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Introduction

Technological innovation and engineering design capabilities are critical for the creation of new industries and jobs. The growing demand for products with improved quality, functionality and reduced time to market can strain established production processes, making innovation necessary for sustained competitiveness. Advances in technology can also provide ideas for new products. The I*PROMS Network of Excellence will use the emerging technologies to advance research in the areas of product design and development in order to help sustain the competitiveness of the European industry. This monthly newsletter serves as a digest of I*PROMS activities and events relevant to its mission. It covers:

- IPROMS 2005 Virtual Conference
- Network Activities
- Partner Profile
- Latest News
- Forthcoming Events

IPROMS 2005 Virtual Conference

To enable the spreading of excellence to users beyond its membership, I*PROMS NoE is organising an online web-based conference on Intelligent Production Machines and Systems, IPROMS 2005, during the period **4-15 July 2005**. IPROMS 2005 seeks to provide a platform for presenting, discussing and disseminating research results contributed by scientists and industrial practitioners active in the area of intelligent systems and soft computing techniques and their application in different areas of manufacturing. The conference proceedings will be published as a book and a CD-ROM by **Elsevier**. The deadline for paper submission is **15 April 2005**. Prospective participants can now prepare their papers using the provided **template** and submit them online at: <http://conference.iproms.org>

Network Activities

- Calls for bids are still open for I*PROMS core partners to submit proposals to carry out cluster-based and Network-wide activities. The activities eligible for bidding will help integrate the partners' expertise and spread their excellence both within and outside the Network. They complement the ongoing activities designed to achieve the set of deliverables and targets described in the Joint Plan of Activities (JPA) for the first 18 months. The Calls will stay open until all deliverables and targets are met.
- The four I*PROMS clusters organise bidding processes for their members to carry out activities leading to the implementation of the joint programme of research and spreading excellence within their particular clusters.
- All the calls and bidding documents are available at I*PROMS website.
- Bids received in response to the Calls are evaluated by the respective board members.
- First cluster virtual (via videoconferencing) meetings are planned during March 2005.

Partner Profile

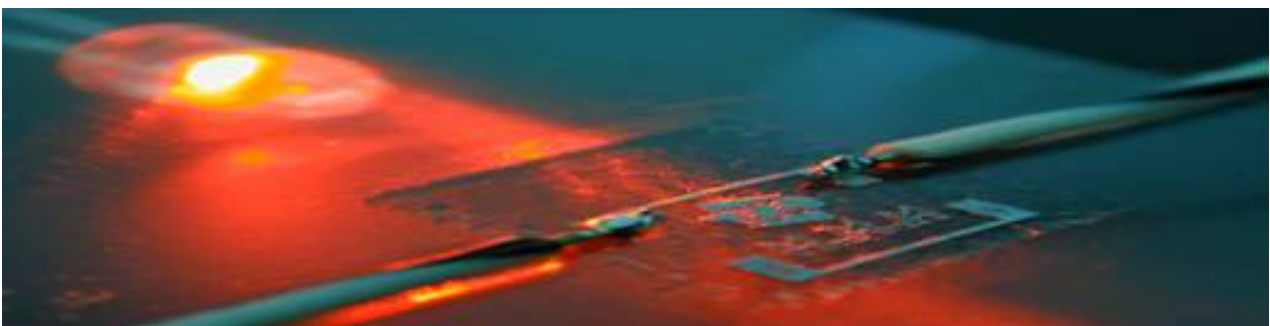
In each issue, this section will be devoted to a brief introduction of one of the partner organisations.

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

New products, new materials, faster design and development and more efficient production, these are important criteria for remaining a competitive producer in the international processing and manufacturing industry. The services TNO provides in this area are aimed at industry, suppliers, Government and R&D organisations. TNO's expertise covers the whole process: design, engineering, planning, processing techniques and the management of the manufacturing process. In addition, TNO is a specialist service provider to the international automotive industry.

TNO provides these services across a wide technological field – from material technology to process innovation, from product development to process modelling, from new vehicle and transport systems to optical instruments. TNO's employees also possess expertise in energy systems and in noise and vibrations. TNO has substantial in-house expertise in areas that will be of increasing importance over the coming years: microsystems, nanotechnology and sustainable development.

TNO's Industrial Prototyping group is involved in the development of knowledge-based systems for CAD and CAD/CAM, and in the implementation of these knowledge-based systems in production companies. This makes these companies less dependent on scarcely available craftsmen and it makes better use of capacities and facilities. Companies may also outsource production work to TNO's workshop, especially when they are dealing with single parts or small series. Industrial Prototyping develops for and together with design agencies, production companies, branch organisations etc. TNO is the Leader of I*PROMS Innovative Design Technology (IDT) Cluster. For more information about TNO visit <http://www.tno.nl>



TNO exploring the Frontier of Innovative Production Technologies

News

• The Springer-Verlag Book Series on Advanced Manufacturing

I*PROMS is delighted to announce the inauguration by our Associate Partner, leading publisher Springer-Verlag, of a new book series directly relevant to I*PROMS.

I*PROMS partners and interested researchers are cordially invited to contribute to the series. Please send suggestions for books within the scope of the series to Duc Pham phamdt@cardiff.ac.uk the series editor, or Anthony Doyle anthony.doyle@springer-sbm.com Springer's Senior Editor (Engineering).

The series will include advanced textbooks, research monographs, edited works and conference proceedings in appropriate media (paper and electronic) covering all major subjects spanning the field of advanced manufacturing.

The following is a non-exclusive list of Integrated Manufacturing Technology Initiative subjects relevant to the Series:

- Manufacturing processes and operations (material processing; assembly; test and inspection; packaging and shipping).
- Manufacturing product and process design (product design; product data management; product development; manufacturing system planning).
- Enterprise management (product life cycle management; production planning and control; quality management).

Emphasis will be placed on novel material of topical interest (for example, books on nanomanufacturing) as well as new treatments of more traditional areas. As advanced manufacturing usually involves extensive use of information and communication technology (ICT), books dealing with advanced ICT tools for advanced manufacturing will also be of interest to the Series.

News in summary

- Latest calls for proposals and papers for international journals and news about products, systems, and joint ventures can be found at: <http://www.iproms.org/news>
- Registered users can view/download documents, including published papers and books, from I*PROMS website. Currently a book on Neural Networks for Identification, Prediction and Control and over 20 journal and conference papers relevant to manufacturing contributed by Network partners and associates are available at: <http://www.iproms.org/browser>
- Partners, associates and interested researchers are encouraged to contribute published work in the area of manufacturing to be made available for viewing/downloading on I*PROMS website. Contributions can be sent to iproms@iproms.org

Events

This section provides brief information about international events pertinent to I*PROMS with URL links to their origins. Similar events can be advertised on I*PROMS website by contacting iproms@iproms.org

- The 2nd International Conference on Applications of Holonic and Multi-agent Systems, HoloMAS 2005 is organised in collaboration with I*PROMS.
<http://gerstner.felk.cvut.cz/HoloMAS/2005/>
- More information on forthcoming events relevant to I*PROMS can be found at: <http://www.iproms.org/events>

I*PROMS core and associate partners receive the newsletter without subscription. Interested non-I*PROMS members can subscribe to the newsletter by writing to: iproms@iproms.org
To learn more about I*PROMS Network of Excellence please visit <http://www.iproms.org>