

Unlocking a world-class manufacturing cluster in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area has one of the highest concentrations of manufacturers in the UK. It's spectacularly diverse, spanning food production, life sciences, engine and energy production, composites, 3D printing, and more.



Although home to highly competitive manufacturers, detailed reviews and analysis on the regional economy have highlighted untapped potential which could be harnessed with a sector network.

The Smart Manufacturing Alliance has been established as a joint venture between the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board and economic development company, Opportunity Peterborough.

What we're doing

Our aim is to increase regional manufacturing's economic output (GVA) by £50 million over 10 years.

Working with manufacturers to:

- Support jobs growth,
- Improve productivity and advancing a low-carbon, circular economy
- Develop sector specialist skills and talent retention
- Create more opportunities for innovation
- Create a collective for the sector across
 Cambridgeshire

Local leadership

Our work is guided by an Advisory Board of local industry leaders. They'll ensure we deliver maximum value for manufacturers.



Read more about our work and what Smart Manufacturing Alliance membership offers >>





Our membership offer:

- Identify and address performance gaps
 with complimentary business diagnostics,
 bespoke actions plans and one-to-one
 support
- Grant funding advice and guidance
- Connections with industry leaders, innovation hubs, and incubators via exclusive, sector focussed events, workshops, and business visits.
- Direct delivery and brokerage of business advice services, expert consultancies, and training
- Links to universities and research institutions (e.g. Cambridge IfM, ARU, UCP, Make UK, TWI, National Centre for Food Manufacturing, Cranfield University) to test innovative ideas, and develop workforce skillsets
- Advice and support (including grants) to adopt and optimise Industry 4.0 technologies
- Sector and market analysis
- Facilitation of challenge-led innovation platforms and pilots
- Link into key economic policy developments e.g. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, OXCAM ARC, the Heart of England
- Free access to the Opportunity
 Peterborough Bondholder Network
 (usually £100+VAT) for additional
 networking and economic insight.
- Includes affiliate membership to:



We're focusing on five key journeys for our members to enhance:



Productivity & Performance – connecting educators and employers to enhance coaching, training and workshops to improve productivity and performance; diagnostics to drive efficiency; peer networking groups to share ideas and best practice.



Sustainability & Carbon Reduction

 embedding low-carbon, circular economy principles into businesses to ensure a vibrant, cost-effective, and resilient sector.



Innovation & Commercialisation -

developing ideas, testing commercial viability, sharing best practice, and exploring opportunities of collaboration.



Enterprise & Growth - dedicated support and resource to develop opportunities for our members, startups and spin-outs



Competitiveness & Trade –

promote local expertise, unlock global trade and inward investment opportunities





Supporting the Sector







ACMI 4.0 - Gearing up for New Technologies

This programme is being delivered by the Smart Manufacturing Alliance in partnership with Opportunity Peterborough and is free to access for members and non-members.

Advanced Capacities for Manufacturing - Industry 4.0 (ACMI4.0) is a £1.2 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project designed to support the adoption and integration of Industry 4.0 technologies and design principles in manufacturing SMEs.

What's in it for manufacturers?

- a £300,000 capital grants fund (40/60 match funding required). Each eligible business can apply for capital grants from £2,000 - £20,000, supporting capital project costs of £5,000 to £50,000.
- 12hrs of business support including workshops and one-to-one consultancy.

 We'll ensure you adopt the most appropriate technologies for the right reasons and support your implementation planning so you can boost productivity.

Plus:

- Introduction to Industry 4.0 workshops
- Self-benchmarking surveys
- Industry 4.0 audits and visioning sessions
- Best practice workshops covering how new technologies are improving productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness.
- Action planning workshops to prepare for incorporating new technologies
- Grant funding support sessions
- Follow-up delivery support and monitoring sessions

What technologies does ACMI 4.0 cover?

- Cloud Computing
- 3D Printing
- Advanced Robotics
- Big Data / Analytics
- Industrial Internet of Things
- Mobile Technologies
- Augmented / Virtual Reality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Security

What else are we doing?

- Championing the development of launchpads, incubators, innovation labs and maker spaces to encourage new enterprise growth and disruptive technologies
- Inward Investment by identifying comparative advantages and supply chain opportunities
- Inspiring the future workforce by promoting the sector and career opportunities to students across the region





Membership of the Smart Manufacturing Alliance is for businesses that want to:

- get connected and stay informed
- access new markets and customers
- innovate across sectors to develop new products, processes and services
- build stronger supply chains
- access growth opportunities and innovation
- identify new partners to get to market faster
- recruit, retain, and develop staff through affordable training and development
- inspire the future workforce to strengthen the local talent pipeline
- identify collaboration platforms both in manufacturing and across sector
- to encourage innovative problem-solving, and groundbreaking research and development

Talk to our team to find out how membership could catapult your business' growth



Bob Hart
Programme Director
© 07920 160692



Matt Blakeley
Network Development
Manager
© 07971 401354



Elisa Gosai
Business Support Co-Ordinator
info@sma-uk.co.uk

Membership starts from £125+VAT per annum.

Register online: www.sma-uk.co.uk



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A joint venture:





