

- Press Release -

Memorandum of Understanding between *Manufuture* and the European Footwear Technology Platform

The European Technology Platform for Assuring the future of Manufacturing in Europe (*Manufuture*) and the Footwear Products and Processes European Technology Platform (*Footwear ETP*) sign a Memorandum of Understanding for close collaboration in the implementation of research and development priorities defined in their respective Strategic Research Agendas.

Porto, 4 December 2007

On the occasion of the **Manufuture 2007 Conference** organised on 2-4 December 2007 in Porto, the European Technology Platform for Assuring the future of Manufacturing in Europe (**Manufuture**) and the Footwear Products and Processes European Technology Platform (**Footwear ETP**) launched a joint initiative for closer collaboration in pre-competitive research and development at European level. Today, Prof. Heinrich Flegel, chairman of the High Level Group of *Manufuture*, and Mr. Martin Kopac, President of the Footwear ETP, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to this effect.

The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are:

- the establishment of a permanent collaboration forum between footwear manufacturers and developers and manufacturers of machines, systems & tools to exchange major technological trends and evolving consumer needs
- the combination of complementary elements of the Strategic Research Agendas of the *Manufuture* and Footwear European Technology Platforms in a joint implementation plan

About *Manufuture*

MANUFUTURE – European Technology Platform for Assuring the future of Manufacturing in Europe was launched at the second *Manufuture* conference, held in Enschede, The Netherlands, in December 2004. On this occasion, the document *Manufuture – a Vision for 2020* was published as the basis for development of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) underpinning a transformation of European manufacturing industry into a knowledge based sector capable of competing successfully in the globalised marketplace.

The economic importance of sustaining a strong manufacturing base in Europe is indicated by the fact that the manufacturing sector in the EU provides jobs for around 27 million people, and produces an added value exceeding € 1 300 billion from 230 000 enterprises with 20 and more employees (2001).

About the Footwear ETP:

The Footwear Products and Processes European Technology Platform is an industry-led initiative aimed at bringing together all interested sector stakeholders: SME and large companies, material and component suppliers, ICT and technology providers, shoe and accessory retailers, sector confederations, research centres on footwear, education centres and service providers. Objective of the platform is to strategically identify long term vision and trends, as well as to develop and implement a Strategic Research Agenda to support the transformation of the footwear industry into a knowledge-based innovation driven sector.

Contacts:

For *Manufuture* : Eberhard Bessey
Tel.: +49-711-17 41611
Fax: +49-711-17 41879
Email: manufuture.e.bessey@daimler.com

For Footwear ETP : Emanuele Carpanzano
Tel.: +39-02-2369 9914
Fax: +39-02-2369 9941
Email: e.carpanzano@itia.cnr.it