

Welcome to our  
2nd Newsletter!

Throughout the Target project, we aim to publish this newsletter at quarterly intervals to keep partners, colleagues, clients and stakeholders up to date on relevant information relating to our project.

If you have any updates to contribute to these publications, please forward your news to our Communications Lead:

vincentreynolds@  
cavanitic.ie



## Making Regional Manufacturing Globally Competitive

We are pleased to report that the TARGET project is now well underway.

As many of our readers will already be aware, this is a new three year international project designed to enhance the capacity of manufacturing companies to innovate and embrace new technologies.

The TARGET project is funded under the Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme (NPA) 2014-2020 with grant assistance from the European Regional Development Fund managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

The project partners are universities and other education/innovation providers across the NPA region. The primary objective is to strengthen the capacity of the manufacturing sector, including the adoption of new innovative technologies, processes and practices, so as to build competitive advantage. The project will develop a toolbox of supports, which, through the introduction of new technologies, knowledge and skills, will help to position manufacturing companies in the Northern Periphery and Arctic Region as world leaders in their sectors.





## TARGET Partners meet in Tromso



### Standing (L-R):

Heidi Kaartinen (Centria University of Applied Sciences, Finland); Anne Loughran (South West College); Edel McCusker (South West College); John Moore (South West College); Vincent Reynolds (Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre); Asa Ericson (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden); Sakari Pieska (Centria University of Applied Sciences, Finland); Gabor Szeibig (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway); Johann Holmqvist (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden); Wei Deng Solvang (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway); Johan Wenngren, (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden); Tor Schive (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway)

## Tromso Partner Meeting Update

In mid February, representatives from all of the partner organisations came together at the Tromso campus of UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, to discuss progress in the implementation of the project, and to agree tasks and priorities going forward. The event brought together delegates from UiT - The Arctic University of Norway; Luleå University of Technology (Sweden); Centria University of Applied Sciences (Finland); South West College (Northern Ireland), Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre and Cavan and Sligo Local Enterprise Offices (Ireland).

The meeting discussed, *inter alia*, the challenges faced by manufacturing companies in the region, the range of skill-sets of the partners, the most appropriate mechanisms and approaches to be used in the transfer of knowledge and expertise, and the form and structure of engagements with the companies selected to participate.

## TARGET Project Update



The project partners are working individually and collectively, as necessary, to ascertain and respond to the needs of individual participating companies, and develop a toolbox of supports to build the future global competitiveness of the NPA region by providing insights into digital manufacturing, new ideas/thinking, innovative business models and product innovations.

Following a range of surveys, interviews, and direct one to one interactions, the partners are devising methods to support the application of innovation, and new processes and practices, in manufacturing, so as to merge a range of technologies to enable SMEs to produce an integrated, automated and highly efficient manufacturing environment - in other words putting the digital economy into manufacturing.

South West College has been proactive, in collaboration with all partners, in devising a working model for the toolbox. The other partners, UiT, Centria, and Luleå, have focussed respectively on advanced technologies and management tools for company and competitive strategies, profitability and sustainability; tools for digitalisation: and tools for idea and concept development. Utilisation and embedding of these (tools) in the manufacturing process will provide competitive advantage in local, national and global markets.

### Company Selection

All partners have been active in recruiting suitable manufacturing companies for the project. This has been achieved through channels such as local calls via websites, mailshots and social media.

### Communications

Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre (Ireland), as the Communications Lead, has been working on producing a series of policy documents, collating project and partner updates, and co-ordinating press releases and newsletters. In addition, the development of a new TARGET project website is now nearing completion.

### Partner Profiles

A partner profile will be included in future issues of our newsletter.



## Events & Activities

### Steering Group Meeting - 13 April 2016

The first NPA TARGET Steering Group Meeting was held on 13 April 2016. Membership is drawn from across the NPA region, meeting twice a year in an advisory capacity, and lending their expertise and experience to the TARGET Project. An overview and progress report was presented by the Lead Partner South West College. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 05 October 2016.

### Participant Engagement - Ireland

The Irish partners, South West College, Cavan & Sligo Local Enterprise Offices are hosting an industry briefing and networking event for participating companies. This event is being hosted in Cavan (Ireland) on 12 May 2016 with a keynote input from the Irish Government's Chief Digital Advisor, who will address the topic of Industry 4.0 and its impact on digital /manufacturing.

### Norway Meeting - June 2016

The TARGET partners are coming together, and will input at, the 1st International Symposium on Small-scale Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (SIMS) being hosted in UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, Narvik, Norway.

SIMS – International Symposium on Small-scale Intelligent Manufacturing Systems – is the leading international forum for academic and industrial experts to disseminate information on the most recent theories, practices and research results in the field of Small-scale Intelligent Manufacturing Systems.

Small-scale Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (SIMS) is an emerging concept, and it is of paramount importance for improving and enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of manufacturers, especially SMEs, in order to survive in today's rapidly changing market. SIMS aims to incorporate state-of-the-art technologies with leading edge management methods in order to achieve continuous improvement in flexibility, reliability, productivity and sustainability of manufacturing systems.

A special meeting of the TARGET partners will be held during the symposium to review progress since the Tromsø meeting, to set out & agree the work programme planned over the coming months.



## TARGET Partners

The Lead Partner in the TARGET Project is South West College, Northern Ireland. At present, there are five other partners across Norway, Finland, Sweden and Ireland. Contact details for each of the partners are provided below.

**South West College**, 2 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, N. Ireland; BT79 7AH; Tel: 00448456031881; Email: [edel.mccusker@swc.ac.uk](mailto:edel.mccusker@swc.ac.uk); [www.swc.ac.uk](http://www.swc.ac.uk).

**UiT - The Arctic University of Norway** (formerly Narvik University College), Lodve Langes gate 2, 8505 Narvik, Norway; Tel: 0047 76966351; Email: [wds@hin.no](mailto:wds@hin.no); [www.nuc.hin.no](http://www.nuc.hin.no).

**Centria University of Applied Sciences**, Talonpojankatu 2, 671000 Kokkola, Finland; Tel: 003544492564; Email: [sakari.pieska@centria.fi](mailto:sakari.pieska@centria.fi); [www.centria.fi](http://www.centria.fi)

**Luleå University of Technology**, Universitetssområdet Porson, 97187, Luleå, Sweden; Tel: 0046 920492061; Email: [asaeri@ltu.se](mailto:asaeri@ltu.se); [www.ilt.se](http://www.ilt.se)

**Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre & Local Enterprise Office Cavan**, Dublin Road, Cavan, Ireland; Tel: 00353494377277; Email [vincentreynolds@cavanitc.ie](mailto:vincentreynolds@cavanitc.ie) [www.cavanitc.ie](http://www.cavanitc.ie) [www.localenterprise.ie/cavan](http://www.localenterprise.ie/cavan)

**Local Enterprise Office Sligo** City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, Ireland; Tel: 0035371 9144779; Email: [liamkiely@sligoenterprise.ie](mailto:liamkiely@sligoenterprise.ie); [www.localenterprise.ie/sligo](http://www.localenterprise.ie/sligo)

Each of the partner organisations have specialist skill sets focused on ensuring that the local and regional manufacturing base will be globally competitive and innovative through the utilisation of the advanced technology and digital manufacturing techniques available through the partnership.

For further information or queries regarding TARGET contact your regional project partner or our Lead Partner:

Edel McCusker, South West College, 2 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, N. Ireland; BT79 7AH; Tel: 00448456031881; Email: [edel.mccusker@swc.ac.uk](mailto:edel.mccusker@swc.ac.uk)