

In this issue:

Editorial

The future of IMS

FP7 updates:

- EUROP
- *Manufuture* 2005 conference

IMS project news:

- PROMISE
- IMS NoE
- COST-WORTH

Services to EU projects:

- IPR-Helpdesk

Upcoming events

Personalia:

- Dietlind Jering

News from other IMS Regions

The Editor's last word ...

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of the European IMS Newsletter. From now on, almost on a monthly basis, this Newsletter will keep you updated on IMS by presenting you relevant initiatives, events and project updates from a European perspective.

The Newsletter will not strictly limit itself to the IMS world. From time to time we will take a wider look at manufacturing in Europe and worldwide in particular on R&D issues. In this sense, and since our new Framework Programme on research (FP7) is approaching, we will try to also keep you up-to-date on the latest with respect to manufacturing in the FP7.

I hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter and will find valuable information in it.

Rosalie Zobel, PhD

Director "Components and Systems", Directorate-General for Information Society and Media, European Commission

The future of IMS

The Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) initiative is the world's only international collaborative R&D framework between industrialised countries including the US, Japan, Canada, Australia, South Korea, EU-Norway and Switzerland. IMS provides a global framework for industry and academia to co-operate on manufacturing R&D throughout the full innovation cycle and to identify partners world-wide. Its efficient scheme for the protection of IPR has proven beneficial for industrial participants, in particular SMEs, for engaging safely in global collaborations.

IMS has been a success story for many of its participants during the past 10 years as it constitutes a global and multi-lateral R&D collaborative scheme that involves industry and academia. The last 10 years have opened doors for European business and research on a global scale. A survey of 21 EU participants in IMS projects conducted in 2001 showed that IMS collaboration proved beneficial beyond the mere R&D activity as it included knowledge exchanges on business and market developments, thus facilitating extended business collaborations and better cross-cultural understanding.

The European part of the IMS initiative has been managed jointly by the European Commission's Directorates-General for Information Society and Media and for Research under the last three Framework Programmes for research. Activities aimed at assisting and encouraging the formation of international research consortia in addressing the industrial challenges of the 21st century. Since the beginning of IMS in 1995, about 40 R&D projects were launched, more than half of them with European participation. The projects involve around 1000 companies and research institutions world-wide and represent an international commitment level of around € 400 million (of which € 100 million is European investment under the Framework Programmes).

IMS, conceived in 1989 and officially launched in 1995, has finished in April 2005 its first 10-year phase. Several IMS regions have already renewed their commitment for the next 10-year phase. The European Commission has presented a proposal for renewal of the IMS Agreement to the Council of Ministers and received only a few days ago a mandate to negotiate the New

Upcoming events

IMS Meetings

Next IMS International Steering Committee Meeting (ISC22): Seoul, Korea, 10-11 April 2006

IMS Vision Forum:

Seoul, Korea, 12-13 April 2006
see announcement under:

<http://www.ims.org>

International Events

19th IEEE International Conference on Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2006): Istanbul, Turkey, 22-26 January 2006
<http://www.mems2006.org/>

Artificial Intelligence in Energy Systems and Power (AIESP 2006): Madeira, Portugal, 7-10 February 2006

<http://www.icsc->

[naiso.org/conferences/aiesp2006/aiesp-cfp.html](http://www.icsc-naiso.org/conferences/aiesp2006/aiesp-cfp.html)

Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications Conference (I-ESA'06): Bordeaux, France, 22-24 March 2006

<https://i-esa.laps.u-bordeaux1.fr/accueil.php>

IST-Africa 2006 Conference and Exhibition: Pretoria, South Africa, 3-5 May 2006

<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2006/>

9th CIRP International Workshop on Modeling of Machining Operations: Bled, Slovenia, 11-12 May 2006

<http://www.fs.uni-lj.si/lasin/cirp9ws06/>

International Conference on Information Systems, Logistics and the Supply Chain: Lyon, France, 15-17 May 2006

<http://www.fucam.ac.be/redirect.php3?id=36960>

2006 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation: Orlando, Florida, 15-19 May 2006

<http://www.icra2006.org/>

6th IDMME International Conference on Integrated Design & Manufacturing in Mechanical Engineering: Grenoble, France, 17-19 May 2006

<http://idmme06.inpg.fr/>

17th Annual IRMA International Conference on Emerging Trends and Challenges in Information Technology Management: Washington, D.C., USA, 21-24 May 2006

<http://www.irma-international.org/>

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- IPR-Helpdesk

Upcoming events

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- Dietlind Jering

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Agreement with the other IMS partners. We expect the new IMS Agreement to be formally signed in early 2006.

In the meantime we believe that Europe's IMS Community should be thinking about suitable research objectives that could become part of IMS in the next 10 years. The upcoming IMS Vision Forum in Seoul, planned for in April 2006, will focus on such aspects. We would welcome your input and ideas under a web forum that will be announced in our next Newsletter.

For more information on the first 10 years of IMS, please refer to the "IMS Impact Report" to be found under:

http://www.ims.org/index_imp.html

FP7 updates

EUROP, the European Robotics Platform, launched

On 7 October 2005 the European Technology Platform in Robotics – EUROP – was launched in Brussels, in presence of Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media. EUROP is an industry response to the European Commission's i2010 initiative and aims to boost the development of robotic businesses in Europe and at bringing the benefits of capable robots to the service of citizens.

The initiative has been set up by leading European companies in robotics that have decided to join their forces in order to foster the development of 21st century robotic technologies. EUROP has been endorsed so far by more than 50 top European organisations and is chaired by SAFRAN (a merger of SNECMA and SAGEM). It builds upon research carried out in EURON, the European academic network of excellence in robotics (<http://www.euron.org>).

The initiative aims to establish a consolidated European strategy in robotics for preparing a new generation of robots that will closely collaborate with workers and move out of the factory to conquer a new wave of novel consumer, service, security and space application markets. The vision of the initiative is highlighted in a document "Building EUROP, the European Robotics Platform: The High Level View" (see <http://www.robotics-platform.com>).



Manufuture 2005 conference



At the *Manufuture* 2005 conference hosted by Rolls Royce in Derby, UK, on 6-7 December, more than 350 representatives of industry, academia and government met to review the progress of the initiative and discuss proposals presented in the newly-published Strategic Research Agenda.

EC Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik emphasized the importance of manufacturing related activities to Europe, as the source of 25% of EU GDP and nearly 70% of direct and indirect employment. *Manufuture* and the other European Technology Platforms now underway are excellent tools to help overcome the barriers of a multinational Community, he said. They will make it possible to build a European Research and Innovation Area that will enable all Member States to work together in pursuit of continuing competitiveness and the maintenance of Europe's social standards.

Upcoming events

International Events

13th CIRP International Conference on Life Cycle Engineering (LCE):
Leuven, Belgium,
31 May–2 June 2006
<http://www.mech.kuleuven.be/lce2006/>

39th CIRP International Seminar on Manufacturing Systems. The Morphology of Innovative Manufacturing Systems:
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 7-9 June 2006
<http://www.fs.uni-lj.si/lakos/CIRPISMS/index.htm>

CIRP 2nd International Conference on High Performance Cutting:
Vancouver, Canada,
12-13 June 2006
<http://www.cirp-hpc.org/>

12th International Conference on Concurrent Enterprising: Milan, Italy, 26-28 June 2006
<http://www.ice-conference.org/2006/>

Personalia

Dietlind Jering

We would like to say farewell to Ms Dietlind Jering, who has left the European IMS Secretariat at the end of the November 2005 to take on a new appointment as the Commission's spokesperson in Berlin, Germany. She had been working in the IMS Secretariat for nearly 8 years and we are grateful to her for her various contributions.

News from other IMS Regions



Australia

Australian industrial companies are being invited to complete an on-line survey of Australian manufacturing industry to discover what the most compelling issues facing them are in the area of advanced manufacturing technologies and processes, and whether there is a willingness to solve these using international collaborations. This survey is being operated by the IMS Australia Secretariat to identify how best IMS could serve Australian manufacturers.

Aggregated survey results will be made available to survey respondents. Any inquiries on this survey should be directed to IMS Australia Secretariat.

For more info please refer to:
<http://www.au.ims.org/>

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The Manufuture Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) proposes an ambitious plan inviting European organisations to invest in a set of targeted research, innovation and educational activities aiming to maintain and improve the EU manufacturing industries' competitiveness and employment in a knowledge-based economy. This investment is also required to cope with the multiple societal, socio-economic changes and even the connected ethical issues in order to improve the quality of life.

The conference succeeded in defining the first steps of the roadmaps for the implementation process of the SRA and in enabling and aligning regional collaboration in FP7. Members of the High Level Group outlined the recommendations contained in the SRA, focusing particularly on the core reference model, which proposes the development of a roadmap linking six drivers of industrial transformation to five pillars of action.

The meeting concluded with a series of sector-specific workshops, during which delegates were able to offer their views on how implementation should proceed, and reach an initial consensus on research priorities to meet the sector specific and common needs. In all the different workshops, the important role of the international collaboration has been recognized, especially on themes such as standardisation mainly for advanced process manufacturing, safety and security, and educational issues.

<http://www.manufuture.org/>
<http://www.manufutureuk2005.org.uk/>

IMS project news

Introducing PROMISE: Product Lifecycle Management and Information Tracking using Smart Embedded Systems

PROMISE is an endorsed IMS project which brings together a large international partnership involving five IMS regions: EU & Norway, Switzerland, Japan, Australia and the US. The European and Swiss PROMISE consortia work under the FP6 IP project 507100.



PROMISE focuses on the complete lifecycle of a product with special emphasis on tracking and managing information at the last two phases of the cycle, i.e. the use, service and maintenance phases (or MOL) and the end-of-life phase (or EOL). It aims at providing feedback of information from these phases to the design and production phase (or BOL).

The breakthrough contribution of PROMISE, in the long term, is expected to be information flow management that goes beyond the customer, to close product lifecycle information loops, and to enable a seamless e-transformation of product lifecycle information to knowledge.

PROMISE will offer the following business proposition to product lifecycle stakeholders: creating value by transforming information to knowledge at all phases of the product lifecycle and thus improving product and service quality, efficiency and sustainability.

For more information on PROMISE, please visit the project site at <http://www.promise.no>. Under "Available Reports", a number of papers can be downloaded.

IMS NoE Final Event: "Conference on Advanced Manufacturing"

During the last three years the EU-funded project IMS NoE (Network of Excellence on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems) has brought together hundreds of experts in the manufacturing domain to share ideas and experiences. The work of the network

News from other IMS Regions



Canada

IMS Canada has built relationships with several funding agencies in Canada, such as the NRC IRAP and NSERC programs, among several others. IMS Canada will assist in the preparation of applications for these funding agencies as needed.

For more information on Government of Canada R&D support programs please check <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/doingbusiness/irap> and www.nserc.ca.

For more info on the Canadian IMS Regional Secretariat please refer to: <http://www.imscanada.ca/>



Japan

If you want to have info on the Japanese IMS Regional Secretariat you can check the webpage: <http://www.ims.mstc.or.jp/english/index3.html>.

But if you want to know the latest news you'd better understand Japanese!



Korea

The enlargement of the IMS society in Korea determined the emergence of new requirements for the Korean IMS website, which will soon undergo a general renovation. The Korean version will be ready by the end of 2005, while the English one by the beginning of the upcoming year. By January 2006 the entire Korean IMS website should therefore be publicly accessible. The Korean IMS Secretariat hopes that the completion of its website will be of great use to the IMS community in Korea. Look up for updates under: <http://ims.kitech.re.kr/>.



Switzerland

For more information please check the Swiss IMS Regional Secretariat website:

<http://www.bbt.admin.ch/kti/gebiet/int/ims/e/index.htm>.

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IMS project
news:

- PROMISE
- IMS NoE
- COST-WORTH

Services to EU
projects:

- IPR-Helpdesk

Upcoming events

Personalia:

- Dietlind Jering

News from other
IMS Regions

The Editor's last
word ...

led to the creation of an "IMS-NoE Vision on the Future of Manufacturing", which was presented at the occasion of the "Conference on Advanced Manufacturing" (Leuven, Belgium, 16-17 November 2005).



The Conference, which had an audience of 152 attendees from 26 countries, provided information on the latest advancements and future challenges in manufacturing, besides introducing future R&D activities and opportunities in EU and worldwide (in particular those under the FP7 for research and some related Technology Platforms). Also, following a track of workshops on "ICT for Manufacturing", organised earlier this year by IMS-NoE (<http://www.ims-noe.org/fp7.asp>) and being aware of the importance



to further strengthen research in this crucial domain, the event was the launching platform for the "ICT for Manufacturing" community in Europe.

All presentations given at the event can be downloaded at: <http://www.ims-noe.org/fe.asp>. Soon more information on the "ICT for Manufacturing" community will be published on this site.

COST-WORTH

The COST-WORTH project has only recently finished. The project developed a methodology, including a set of tools, which combines a coaching-oriented support scheme and component based on a business re-engineering approach to support manufacturing SMEs in all phases of process improvement, specifically in considering different IMS solutions. The methodologies are now available to end-user SMEs at: <http://www.cost-worth.net/>. The methodologies are licensed and a royalty is payable by any other organisations (such as consultants and large companies).



Services to the EU projects

The IPR Helpdesk



The Intellectual Property Rights Helpdesk is a support service which aims to assist potential and current contractors taking part in EU-funded research and technological development projects on intellectual property rights (IPR) issues.

The main services of the IPR-Helpdesk service can be summarised as follows:

- provide first-line IP related assistance to current and potential EU-R&D contractors;
- raise awareness of the importance of protecting and exploiting European IPR assets;
- assist European researchers in such projects with IP issues, as well as potential future applicants to EU-funded research programmes;
- support researchers to understand how, where and why to access the assistance necessary to register, protect and exploit their IPR.

For more information please see: <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/>.



USA

"The US team is committed to participating in the second 10-year phase of IMS. We will vigorously pursue new projects through fully energized industry, government, and university partnerships. Doing so will result in a higher level of cooperation with other IMS Regions throughout this new phase of the IMS Program."

Robert G. Kiggans Head of Delegation, IMS United States President & CEO, ATI Charleston, South Carolina

For more information on the activities of the US IMS RS please refer to the website: <http://www.mel.nist.gov/ims/ims.html>.

Impressum

This Newsletter has been prepared by the European IMS Secretariat as a service to the European IMS community.

Its electronic version is mailed free of charge to users that expressly wish to receive it. If you would like to be registered as recipient, please contact the IMS Secretariat:

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DG-INFOS
DG-RTD

<http://cordis.europa.eu/int/ims/>
Email: info-rtd-ims@cec.eu.int

The Editor's last word ...

I would like first of all to thank all the persons who have contributed to this first issue of the European IMS Newsletter.

In the next issue you will find more information on the FP7 and on IMS projects. The IMS Newsletter will be one of the means to maintain the European IMS Community active, keep it informed and make it grow. I warmly invite you to give your direct contribution through sending me your comments and to provide me with short articles to be published on the next issues. You can contact me at the e-mail address: info-rtd-ims@cec.eu.int. Please feel also free to distribute the newsletter to anyone who may be interested in IMS.

Marco Montorio, Stagiaire
European IMS Regional Secretariat