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## EIT Manufacturing CLC Central Further Expands Its Network: CWB CONNECT to Support Activities in Poland

Darmstadt (Germany), 10 June 2021 – With CWB CONNECT, EIT Manufacturing CLC Central has won over its first network partner in Poland, thus successfully initiating its internationalisation strategy planned for 2021. EIT Manufacturing is an innovation community supported by the [European Institute of Innovation & Technology \(EIT\)](#), a body of the European Union.

“The way Poland is perceived internationally has significantly changed in recent years,” says Dr. Christian Bölling, Managing Director of EIT Manufacturing Central gGmbH. “Poland has stepped up to become an important production and manufacturing location which is set to actively drive Europe’s digitisation.”

After 5-HT (Mannheim, Germany), DIGIHUB Südbaden (Freiburg, Germany), HUB31 (Darmstadt, Germany), Provadis School of International Management and Technology (Frankfurt, Germany) and Smart Systems Hub (Dresden, Germany), CWB CONNECT is the sixth network partner with whom EIT Manufacturing CLC Central enlarges its innovation ecosystem. A joint scouting event is planned for August in order to identify Polish start-ups for the business creation portfolio of EIT Manufacturing CLC Central. “We see ourselves as a door opener: in our Access-to-Market programme, we support start-up companies on an international level by finding contacts to users of their innovative technologies,” says Wolfgang Kniejski, Senior Business Creation Manager with EIT Manufacturing CLC Central.

CWB CONNECT is headquartered in Krakow and Warsaw, providing services in Łódź, Gdańsk, Lublin, and Rzeszów. Since its foundation, more than 1,500 start-up companies have been scouted by the CWB Connect Team and nearly 150 of them have received support, reaching new investments and increased evaluations. Karolina Marzec, CEO of CWB CONNECT: “Manufacturing is a sector constantly requiring implementing new solutions. We are excited to see the start-up ecosystem in Poland increasing the role of smaller teams and innovators from other sectors taking the risk and entering the sector. CWB CONNECT is delighted to join EIT Manufacturing and give a better chance for Polish start-ups and scale-ups to deliver on their potential and collaborate with European leaders in manufacturing.”

EIT Manufacturing brings together European representatives from the production and manufacturing industry in innovation ecosystems in order to increase the added value of their products, processes, and services. EIT Manufacturing is already connected with more than 65 organisations (companies, research institutes, and universities); 18 of these partners/members are being looked after by EIT Manufacturing CLC Central. Besides Germany, EIT Manufacturing CLC Central is responsible for the Benelux countries, Ireland, and Poland.

Poland is among the EU member states particularly supported within the scope of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) in order to strengthen the exchange among innovation communities. “The scope of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme is important for EIT Manufacturing and for the European manufacturing industry as a whole. A lot of well-known European manufacturers, often global market



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leaders, depend on suppliers, subcontractors and solution providers that are based in these countries,” said Dr. Konstantinos Georgoulas, Director of Regional Innovation Scheme and EU Affairs at EIT Manufacturing.

### Background information

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT) strengthens Europe’s ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body which is an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships – EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities – among leading companies, research labs and universities.

[EIT Manufacturing](#) is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. It is one of eight innovation communities within EIT. The others are EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Health, EIT InnoEnergy, EIT Raw Materials, and EIT Urban Mobility. EIT Manufacturing’s main goal is to bring European stakeholders focused on manufacturing together in innovation ecosystems that add unique value to European products, processes and services and inspire the creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing. EIT Manufacturing brings together more than 65 organizations (universities, research institutes and business) including for example: Atos, Avio Aero, CEA – Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission, Chalmers University of Technology, Comau, Czech Technical University in Prague, ESI Group, Festo, Fives Group, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, INESC TEC, Jozef Stefan Institute, Magna, MONDRAGON, Politecnico di Milano, PRIMA, P&G, Sandvik Machining Solutions, TU Darmstadt, voestalpine High Performance Metals, Volkswagen, Volvo Group, VTT, Whirlpool.

[EIT Manufacturing Central gGmbH](#) is one of the five Co-location Centers (CLC) of EIT Manufacturing, located in Darmstadt, Germany. CLC Central covers Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Ireland and Poland, the latter being classified as a RIS country with modest manufacturing innovation activity. CLC Central works in close cooperation with its 18 full members from industry, research, and academia: Accell Group, ArcelorMittal, CONTACT Software, Festo, Kuka, Siemens, Stryker, P&G, Philips, Volkswagen, BIBA, DFKI, Fraunhofer, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, TU Braunschweig, TU Darmstadt, TU Delft, and UC Dublin. Furthermore, CLC Central relies on a growing network of ecosystem partners, namely 5-HT (Mannheim, Germany), CWB CONNECT (Krakow, Poland), DIGIHUB Südbaden (Freiburg, Germany), HUB31 (Darmstadt, Germany), Provadis School of International Management and Technology (Frankfurt, Germany), and Smart Systems Hub (Dresden, Germany).

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