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PRESS INFORMATION



Innoval Technology to play important role in EPSRC's Manufacturing Research Centre

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has recently announced a grant offer of £4.5 million for the establishment of a Liquid Metal Engineering (LiME) manufacturing research centre. The centre is the first of a new generation of EPSRC innovative manufacturing centres that will bring researchers and industry together to create technology products of the future, attracting investment and underpinning manufacturing growth. The industrial partners will contribute a further £4.6M

Innoval Technology's Principal Scientist, Professor Geoff Scamans, will be part of the LiME Centre, which aims to develop innovative technologies for the reuse and recycling of metal. He will help to coordinate the activities of a total of 15 industrial partners from across the supply chain, as well as industry trade bodies, knowledge transfer networks and universities. Although led from Brunel University, the Universities of Oxford and Birmingham are also partners in LiME, which will operate as a single entity across the three universities.

The goal of LiME is to deliver a step change away from the resource-hungry metal production methods that swallow up vast amounts of primary ores and raw materials towards the greater reuse and recycling of metals already in circulation. Lower energy demand (e.g. for extracting and processing metals), less ecological damage (e.g. from mining operations) and less pressure on waste disposal infrastructure are just some of the benefits that will result. In parallel with this ambitious sustainability agenda, LiME will also explore ways of optimising processes for transforming metallic materials from a liquid to a solid state, by applying specialised new metal processing techniques prior to casting.

Professor Geoff Scamans comments: "This exciting initiative will ensure the pioneering metal processing research taking place within our universities will be translated into groundbreaking technology changes which will support and improve the UK metal industry's manufacturing competitiveness."

Professor Zhongyun Fan, Professor of Metallurgy and head of LiME at Brunel University says: "We aim to safeguard the role of the metals industry in wealth creation by developing manufacturing technologies that cut carbon emissions by millions of tonnes, reduce energy use by trillions of kilo-watt hours and save millions of tonnes of natural resources every year - without jeopardising efficient production of high-quality metallic materials."

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Notes to editors:

Innoval Technology Ltd

Innoval Technology Ltd provides high quality consultancy and technical support to investors, manufacturers and end-users of aluminium, and other selected engineering materials, across a broad range of industry sectors. The company, based in Banbury and employing 25 people, holds ISO9001:2000 certification and ISO17025 accreditation.

Research at Brunel University: Brunel is a research-intensive university, where 82 per cent of research is rated as being of international standing (Research Assessment Exercise 2008). Its research focus is on addressing the issues facing humankind in a cross-disciplinary framework.

www.brunel.ac.uk

Further details and images can be obtained from:

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