



Technology Festival in Northern Norway (TINN), Rallardagene

21-23 March 2017

Welcome to our
5th 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
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The March 2017 partner meeting and annual get-together of the TARGET project coincided with the hosting of a magnificent Technology Festival/ Conference (TINN) in Narvik. The 2017 TINN festival was the merging of the TINN and Narvik Harbour Conference into Rallardagene.

The conference, and associated events, brought together a large gathering of internationally renowned experts and academics to consider and discuss a wide array of specialist topics ranging from the aerospace industry, digitalisation and production logistics for small business, renewable energy and energy efficiency, transport and transport infrastructure, as well as government priorities for Norway's growth industries.

The conference was supported and facilitated by UiT - The Arctic University of Norway (Anne Husebekk, Rector) and Narvik Municipality (Rune Edvardsen, Mayor).

Three TARGET partner representatives (Prof Åsa Ericson, Dr. John Moore and Dr. Sakari Pieskä) made presentations at the Conference on engagement with SMEs to promote sustainable business development and global competitiveness via enabling technologies and applications, and focussed on the TARGET manufacturing supports toolbox.



Technology Festival (Cont'd)



Representatives of the TARGET project partners taking part in a Q & A following their presentations to the conference. L/R Prof. Åsa Ericson, Luleå Technical University (Sweden); Dr. John Moore, South West College (Northern Ireland); Dr. Sakari Pieskä, Centria University of Applied Science (Finland); along with Prof. Constantinos Soutis, University of Manchester; Edel Storelvmo (Conference Chairperson), UiT Norges Arctic University.

TARGET Project Partner Meeting in UiT Narvik

The first part of the meeting focussed on a range of topics, including a detailed review of the current status of the project in relation to the overall project plan and performance indicators. Individual partners reported on progress under their work package. Particular focus, and attention, was given to engagement with participating companies-engagement models and questionnaire format were presented and considered in detail.

This was followed by a partner report and discussion on the manufacturing supports toolbox, which is at an advanced stage of development and testing. It was agreed that the responsible partners would follow through on the discussion, and in particular, finalisation of the diagnostic questionnaire. Partners also received a lengthy and detailed presentation on a specialist 3D lab, followed by a very informative visit to a TARGET champion company, Brødrene Karlsen at Husøy.



UiT – The Arctic University of Norway reaches out to support local industry – just one example!



The Institute of Industrial Technology at UiT Narvik – The Arctic University of Norway works closely with industry in its region with a focus on R & D associated with “Small – scale intelligent production systems”(SIMS).

One example is the highly successful assignment carried out on behalf of a major fish processing enterprise (Karlsen Brothers) at Husøy in Troms (Norway) which centred on the company need for automation of processes and associated inventory management and logistics.

The work carried out was part of a collaboration between the UiT Narvik, Study Centre Finnsnes AS (Vidar Gunnberg, General Manager), Brødrene Karlsen, and supported by InterReg Nord and Troms county. A new stage of the automation process is being supported under the TARGET project.



Pictured: Front Row - Masters Students Maria C. Paulsen and Tanja Kerezovic, who worked on finding optimal solutions for the Brødrene Karlsen project. Back Row: Associate Prof Gabor Sziebig and Prof Wei Deng Solvang, Head of the Institute of Industrial Technology at UiT Narvik.





NPA funded GREBE and TARGET Projects meet at the Technology Festival of Northern Norway (TINN)

TARGET (<http://www.targetproject.eu/>) is an NPA funded project designed to enhance the capacity of manufacturing companies to innovate and embrace new technologies – making regional manufacturing globally competitive.

GREBE (<http://grebeproject.eu/>) aims to develop and share support for the renewable energy sector in the NPA region.

In their deliberations during the TINN festival and conference, the parties, including the Narvik Science Park, concluded that renewable energy (GREBE) and digitalization (TARGET) represent two key factors in the global market competition.

Building regional competencies

Manufacturing in the NPA region has many important strengths. These include regional and niche specific competencies where companies are world leaders in specific sectors unique to the region. However, the majority of manufacturing companies are predominately small in size and face considerable challenges, such as geographical isolation from major markets and a lack of the benefits offered by more populous and urbanised economic urban clusters. When combined with global trends we see a shift in manufacturing to lower cost and developing economies. Rapid advances in new technologies mean that support measures are needed to strengthen the manufacturing sector in the NPA region. This is precisely where the TARGET project is positioned.





NPA funded GREBE and TARGET Projects meet at the Technology Festival of Northern Norway (TINN) (Cont'd)



Norwegian project leaders, both from Narvik: Prof. Wei Deng Solvang (TARGET) and Fred R. Johansen (GREBE).

A collaborated competence platform

The primary focus of the TARGET project is to provide a toolbox to facilitate manufacturing companies in the application of innovation and embracing new processes and practices. These include virtual and parametric design and simulation, reverse planning, modelling and 3D printing, remote monitoring and programming of CNC machines and robots, 3D measurements, application of digital data and vision based quality assurance. Coupling these with key market analysis skills such as trending, testing, and integrating products into a whole cycle of service delivery, will build the competitive advantage and value of manufacturing firms. The key is to converge all of these technologies to produce an integrated, automated and highly efficient manufacturing environment – putting the knowledge economy into manufacturing.



NPA funded GREBE and TARGET Projects meet at the Technology Festival of Northern Norway (TINN) (Cont'd)

Global competitiveness

The TARGET project will develop supports to build future global competitiveness of NPA region's manufacturers giving them a new influx of innovation, technology and novel processes. This will open up new and promising opportunities, and reduce the competitive and knowledge gap, through the introduction of new processes, techniques, knowledge and skill, and will demonstrate the benefits to be gained through the application of these supports, to position NPA manufacturing industries as world leaders in their sectors, and building sustainable competitive advantage.

TARGET Partners following meeting at UiT Narvik – The Arctic University of Norway.



Upcoming Events & Activities

- Monthly Partner (SKYPE) Meetings.
- Partner Meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland) 12- 14 June 2017.
- Planning for SIMS 2018 Conference – April 2018.
- International exchanges / visits amongst project partners and participating companies.



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.



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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:

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