



Milan, 11 December 2023

EIT Manufacturing South and SPS Italia join forces to drive innovation and growth in the manufacturing industry

SPS Italia and EIT Manufacturing South unite to enhance opportunities and expertise in Italy and across Europe through operational collaboration.

Milan, 11 December 2023. Under their Memorandum, EIT Manufacturing South and SPS Italia join forces for promoting and supporting the development of entrepreneurship, with the aim of reaching innovative companies, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders of the industry sector.

The partnership integrates [EIT Manufacturing](#)'s ecosystem and expertise with SPS Italia's extensive legacy, forming a dynamic platform to showcase manufacturing innovation. EIT Manufacturing, the largest innovation community in industry supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)), a body of the European Union, will actively participate in SPS Italia's events, presenting projects that range from targeting women in manufacturing to mentorship initiatives. SPS Italia, in turn, will offer a valuable platform for showcasing EIT Manufacturing's objectives and projects during its organised events.

The partnership seeks to engage a diverse audience, including schools, technical institutes, universities, industry professionals, and female entrepreneurs, providing opportunities for the establishment of meaningful connections and cooperation between the variety of actors in the manufacturing field.

The partners will work in close cooperation on the promotion of joint activities and endeavours aimed at reducing the gender gap in the manufacturing sector, by fostering the engagement of women in the creation of innovative proposals and the involvement of female leaders in the dedicated events. Additionally, the collaboration seeks to amplify its impact by strategically promoting the joint initiatives through various channels, including platforms like the World Manufacturing Forum.

A partnership that is consolidated not only through specialized events, but also through initiatives dedicated to women

At the core of this partnership lies the aspiration to solidify the relationship between EIT Manufacturing and SPS Italia with the goal of contributing to the inclusive and innovative development of the manufacturing industry. Notably, EIT Manufacturing will become a regular participant at the SPS Italia - Smart Production Solutions trade fair, organising an annual panel on pertinent topics. The upcoming SPS Italia 2024, scheduled to take place in Parma from May 28 to 30, 2024, will be a focal point for these collaborative efforts.

The strive to recognise the added value provided by the engagement of women in the manufacturing sector and acclaim their endeavours of excellence is at the heart of the partnership between EIT Manufacturing and SPS Italia. As such, one of the key initiatives resulting from this collaboration is the integration of the Leaders and She SPS Italia projects to create impactful proposals with active participation of women manufacturers.

Milan, 11 December 2023

Co-funded by the
European Union

These proposals will include showcasing EIT Manufacturing activities, such as the Leaders project, during the *SPS Italia On Tour* travelling events.

"This collaboration stands as a testament to our commitment to fostering innovative, sustainable, and inclusive development within the manufacturing industry. The partnership with SPS Italia not only aligns us with a shared vision for advancing this sector but also underscores the added value of diversity and our recognition of the significant contributions made by women in manufacturing," says **Gian Mario Maggio, Managing Director of EIT Manufacturing South.** The annual trade fair, SPS Italia - Smart Production Solutions, represents a pivotal moment for showcasing advancements, facilitating industry collaboration, and driving innovation. Our partnership signifies a strategic alliance aimed at harnessing the full potential of this influential platform, and contributing to the transformative journey of the manufacturing sector."

Donald Wich, Managing Director of Messe Frankfurt Italia, stated: "The path to SPS Italia 2024 has begun and the partnership with EIT Manufacturing certainly represents a great news for this new edition. By working together, we can even more engage the community of manufacturing promoting an entrepreneurial culture based on innovation, fostering competitiveness of industry and a growing sustainability in society."

SPS Italia is the trade show on automation and digital for a smart and sustainable industry, organised by Messe Frankfurt Italia, the Italian subsidiary of Messe Frankfurt Group. It serves as a crucial platform for discussing the industry's most pressing challenges and stands as a key reference for the Italian manufacturing sector. The partnership between EIT Manufacturing and SPS Italia symbolises a commitment to driving positive change in the manufacturing landscape.

Background information

The [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem bringing together over 2400+ partners from top business, research and education organisations across Europe in 50+ innovation hubs. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Through dynamic pan-European partnerships, called Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities, strengthening Europe's ability to innovate and powering solutions to pressing global challenges while nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe.

[EIT Manufacturing](#) is one of the nine innovation communities supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. 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 80 members (universities, research institutes and companies).

EIT Manufacturing's Co-Location Centre South (CLC South), with its headquarters in Milan, Italy is one of the six Co-Location Centres whose mission is fully aligned with the EIT Manufacturing one, that is to bring together leading manufacturing across Europe to integrate innovation and education for an entrepreneurial and sustainable Europe and to fulfil its vision: 'Global Manufacturing Innovation is led by Europe'. CLC South currently covers the Southern-Europe region comprising: Italy, Malta, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro.

Milan, 11 December 2023



EIT Manufacturing — Making Innovation Happen!

Background information on Messe Frankfurt

The Messe Frankfurt Group is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With a workforce of some 2,300* people at its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main and in 28* subsidiaries, it organises events around the world. Group sales in financial year 2023 were more than € 600* million. We serve our customers' business interests efficiently within the framework of our Fairs & Events, Locations and Services business fields. One of Messe Frankfurt's key strengths is its powerful and closely knit global sales network, which covers around 180 countries in all regions of the world. Our comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online – ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. We are using our digital expertise to develop new business models. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services. Sustainability is a central pillar of our corporate strategy. Here, we strike a healthy balance between ecological and economic interests, social responsibility and diversity.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.messefrankfurt.com/sustainability

With its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

For more information, please visit our website at: www.messefrankfurt.com

* Preliminary figures for 2023

Contact Details

For EIT Manufacturing

Francesca Forcucci
Communication Manager, EIT Manufacturing South
francesca.forcucci@eitmanufacturing.eu
+39 3401425064

More information at www.eitmanufacturing.eu

For SPS Italia

Daniela Calvenzani
Media & Corporate Communication Manager, Messe Frankfurt Italia
daniela.calvenzani@italy.messefrankfurt.com
+39 348 3147548

More information at www.spsitalia.it