

Vienna, 9th December 2021

Platform Industry 4.0 Austria and EIT Manufacturing CLC East team up to boost digitalisation in the Austrian manufacturing industry

Vienna, 9th December 2021. The European Institute of Technology (EIT) Manufacturing Co-Location Centre East and Platform Industry 4.0 Austria signed a cooperation agreement to jointly drive the digital innovation capabilities of the Austrian manufacturing industry in the future.

Robotics, artificial intelligence, additive manufacturing and more: new technologies do not stop in production. To promote and advance technological progress in the manufacturing industry, Platform Industry 4.0 Austria now cooperates with the Vienna-based Co-Location Centre (CLC) East of the renowned knowledge and innovation community [EIT Manufacturing](#). EIT Manufacturing is supported by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), a body of the European Union. The EIT supports the development of dynamic pan-European partnerships between leading companies, research institutes and universities. Through the cooperation between EIT Manufacturing CLC East and Platform Industry 4.0 Austria, the domestic manufacturing industry will be strengthened by joint activities and initiatives far beyond the borders of Austria.

Europe-wide synergy effects for the Austrian manufacturing industry

“By signing the network partnership with EIT Manufacturing, we want to successfully accompany the transformation process in production and jointly expand the already existing cooperation network beyond the country’s borders for our members. To achieve this, we see mutual learning between the regions, more intensive networking and concrete cooperation projects as the key to success”, says **Roland Sommer**, Managing Director of Platform Industry 4.0 Austria, about the cooperation with EIT Manufacturing.

The Platform Industry 4.0 Austria brings together stakeholders from society, politics, business, and science, and thus does pioneering work to make the best possible use of new technological developments and innovations in digitalisation for manufacturing companies. The connection with EIT Manufacturing, in addition to building networks with neighbouring countries with the CEUP2020 and SHARE 4.0 projects, opens many valuable cooperation and innovation opportunities with European companies and institutions.

“By cooperating with Platform Industry 4.0 Austria, we are strengthening and enriching our comprehensive network with expertise on the digitalisation of the manufacturing industry and can provide even better support to the ecosystem in Austria as well as in the other countries of the CLC East region and additionally create joint synergy effects,” says **Johannes Hunschofsky**, Managing Director of EIT Manufacturing CLC East.

Joint activities are already being planned

The first activities of the two cooperation partners have already been initiated. For example, Platform Industry 4.0 Austria is supporting *“MIT.IC.AT – Manufacturing. Innovation. Technology. InterConnect Austria”*, a project of EIT Manufacturing CLC East. This pilot project is intended to increase the

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involvement of Austrian manufacturing companies, especially SMEs and start-ups, in the programmes and projects of EIT Manufacturing.

As part of the Interreg project “Testbed Exchange”, another joint initiative is planned in which Industry 4.0. pilot factories (testbeds) from the Czech Republic (South Bohemia and South Moravia) and Austria (Vienna, Lower Austria, Upper Austria) are to be networked. The aim is to enable cooperation, knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences based on best practices between the regions, and to push for better use of existing research and testing infrastructure in the region.

Next year, the two network partners will invite to the “Open Space Industrie 4.0”. In this format, experts will address the future of Industry 4.0 and discuss it with the participants. Joint activities with Platform Industry 4.0 Austria are also planned for the Manufacturing Days organised by EIT Manufacturing CLC East as part of ViennaUP 2022.

Background Information 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).

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, Plattform Industrie 4.0, Vestbee 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,

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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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Background Information Platform Industry 4.0

Since its founding in 2015 by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action together with the employers' and employees' associations, the initiative has developed into an established authority on the topic of Industry 4.0. The association sets activities to ensure a dynamic development of the Austrian production sector, to push research, innovation and qualification, and to contribute to a quality working environment as well as to a high employment level. The goal is to make the best possible use of new technological developments and innovations in digitalisation for companies and employees, and to shape the change in a socially acceptable way for society.

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