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Miramar Palace, new location for EIT Manufacturing West

Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain), 25 May 2021 – **Starting in May, Miramar Palace becomes a reference center for innovation in manufacturing at the European level as EIT Manufacturing West makes the site the location from where it will coordinate its activities in Spain, France and Portugal.**

In its first year based in Donostia-San Sebastián, EIT Manufacturing West has managed 36 projects that brought in funding of EUR 10 million, including EUR 3 million with a direct impact on Basque enterprises.

[EIT Manufacturing](#), an innovation community within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, has settled one of its five Co-Location Centers (CLC) in this historic place with the objective of making Europe a global reference for innovation in manufacturing and encouraging companies to implement new technologies in a quick and efficient manner. European companies, universities, technology centers and investors will meet here with the aim of creating a unique innovative ecosystem that promotes a more competitive and sustainable European manufacturing industry.

From this new location, EIT Manufacturing West will coordinate the activities of EIT Manufacturing in Spain, France and Portugal. EIT Manufacturing West currently has 15 members, including the Basque entities Aernnova, Mondragon Corporation, Manufacturing Alliance, ITP Aero and Tecnalia, as well as more than 12 external companies already participating in its activities. At the European level, EIT Manufacturing has four other CLC, with offices in Germany, Sweden, Austria and Italy, and more than 65 Partner organizations, including universities, research institutes and businesses.

Antoni Pijoan, Director of EIT Manufacturing West, explains that *"this new location in Miramar Palace, has a huge strategic value, as it reinforces the image of the Basque Country and gives visibility to its programmes and activities in benefit of the local ecosystem"*. EIT Manufacturing West began operating in Donostia-San Sebastián at the end of 2019, and that year the Palace hosted the MatchMaking 2019 event with the participation of more than 200 professionals from companies, universities and technology centers from all over Europe. EIT Manufacturing tackles this new period with ambitious challenges such as *"increasing the number of partners and financed projects and, in general, contributing to the creation of a sustainable and globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing network where people are able to acquire skills and find opportunities and where innovators can attract investors for their projects"*, Pijoan adds.

Iker Goikoetxea, director of Miramar Palace, stressed that *"It is a great announcement. It means a new boost for the Palace to host the headquarters of EIT Manufacturing West, part of the largest European innovation community in the field of manufacturing, with activities focused on business creation, innovation and education"*. It also creates *"an opportunity, by aligning the strategic positioning and the potential of such a unique building, to maximize the multiplier effect of its activity in the economic and*



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social environment of Donostia, Gipuzkoa and the Basque Country". With this new incorporation, "this building, which is also the home of Eusko Ikaskuntza and the UPV/EHU's Summer Courses Foundation, is filled with a little more life, knowledge and activity".

EIT Manufacturing, A consolidated initiative

The relocation of EIT Manufacturing West coincides with its first anniversary of being settled in Donostia-San Sebastián. During this period, it has managed the participation of its partners in 36 projects that brought in funding of EUR 10 million, including EUR 3 million with a direct impact on companies in the Basque Country.

The challenges that the network is facing include promoting the digitalisation of industry and contributing to more agile, flexible, and environmentally and socially sustainable production. In this way, it will contribute to generating quality jobs, training students, attracting talented people and creating "innovation ecosystems" involving companies, technology centres, universities and investors.

About the EIT and EIT Manufacturing

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.

About EIT Manufacturing West

EIT Manufacturing West, S.L. is one of the five Co-Location Centers (CLC) of EIT Manufacturing. Located in San Sebastian, in Northern Spain, CLC West serves three European countries: France, Portugal and Spain, with the latter two part of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS). EIT Manufacturing CLC West works in close partnership with its 15 full members from industry, research and academia. These members include Arts et Métiers Paris Tech (HESAM University), Ecole Centrale de Nantes, Grenoble INP (Grenoble Alpes University); RTOs: CEA, CT-IPC, INESC-TEC, Tecnalía, Manufacturing Alliance; as well as industrial companies: Fives Group, ESI Group, Sonae, Aernnova and ITP Aero; and the industrial organisations Aerospace Valley and Mondragon Corporation. CLC West also works in collaboration with its network partners: EMC2 (France), Mobinov and Produtech (Portugal), Adegi, AFM and AIN (Spain), and its growing network of activity partners.



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