

## **The technology platform Manufacture elevates Joining as a key enabler for the future development of European industry**

Sub-platform will be responsible for the development of a strategic approach to advance joining technology and innovation and secure the future

**October, 2013** – The European Commission has considered manufacturing as one of the critical areas for stimulating the economy and supporting the Europe 2020 Strategy, leading to the creation of the European Technology Platform ‘Manufacture’, to provide input from industry regarding strategic direction for research and innovation in manufacturing.

And as a critical part of the roadmap to Europe 2020, Manufacture has identified Joining as a key enabler to innovative and sustainable manufacturing. This has led to the creation of a Sub-Platform with the purpose of developing a coordinated strategic approach in the field of Joining.

The first General Assembly of the Joining Sub-Platform, which is supported by the European Commission, will take place in Brussels on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The main focus of the event will be to express the views of the Joining community in preparation for Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).

### **About the Joining Subplatform**

Joining spans a wide range of techniques and materials. It can be defined as creating a bond of some description between materials or components to achieve a specific physical performance. The mission of the Joining Sub-Platform is to develop a competitive, innovative and sustainable Joining competence that utilises advanced techniques and products, to add value to manufacturing, generating economic growth and skilled jobs for the benefit of EU stakeholders.

The management committee entrusted with the development of this subplatform comprises DVS, Germany; EWA, France; EWF, Portugal; Industrial Institute of Slovak Republic, Slovakia; Swerea IVF AB, Sweden; SINTEF Raufoss Manufacturing AS, Norway; Tecnalia Corporación Tecnológica, Spain and TWI Ltd, UK.

This management committee coordinates the activities of the platform and engages with the EC, Manufacture and other EC initiatives on the subject of Joining and related welding methods. Together, Manufacture and Joining represented a value added in Europe of around EUR 65 billion in 2010, with over 1,25 million employees connected with this added value within Europe.

Further info: <http://www.joining-platform.com/>