerospace Valley regularly assists start-ups and SMEs in order to help them respond to calls for tender and reinforce the impact of the works conducted through their various projects. The cluster and its network are also a help them develop connections and visibility, while EIT Manufacturing, as a major actor of the European manufacturing industry, helps them share their results and contributions within a high added-value industrial network.

About EIT Manufacturing:

EIT Manufacturing is a Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) dedicated to manufacturing, including 50 European partners (manufacturers, academics and research labs, among which Aerospace Valley competitiveness cluster (France), ESI Engineering school (France), Fives (industrial engineering), Arts et Métiers Paris Tech, Tecnalia, CEA, SIEMENS, KUKA, COMAU, Volkswagen, Whirlpool...), from 17 countries. Created in 2018 by the « Made by Europe », consortium, winner of the EIT / European Institute of Innovation and Technology call for tender, EIT Manufacturing is a true funding window supporting projects in 4 areas (Additive Manufacturing / Zero defect production for a circular economy / Man and robot for sustainable work / Digital platform), and through 3 programmes (Innovation, for high technological maturity research projects / Business Creation, for support action projects / Education, for digital training projects or school-plant projects). The headquarters of EIT-Manufacturing were inaugurated on 7th November 2019 in Paris. EIT Manufacturing's budget is 400 M€ for 7 years, with an objective of 30 to 35 M€ of projects funding for 2020.

More information at: <http://eitmanufacturing.eu>

About the EIT:

Launched in 2008, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology is a unique initiative of the European Union aimed at stimulating Europe's ability to innovate. Declined in several Knowledge Innovation Communities or KICs, each one based on a specific global challenge, the EIT supports the development of dynamic pan-european partnerships between universities, research laboratories and leading industries, funds innovation and training projects and offers business support programmes (creation, acceleration, transformation).

More information at : <https://eit.europa.eu/fr>

About Aerospace Valley:

Based in France, Aerospace Valley is world's first aerospace cluster, dedicated to the strategic sectors of Aeronautics, Space and Drones, in the Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée and Nouvelle-Aquitaine regions. With its 5 excellency ecosystems – Embedded and Communicating Systems, Structures and Mechanical Systems, Propulsion and Embedded Energy, Data and Artificial Intelligence, Products and Services for the Industry – Aerospace Valley drives a supportive, competitive and attractive community, aimed at fostering innovation in view of growth.

Ranking among the top three clusters for the performance of its cooperative R&T projects (among which 580 have already been financed), Aerospace Valley is in charge of animating a dynamic network of international reputation, composed of 850 members (companies, research laboratories, training centres, universities and schools, local authorities, economic development structures).

Since 2017, Aerospace Valley is chaired by Yann Barboux, Senior Vice President of Airbus and former Head of Innovation at Airbus.

More info on: www.aerospace-valley.com

Contact for the media:

Caroline BROWN / Denbora – CB Relations Presse : caroline.brown.rp@gmail.com - +33 (0)6 22 08 86 23

Agnès BARDIER / Aerospace Valley : bardier@aerospace-valley.com - +33 (0)6 09 40 02 29