



Working Group on Rapid Manufacturing, the RM-platform: The European collaboration on Rapid Manufacturing

Background

Rapid Manufacturing is currently fragmented; many organizations are developing or researching on Rapid Manufacturing, but there is no coherent development strategy and various interpretations of the subject and its scope are still at use.

The objective of the RM-platform is to contribute to the creation of a coherent strategy, sustaining development, dissemination and exploitation of Rapid Manufacturing (RM) as enabling technology to strengthen the European economy.

The mission of this Working Group is to strengthen the European economy by driving the growth of Rapid Manufacturing within Europe to become efficient and sustainable industrial processes. This by integrating and coordinating the scientific, technological, industrial and social elements of Rapid Manufacturing. Hence, a European initiative was started.

Activities

- Creating a sound critical mass of stakeholders throughout Europe finding RM relevant for their organization.
- Vision paper: establishment and agreement on a common vision for the RM technology up to 2020.
- Strategic Research Agenda (SRA): definition the necessary medium to long term objectives and R&D topics to achieve the Visions.
- Implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda with the mobilisation of significant human and financial resources.

A number of general action points have been identified for European Technology Platforms in the leaflet on Cordis:

In the short term:

- Move into the operational phase by setting up research and development activities;
- Mobilise a wide range of funding sources;
- Develop dissemination and deployment strategies, and take account of future education and training needs;
- Assess key issues, such as intellectual property rights, regulation and standards;
- Implement the code of practice for openness and transparency;
- Explore the potential for large-scale, long-term public-private partnerships ('Joint Technology Initiatives').

In the longer term:

- Monitor the implementation of Strategic Research Agendas and adapt them, as necessary;
- Contribute to shaping future technologies and European research, innovation and industrial policies at regional, national and European level.

At the end of 2006, the first calls of FP7 were published, in which a dedicated RM topic is present. In Feb 2007, about 30 preliminary research project proposals or ideas were identified, on the basis of which FP7 proposals and / or research actions should be built on. Short descriptions are available at the restricted section of the website <http://www.rm-platform.com>

Contact

Chairman	Coordinator
Siemens AG, Corporate Technology	TNO Science & Industry
Martin Schäfer	Anton Gerrits
Siemensdamm 50 D-13623 Berlin Germany	De Rondom 1, P.O. Box 6235 5600 HE Eindhoven The Netherlands
Phone: +49 30 386 23087	Phone. +31 40 265 06 08
martin.schaefer@siemens.com	anton.gerrits@tno.nl