

Press release

May 23rd 2018

EU-funded Automotive cross-border project „Light Vehicle 2025“ to strengthen the economy in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

At the occasion of the Automotive Congress in Eindhoven on May 23rd 2018, the EU-funded cross-border Interreg Automotive project „Light Vehicle 2025“ in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (Wallonia and Flanders in Belgium, Limburg and Noord-Brabant in the Netherlands and North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany)- was officially kicked-off by its six partners (Flanders Make (Leader), Automotive NL, AMAC GmbH, Technifutur, University of Liège and Campus Automobile Spa – Francorchamps), running from 2018 until 2021.

Aside from the traditionally well known strongholds of automotive engineering in Europe, the Euregio Meuse-Rhine provides a huge potential with its many highly innovative, leading companies and especially SMEs which are active along the whole value chain in the future-oriented areas of lightweight, electric mobility and autonomous driving. The presence of a large number of representatives along the whole chain in the Euregio makes this geographical area one of the most attractive for any kind of automotive business. In particular, the advanced material sector is established and growing, with a consolidated offer ranging from the raw material producer over technology development to production, from research and development to industrial OEM.

The benefit of joining forces across borders in „Light Vehicle 2025“ is in bundling the technological competences as well as global and local networks for the greatest benefit of everybody. It will help companies in the Euregio to access an extended supply chain using multi-material systems and will support them in tackling the challenges for the future in automotive.

One key objective of the LV2025 project is to connect the competences of the industrial companies, institutions and universities which are present in the Euregio among each other. Furthermore, the outstanding competences of the Euregio shall also be showcased through the design and the manufacturing of several selected

lightweight component prototypes. The aim is to build an important virtual technology center on automotive engineering and manufacturing for the future.

“Light Vehicle 2025” will focus on innovation and new technologies, provide gap analysis on technologies and cost, as well as on training possibilities, select potentials, connect people and businesses, inspire cooperation and cross border clusters, raise awareness of coming market requirements, stimulate knowledge transfer and provide and up-to-date worker and engineer training framework.

Dr. Michael Effing, Founder and CEO of AMAC GmbH “With our activities in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, we are going to help the parties to mutually increase their competitiveness, to initiate and run joint demonstration projects, to strengthen the economy in all involved regions and finally to secure working places. With lightweight materials, design and manufacturing, we create the future in automotive: safer, lighter, more fun to drive, environmentally friendly through material savings and reduced fuel consumption and CO² emissions. The project will show that lightweight designs and materials can also be cost-efficient in high-volume production cycles thanks to new progresses in integrative manufacturing technologies using multi-material systems.”

About Interreg VA EMR

Until the year 2020, the Programm Interreg VA Euregio Meuse Rhein (EMR) invests 96 million euros in crossborder cooperation in the Programme Area. This area entails roughly the square between Eindhoven, Leuven, Cologne and Trier, an area with almost 5.5 million inhabitants. Through the Interreg Projects the European Union directly invests in the economic development, innovation, the territorial development and social inclusion and education of this cross border region.

<https://www.interregemr.eu>

About the partners

Flanders Make is the research centre for the manufacturing industry. We work together with companies and knowledge centres and perform pre-competitive, technological research into product and production innovations for the vehicle sector, the mechanical engineering industry and assembly environments, not only from our sites in Lommel, Leuven and, shortly, West-Flanders, but also together with colleagues working at the Flemish universities. Together with all our partners, we close the gap between academic research and industrial application. Our research projects deliberately target the technology pioneers within the Flemish landscape. We support these large and small companies step by step throughout their innovation projects and help them to translate the developed technologies and acquired knowledge into concrete products and services. This enables them to grow and offers them a competitive edge. In this way, we can keep companies and employment in Flanders. But it doesn't stop there. We also stimulate, both within the scope of our service offer and through partnerships, the continued rollout of these product and production innovations as other companies often face similar technological challenges. In this way, we create added value for the whole manufacturing industry.

www.flandersmake.be

Automotive NL is the cluster organization for the Dutch automotive industry, mobility sector, automotive education sector and has over 170 members. From its base of operations on the Automotive Campus in Helmond, AutomotiveNL performs activities essential to its members with a dedicated, highly experienced team of experts. AutomotiveNL is dedicated to working together with all automotive-related organizations to address the challenge facing the Dutch automotive industry in the field of Green mobility, Smart mobility and Efficient, Flexible & Sustainable Manufacturing Processes.

www.automotivenl.com

Campus Automobile Spa-Francorchamps is a vocational training center of the Walloon Region, located in Spa-Francorchamps, inside the race track. It offers technical trainings to job seekers, to schools (students and teachers) and to workers and enlarges its educational impact through partnership with University of Liège. The Campus is also anticipating the evolution of technologies and adapt / create training contents and provide competences in automotive, racing, bodywork, engines, alternative fuels and eco-technology (EV/HEV/CNG/ FCH) thanks to its high-tech equipment's used also to support the economic development and the regional SME's.

www.formation-campus-automobile.be

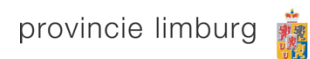
Liège University: The Department of Aerospace and Mechanics of the University of Liège is the heir to a long tradition of cutting-edge research in the field of digital mechanics applied to aerospace and mechanics. In addition, the department has also developed experimental research in mechanical production systems, energy and propulsion for aircraft and land vehicles. The Automotive Engineering Group Laboratory research group is in charge of the specific application of this fundamental

research to the automotive field, with strong axes in the field of computer-aided structural and transmission design, but also in the design and prototyping of innovative propulsion systems. During the project, the Automotive Engineering Laboratory will lead the selection of outstanding demonstrators that will demonstrate the potential for mass reduction and CO₂ emissions. The University of Liège also puts its experience at the service of research into innovative concepts with a view to reducing the weight of selected systems and components by using design and optimisation methods derived from the most recent research.

Technifutur is a training center active in 14 domains including: Aeronautics, Assembly, Automation, Design, Energy and Environment, Image and Multimedia, IT, Maintenance, Measurements and controls, Micro-technologies, Management, Surfaces and Materials, Industrial Techniques, Machining, etc. In addition to training activities, Technifutur® provides other services like technical advices, information on innovations, e-learning as well as technological watch and prototypes building. Technifutur® has many remarkable equipment at the cutting edge of technology on which the training takes place. Technifutur® provides trainings to 3 types of public: industrials, job seekers and students (total of 750,000 hours of training for the three publics). Technifutur® is certified for more than 25 trainings: from CAD/CAM Pro engineer, PART 66 for aeronautics, Microsoft, to Siemens automation,
www.technifutur.be

AMAC is an Industrial and Business Consulting Company in the field of lightweight construction materials based in Aachen, Germany. The business model of AMAC is based on three pillars: establishment and development of networking and clusters between universities and industrial companies, training in Sales and Marketing excellence as well as management of industrial projects in the field of innovations and commercialization. Dr. Michael Effing is Chairman of the board of the trade associations Composites Germany and AVK.
www.amac-international.com

Overview of the Co-Funding Partners



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