

Vienna, 23rd June 2021Co-funded by the
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More room for innovation in manufacturing – EIT Manufacturing expands in Vienna

Vienna, 23rd June 2021. In April 2020, the EIT Manufacturing Co-Location Center (CLC) East was founded in Vienna and it is the first location of a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, in Austria. One year later, the young organization headed by Johannes Hunschofsky doubles its office space to meet the needs of a fast-growing team as well as to best serve the increasing demands of the local and regional stakeholders. On 22nd June, the new office space was officially opened.

Only last year, the CLC East started operations in its new offices in tz2 of the Technology Center in Seestadt Vienna with 13 available work stations. From six employees in December 2020, the Viennese team already counts 12 members in June 2021 – with a rising trend –, who serve twelve countries in Central and Eastern Europe with its EIT Manufacturing activities and programmes out of the Austrian capital. EIT Manufacturing's goal is to strengthen cross-national collaboration between industry, academia and research and foster innovation in the European manufacturing industry.

“In only a very short time, we have been able to establish EIT Manufacturing as driving force in Vienna to promote innovation in manufacturing. This has only been possible with the great support we have received from the city of Vienna and due to our cooperation with the Vienna Business Agency. We will develop our collaboration even further in the future to combine our strengths for the good of the Viennese manufacturing industry”, says **Johannes Hunschofsky**, Managing Director of EIT Manufacturing CLC East.

„In Vienna, digitalisation means finding and supporting solutions for the people. On a global scale, especially our small and medium-sized enterprises are challenged to compete in the long run. This is why we are proud to have EIT Manufacturing in Vienna as an international player to strengthen the business location for digitalisation as well as our companies operating here in the city“, says **Peter Hanke**, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities.

Strengthening the business location Vienna through cooperation

The Vienna Business Agency, who establishes and runs the Technology Center Seestadt at the edge of the Austrian federal capital as a technology and innovation hub, also recognized the potential of the rapidly growing location of EIT Manufacturing. To jointly boost Vienna as a location for research and science, the Vienna Business Agency and EIT Manufacturing CLC East have put two cooperation agreements in place.

Gerhard Hirczi, Managing Director of the Vienna Business Agency about the collaboration with EIT Manufacturing CLC East: *„The Technology Center in the Seestadt is already a hotspot for new technologies, digital production and the Viennese hub for manufacturing technology. EIT Manufacturing as European institution fits perfectly in this environment and ensures additional international visibility.“*

On 22nd June 2021, the new, additional office space of EIT Manufacturing CLC East was opened and the two cooperation agreements between the Vienna Business Agency and EIT Manufacturing CLC East were officially signed. In honour of this occasion, high-level representatives of the city of Vienna visited the CLC

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East offices: **Peter Hanke**, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities, **Ernst Nevrivy**, Borough Major of the 22nd District of Vienna, **Gerhard Hirczi**, Managing Director of the Vienna Business Agency and **Gerhard Schuster**, CEO of the Wien 3420 aspern Development AG. Besides the whole CLC East team headed by Managing Director **Johannes Hunschofsky**, **Paul Rübzig** from the Governing Board of EIT, **Klaus Beetz**, CEO of EIT Manufacturing and **Eva Czernohorszky**, in her double function as representative of the Vienna Business Agency (Director Technology Services) and member of the supervisory board of EIT Manufacturing, also joined the festive event.

EIT Manufacturing supports local projects and companies in Vienna

As part of the event programme, various Viennese projects and companies, which have been supported by EIT Manufacturing since 2020, have been presented during the office visit. One of them is **Incus**, a company for lithography-based high-performance metal additive manufacturing, BoostUp! 2020 participant and also one of the neighbours of EIT Manufacturing CLC East in the Technology Center Seestadt. Also **cleanAIR**, a mobile air cleaner with an integrated disinfection function for closed rooms up to 50 m² was demonstrated by Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Friedrich Bleicher, Head of the Institute for Production Engineering and Photonic Technologies (IFT) at the TU Wien, a member of EIT Manufacturing. The low-cost air cleaner was developed by a consortium consisting of the IFT TU Wien, AIT, HPM Technologie GmbH and AQA GmbH during the Crisis-Response-Initiative of the EIT. Especially in places with many people, cleanAIR ensures a healthier and safer ambient air. First tests of the air purification system have been very successful, also the disinfection mode has been examined in various laboratory experiments. The next step for cleanAIR is to obtain the necessary certifications for the market launch.

Start of joint activities and initiatives

The two cooperation agreements between the Vienna Business Agency and EIT Manufacturing CLC East are the foundation for a successful collaboration between the two organisations, which will be further developed in the future. In the context of the cooperation, EIT Manufacturing CLC East also hosted the Manufacturing Days from 10th-12th May 2021 as part of the ViennaUP'21, the largest decentral start-up festival in Europe and organized by the Vienna Business Agency. The intention of this first Viennese festival for the manufacturing industry was to give young and innovative manufacturing start-ups a stage for their ventures and to help them establish connections to large industrial players. In the future, the cooperation between the Vienna Business Agency and EIT Manufacturing CLC East will be extended to other projects in order to jointly strengthen the Viennese manufacturing industry on a European and international level.

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

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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 East GmbH is one of the five Co-Location Centers (CLC) of EIT Manufacturing, located in the Technology Center Seestadt in Vienna, Austria. CLC East serves twelve countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia, of which eleven are EIT RIS eligible countries, being considered modest and moderate innovators according to the European Innovation Scoreboard. Therefore, the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) Pillar Leadership and its eight local Hubs in the CLC East Region are strongly involved in the CLC East network and its activities. CLC East works in close cooperation with its nine full members from industry, research and academia: Atos, the Czech Technical University in Prague, Joanneum Research, Jožef Stefan Institute, LMS – Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems & Automation, Magna, the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, the Technical University Vienna, and voestalpine High Performance Metals, and its network partners AM-Austria and the Vienna Business Agency. EIT Manufacturing CLC East is additionally supported by three Austrian Ministries (Federal Ministry Digital and Economic Affairs; Federal Ministry Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology; Federal Ministry Education, Science and Research) as well as the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

EIT Manufacturing – Making Innovation Happen!

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