

2nd July 2013, Milan (Italy) – Pathfinder begins!

12 people from 7 beneficiaries met at Politecnico di Milano for a face-to-face meeting to start the Pathfinder project. In 18 months TTS (Italy), Delcam (UK), Holonix (Italy), SUPSI (Switzerland), SmartFactory (Germany), University of Patras-LMS (Greece) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy) will investigate the role of future simulation and forecasting technologies as a lever to increase manufacturing performance. A roadmap will be developed to clearly point out key challenges for the technologies' future development.

The consortium members discussed the roadmap structure, which will be based on challenges and opportunities within the European manufacturing industry. Moreover technologies and enablers, but also past and present roadmaps, will also contribute to the roadmap structure.

Paolo Pedrazzoli, the project coordinator, stressed the importance of involving experts from industry and educational institutes. These experts will form an Advisory Board, supporting the PATHFINDER consortium to ensure alignment with the future needs of the manufacturing industry in the area of simulation and forecasting.

PATHFINDER is one of the projects from the "I4MS" initiative (ICT for Manufacturing SMEs) which will help 200 small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) across Europe who are either attempting to reduce the risks involved in using advanced technology which is still in its infancy, or are trying to cross the so-called "valley of death" that separates the development of an innovative prototype from a successful product in the market.



Kick Off Meeting - 2nd July 2013



Consortium partners discussing the project

The European Commission is contributing €77 million from its 7th R&D Framework Programme (FP7) to this innovation initiative for the manufacturing sector designed to enable high-tech SMEs exploit the potential of ICT to help grow their businesses.

I4MS officially kicks off in July 2013 and will conduct more than 150 innovation experiments over the next 3 years. It targets suppliers and users of ICT solutions and covers innovation in four areas: advanced robot solutions, high performance cloud-based simulation services, intelligent sensor-based equipment and innovative laser applications. I4MS is part of the Public Private Partnership 'Factories of the Future (PPP FoF).

Acknowledgements:

This project is co-funded by the European Commission as part of the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) adopted in 2008. The EERP proposes the launch of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in three sectors, one of them being Factories of the Future (FoF). Factories of the Future is a EUR 1.2 billion program in which the European Commission and industry are collaborating in research to support the development and innovation of new enabling technologies for the EU manufacturing sector.

For further information please visit:

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