



PRESS RELEASE

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF THE 6TH EDITION OF THE SMART MANUFACTURING WEEK

Esch-sur-Alzette, 1 June 2023 – From June 6 to 9, 2023, the 6th edition of the Smart Manufacturing Week will take place in Luxembourg, organised by the national innovation agency, Luxinnovation. This event will focus on strategic approaches to smart and sustainable manufacturing processes. Through concrete examples, this cross-industry conference will show good practices that can lead companies towards "Net-Zero".

This event is structured around several components. The first two days of the conference, 6 and 7 June, consisting of presentations and exchanges and opened by the Minister of the Economy Franz Fayot, will provide a panoramic view of production processes, with the objective of highlighting key aspects where digitalisation and smart technologies can reinforce sustainable practices.

Various support and funding mechanisms, such as the Fit 4 Sustainability programme and State aid schemes for companies wishing to reduce their environmental footprint, will also be presented.

Different business functions where companies can innovate in order to become more sustainable will be addressed: production, human resources management, purchasing and supply strategies, infrastructure, support functions, and governance and corporate strategies. High-level technical sessions will provide an in-depth look at topics as varied as product traceability for the circular economy, the optimisation of manufacturing processes at each stage of production, and green hydrogen as a catalyst for the energy transition.

"Innovation is the key to succeeding with the sustainable transition of the manufacturing industry," states Minister of the Economy Franz Fayot. "We need new sustainable technologies, tools and products, but also new sustainable business models and new ways of thinking. This is why the Smart Manufacturing Week, where key players from Luxembourg's manufacturing ecosystem meet to exchange experience and inspire each other, is such an important event."

Thursday 8 June will be dedicated to the construction sector with a programme developed in partnership with Neobuild. This sector, which is one of the most important in Luxembourg, is very heterogeneous, with different trades and company sizes of, but has a strong potential to stimulate the digital maturity of its players thanks to innovative tools that can improve their processes and profitability, while reducing their environmental impact.

On June 8 and 9, four Luxembourg companies (Fanuc, IEE, Gradel Lightweight and Avery Dennison), as well as the LIST's sustainable composite materials and manufacturing centre (SCMM) will welcome industrial visitors to their premises. This will be an opportunity to show them, in situ, concrete achievements in terms of carbon footprint improvement and the best ways to introduce more sustainability and intelligence into production processes.

"Digitalisation is an indispensable tool to help companies in their environmental transition," says Sasha Baillie, Luxinnovation's CEO. "As an innovation agency, our mission is to inform economic players about key trends and opportunities that concern manufacturing companies of all sizes here and to inspire them to innovate. Through the Smart Manufacturing Week, we will be able to show start-ups, SMEs and large companies how optimising small steps in the manufacturing process or changes in the value chain can have a positive impact on the environment, their productivity and their turnover, in the short or medium term."

Information and registration: <https://smartmanufacturingweek.lu>

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Luxinnovation, the national innovation agency, empowers companies to innovate today to be ready for tomorrow and contributes to the development of the economy as a whole by identifying innovation opportunities and fostering collaborative innovation projects that stimulate the development of a sustainable, competitive, and digital economy.

Set up as an Economic Interest Group, Luxinnovation is supported by the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry for Higher Education and Research, the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, the Luxembourg Chamber of Skilled Crafts and FEDIL – The Voice of Luxembourg’s Industry– The Voice of Luxembourg’s Industry. www.luxinnovation.lu