Press Release

Nantes, 12 November 2019

The future of manufacturing in Europe starts now!

Today the new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community ‘EIT Manufacturing’ was officially inaugurated at its Headquarters in Paris Saclay. The EU’s manufacturing sector employs close to 30 million people in 2.1 million firms and accounts for almost 20% of total GDP. The sector is under considerable strain with rapid technological advancements and the need for a more circular economy.

**To tackle this, EIT Manufacturing will provide excellent manufacturing skills and talents, work towards the full digitalisation of manufacturing and foster sustainable manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing, is Europe’s largest manufacturing innovation network and is developing new opportunities for innovators. By 2030, it is set to empower over 1,000 ventures across Europe and create new job opportunities.**

The inauguration brought together leading innovators and organisations from the added value manufacturing sector in Europe including Siemens, Whirlpool, Volvo, Festo and Magna. High-level speakers included **Agnès Paillard** (Member of the EIT Governing Board), **Gintaras Vilda** (Vice-Minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania), **Isabelle Perderau** (Regional Minister and President of the Commission for Economic Development and Innovation of the Paris Region) and **Heinrich Flegel** (Chairman of EIT Manufacturing Supervisory Board).

This milestone event marks a year since the partners were selected by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)](https://eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/eit-announces-two-innovation-communities-manufacturing-urban-mobility) and the set-up of operations and of its education, innovation and business accelerations activities. In addition to its Headquarters in Paris, EIT Manufacturing operates across Europe through Innovation Hubs located in Darmstadt, Gothenburg, Milan, San Sebastian and Vienna. As early as 2020, EIT Manufacturing will also deploy a strong portfolio of activities within the context of [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris).

To deliver on its goals by 2026, EIT Manufacturing will:

* Educate, train and re-skill 50,000 people
* Train 1,500 people for entrepreneurial leadership in manufacturing companies
* Create and power 1,000 start-ups
* Support 80 green start-ups and deliver 20% growth rate for companies participating in the Business Creation programme
* Launch 350 new products and manufacturing-related services on the market

Centrale Nantes is proud to join the consortium as an academic partner. The school contributes its expertise in training courses of excellence at European level - in particular via its four Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programmes – as well as access to its unrivalled research facilities: virtual reality, smart factory, robotics platform, rapid manufacturing platform, super computer, composites platform. These platforms facilitate collaboration between industry and research for innovation development.

***About Centrale Nantes***

*Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping using full‑scale models and an incubator with 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand in hand with industry. Centrale Nantes promotes its teaching and research capabilities at international level through around 100 partnerships with prestigious universities and schools worldwide.*

*Centrale Nantes welcomes 2,410 students, including 1,440 undergraduate students, 170 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 430 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.*

*For more information, visit* [*www.ec-nantes.fr*](http://www.ec-nantes.fr)

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***About EIT Manufacturing***

[*EIT Manufacturing*](http://eitmanufacturing.eu/) *has the ambitious vision of leading global manufacturing innovation, by bringing together the key players in European manufacturing in innovation ecosystems that add unique value to European products, processes, services and inspire creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing.*

*EIT Manufacturing is a partnership of 50 organisations from education, business and research, including Volkswagen, Volvo, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), Siemens, Whirlpool Europe, Chalmers University, TU Wien, Tecnalia, RISE and INESCTEC, among others. This partnership is supported and financed by the* [*European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)*](https://eit.europa.eu/)*, an EU body set up to power innovators to turn their best ideas into products, services and jobs for Europe.*

***About the EIT – European Institute of innovation and Technology.***

*EIT was created in 2008 to drive Europe’s ability to innovate. It is a unique EU initiative, the only that fully integrates business, education and research. The Institute supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships among leading universities, research labs and companies — EIT Innovation Communities. Each one is dedicated to tackling a specific global challenge and eight have been created: EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Raw Materials, EIT Urban Mobility.*

*EIT Manufacturing — Global manufacturing innovation is led by Europe.*

For more information visit: eitmanufacturing.eu & follow us on Twitter [@EITManufactur](https://twitter.com/eitmanufactur)

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