

PRESS RELEASE

14 September 2005

MANUFUTURE: MAKE IT IN EUROPE

The Chairman of the ManuFuture Technology Platform, **Professor Heinrich Flegel** presented in the opening press conference of EMO[®] 2005 in Hannover the main messages from the industry driven **ManuFuture Technology Platform**.

MAKE IT IN EUROPE

Assuring the **future** of European manufacturing goes hand-in-hand with the future of Europe. With an 18% share, Europe currently dominates international trade in manufactured goods and manufacturing provides 27 million jobs within our community. European manufacturing is the **backbone** of the European economy.

The manufacturing sector is **essential** for the **European economy, its growth and jobs**. Many service jobs depend on a successful European manufacturing sector.

As can be seen in EMO[®] 2005 the **enabling industry**, like machine tool, robots, automation, etc. provides the complete manufacturing sector with the effective, flexible tools the sector needs to be successful worldwide. Most European manufacturing sectors are **global leaders**, as well in turnover as in technology.

European manufacturing industry and the research and education infrastructure that supports it, face continuous challenge as a consequence of **global** economic and political **change** in both advanced and emerging countries.

It is essential that Europe sustains a **competitive manufacturing industry**. This industry must have the capability to lead the **transformation of manufacturing** to meet the changing needs of the market and society.

MAKE IT POSSIBLE

The strength of the machine tool industry as presented in this exhibition **EMO[®] 2005** is recognised world wide by all manufacturing sectors fully relying on its advanced technology and innovation strength. As for everybody in the manufacturing sector it is not just simply selling machines, but more and more it is solving customer manufacturing problems.

Government **support** is needed on European, national and regional level. Not only money, but also the right competitive conditions to do what the sector is good in: being flexible in rapidly changing times. Technology and innovation play a key role and to be technology leaders the sector needs top research and top researchers.

With the right conditions Europe will have the regions where not only knowledge is created, but the **know how** to use this knowledge can be extended and **kept in Europe!** The excellent cooperation of enabling technology industry (like machine tools), its customer industries (manufacturing sectors like automotive, aerospace, machinery, etc) and the research community (universities and research institutes) is crucial. The attractiveness of these successful industries to our young people will make further advancement possible.

The ManuFuture Technology Platform has available its vision: **MANUFUTURE A Vision for 2020**: - *Assuring the future of manufacturing in Europe* - . Currently a comprehensive **Strategic Research Agenda** is nearly finished. This SRA will be presented to EU Commissioner for DG Research Janez Potočnik on 7th December 2005 in Derby, UK.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

But there will be no real advancement without exploiting the results of all efforts. EMO[®] 2005 is the place where you can see the **exploitation** of research results of the past. The new products will enable the very much needed flexibility in our industries in order to have sustainable economic growth: now and in the future.

Promotion is needed of collaborative actions including European and national ManuFuture Platforms to initiate a **European Manufacturing Innovation and Research Area** (EMIRA). Practical cooperation with national ManuFuture initiatives and other Technology Platforms has been set-up to make sure the right topics are addressed, solved with smart solutions and transferred to the appropriate sectors for effective and efficient exploitation.

The ManuFuture Technology Platform has started and will continue to work on a clear Vision, a comprehensive Strategic Research Agenda and a challenging Implementation Plan:

Let's make it happen!

For further information, please contact Dietmar Goericke VDMA Frankfurt, secretariat ManuFuture Support Group tel: +49 (69) 66 03 - 18 21, e-mail: dietmar.goericke@vdma.org, or Andrea Gentili, European Commission DG Research tel: +32 (2) 298 43 44, e-mail: andrea.gentili@cec.eu.int.

*The **MANUFUTURE Technology Platform** is an industry led grouping of European initiatives and actions on European, national and regional level, assuring the future of manufacturing in Europe. The ManuFuture Initiative **mission** is to develop and implement a strategy – with RTD and innovation at its core – capable of enabling European Manufacturing to win the leadership in the face of global challenge by transforming industry and its RTD and education infrastructure. The **strategic goal** of the ManuFuture initiative is to enable a competitive and sustainable European manufacturing industry with global leadership in high added value products and services. This will lead to market dominance, the creation of wealth and high added value jobs and increased social cohesion.*

For further information on ManuFuture please visit the ManuFuture website: www.manufuture.org, which also contains a link to the relevant EU Commission website.

-ends-