

Pathfinder Workshop - Drafting the next Research Agenda - 20th October 2014, Brussels - Save the Date!

Europe's need for productivity growth has become more pressing against both the low rate of economic growth and the international financial crisis that is clouding the outlook for all companies. Modern IT is a key factor for the future of manufacturing, where especially simulations and virtual reality will contribute to the creativity and innovative developments of complex products and processes. There is a vibrant link between ICT investment and industrial productivity: as reported by Oxford Economics and by a recent study of the Lisbon Council, the impact of information and communication technology is of paramount importance since an investment in such sector generates a bigger return to productivity growth than most other forms of capital investment.

The Pathfinder FP7 project investigates the role of simulation and forecasting technologies as a lever to increase manufacturing performance and proposes the development of a roadmap capable to clearly point out key challenges for these technologies future development and related investments need. Pathfinder has indeed identified, thanks to numerous consultations over a period of 10 months, including discussions with representatives of the European Commission, workshops with advisory groups from industry and academia, and consultations with the "European Factories of the Future Research Association" (EFFRA), a set of opportunities and challenges for Simulation and Forecasting Technologies. Read more on the [Pathfinder website](#).

Having such framework in mind, you are kindly invited to the project's second workshop which will take place on 20 October 2014 in Brussels. The theme is "Simulation, analytics and forecasting for the Factories of the Future: challenges and research priorities". By attending this workshop you will have the chance to influence future RTD policies in the field of Simulation and Forecasting technologies.

A detailed agenda will follow. If you plan to come, please let us know at <http://doodle.com/r3trf24d5aec3hbv>

Yours sincerely,

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For further information please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/factories-of-the-future_en.html