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PU	Public	PU
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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1 Introduction

The I*PROMS Network of Excellence as tool for enabling the creation of the European Research Area recognises the important role exchange of researchers between European centres of excellence can play in achieving this goal.

The exchange of researchers not only contributes to the spreading of excellence in particular sub-domains of I*PROMS but also to the integration of activities between researchers.

The main training and research exchange objectives of I*PROMS can be summarised as follows:

1. To facilitate the advanced training of European researchers in a range of advanced technologies related to the area of innovative production machines and systems.
2. To provide, through exchange, experience in a smaller sub-set of techniques directly related to their own individual research areas.
3. Help in providing researchers with a solid platform of research techniques, methods and allied skills that will significantly their research capabilities and benefit them in their future careers in either academic research or industry.
4. Give the researchers taking part in exchanges the experience of applying advanced techniques that their institutions maybe unable to provide.
5. To help produce researchers with experience in pan-European cooperative research.
6. Enable researchers and institutions integrate their activities by conducting and planning joint research activities.

In total during the 2nd half of the 3rd year and 1st half of the 4th year of I*PROMS some 26 people have been involved in researcher exchanges. So far during the 3rd year of I*PROMS (up until project month 42) some 10 researchers have taken part in the exchanges with more due to take place in months 45 and 46. Additionally many more are likely to take place in order to implement the demonstrator bids.

2 Researcher Exchanges

The following sections below provide a brief summary of the exchanges that have taken place since project month 31.

2.1 2-3rd May 2007

Three researchers from The University of Manchester, Prof Sri Hinduja, Dr Samir Mekid and Dr Robert Heinemann, visited Fraunhofer IPK in Berlin on May 2nd and 3rd 2007, to meet with Dr Manfred Kraft and Mr Eckhard Hohwieler.

The first objective of this meeting was to discuss the research and work packages related to an I*PROMS bid placed in April 2007. This bid was about the development of a joint demonstrator for the optical geometry inspection of cutting tools. The identified geometrical errors should then be passed on to an advanced CAM system to adjust the NC tool path for the component to be machined accordingly.

The second objective of the visit was to discuss the state-of-the-art of micro machining research, in particular looking at the machine tool side (pros and cons of different design solutions, etc.), as well as experiences and knowledge Fraunhofer IPK Berlin have acquired in this area.

2.2 5-6th June 2007

Newcastle University hosted an exchange of researchers event to focus on final assessment of the Delphi questions, developing interviewer guidelines and for training the interviewers. This was to ensure that all the Delphi interviews will be carried out in the same (neutral) way. This will allow the experts to answer the questions under the same conditions and allow as much consistency as possible throughout the study.

In total 12 researchers from the following institutions participated in this event: University of Newcastle, Schneider-electric, DCU, CETIM, Hanover IFW, TNO, UoW, Cardiff, Clausthal, PIAP, Manchester.

2.3 2nd – 13th July 2007

The University of Naples hosted a Network researcher from the University of Cambridge (Prof. Julian Allwood) for a period of 10 days. The target is to contribute to the integration of research activities carried out at the University of Naples and the University of Cambridge by visits carried out at Naples University laboratories and identification of common research topics and interests in view of joint paper preparation and joint research.

2.4 15th – 18th October 2007

Four day research visit of three researchers from Dublin City University to Fatronik to discuss robotics issues. Topics covered during the exchange included the development of Player and Orca drivers and modules for use in mobile robot platforms and module integration.

2.5 1st – 2nd November 2007

Mr R Jamieson & Mr J Dalton from the University of Newcastle and Tamas Szecsi from Dublin City University attended a meetings held at TNO in Eindhoven. The purpose of these meetings were to develop the Delphi studies for the two clusters as well as developing future research collaboration

2.6 8th – 9th January 2008

Dr S Coleman & Mr T Fouweather from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne attended a meeting held at Technical University of Clausthal. The purpose of the exchange of researcher event was to look into various I*PROMS activities. These include running joint training courses, a workshop at ENBIS8 in Athens in September 2008, update on the joint MSc, Next round of Delphi studies and collaborating in general after the end of IPROMS project.

2.7 11th January – 4th February 2008

Pietro Tarantino is a PhD student based at University of Naples Federico II. The purpose of his visit to Newcastle University from 11th January to 4th February 2008 was to collaborate on I*PROMS related research work regarding Kansei Engineering. His specialist input is complementary and additive to ISRU skill set and therefore very important.

As the total length of the visit is 17 days with 10 of these days to be covered by I*PROMS unallocated funds and the remaining 7 days will be part of the matched funding from Newcastle.

2.8 11-15th February 2008

A 10 day training programme aimed at researchers and research students currently employed within the I*PROMS consortium & associate partner institutions. The training will be carried out 2 blocks of 5 days. This exchange covers block 1 (week1) The Six Sigma approach is ideal for researchers from all disciplines as it provides a structured methodology to problem solving using the recognised DMAIC approach first developed by Motorola. Many successful organisations across the world have since adopted the strategy. A Six Sigma Green Belt training certificate will be extremely useful for a researcher moving forward to start work within an organisation as it demonstrates that they are trained in this key process improvement methodology that is recognised worldwide to improve competitiveness and efficiency. The initial course was hosted at Newcastle University as ISRU already has the material ready to use. Other partners will be supplied with an outline so that they can develop the training course into their own languages.

Consortium was Newcastle University, University of Hanover IFW, & Sakarya University.

3 Conclusions

This report shows that the network, through its bidding activities, is regularly exchanging researchers and highly likely to exceed the target number of researcher exchanges with several exchanges already planned for the 2nd half of Year 4. In addition to these more exchanges are due to take place in order to implement joint integration activities in particular cluster demonstrators and network wide demonstrators/platforms.