

DIGITALEUROPE forms a high-level group on Digital Manufacturing

Brussels, 22 October 2018

DIGITALEUROPE's Digital Manufacturing policy advisory group kicked off their activities today in the premises of the Representation of Lower Saxony, where senior representatives of its membership have formed an advisory group to discuss important challenges and opportunities for the EU's manufacturing sector.

The group inaugural meeting has decided that there is a need to engage European officials in Brussels and across the Member States on issues important to the manufacturing sector as digital technologies offer important opportunities for the future. In recent years digital technologies, from the Internet to AI and IoT, have been transforming the manufacturing sector in Europe with impressive growth rates. According to Eurostat, 1,5 million net new jobs created since 2013 and a 2.7% labour productivity increase per annum since 2009 – higher than the US and Korea.

Frank Lubnau, Chief Digital Officer Industrial Technologies Robert Bosch and Issue Leader for the Digital Manufacturing Group said:

“Digital has become increasingly critical for the European Union’s manufacturing sector to compete and be a world leader in the international market. Digital technologies are an important contributor to jobs, growth, skills, and to the creation of a cleaner and circular economy. We look to support the current and next European Commission in realising the potential of our sector.”

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE said:

“DIGITALEUROPE stands firm in our strategy to enhance digitalisation in the manufacturing sector in Europe. We have 40 national associations across the continent and a huge responsibility to drive the growth, reskilling, job creation and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector in Europe. Our Digital Manufacturing High-Level Group represents both industrial and digital companies, and it is exactly this “Cross Sectorial Eco-System” that will drive the next generation growth and innovation in Digital manufacturing and services. 75% of the growth in the manufacturing sector derives from digitalisation”

The group unanimously agreed that while there are opportunities there is also a need to address some important challenges as the focus of the group, including:

- Leveraging the role of digital to imbue sustainability and energy efficiency solutions into the manufacturing processes contributing to the fight against climate change in Europe;
- Addressing any impact to the labour market and to ensure employment programs attract and maintain talent. The role of the private sector to help Member States to fill the skills gap, transform the education system and uphold the creation of a valuable start-up community;

- Developing an open stakeholder dialogue on a legislative framework for accelerating the usage of emerging technologies, in particular by SMEs.

The DIGITALEUROPE High-Level Group on Digital Manufacturing is currently composed of:

- **Frank Lubnau**, Chief Digital Officer Industrial Technologies, Robert Bosch, is the high-level group issue leader.
- **Alain Tropis**, Senior Vice President Head of Digital Design Manufacturing & Services, Airbus
- **Tanzer Zeytinoğlu**, Production Engineering Manager, Arçelik A.Ş
- **Arnaud Bacros**, Managing Director Enterprise, Dell EMC BeNeLux
- **Greg Kinsey**, Vice President Industrial Solutions & Innovation, Hitachi
- **Patrik Sjöstedt**, EMEA Regional Business Leader, Microsoft
- **Markus Borchert**, Senior Vice President Europe, Nokia
- **Jeroen Van Godtsenhoven**, Managing Director Enterprise, SAS
- **Alain Dedieu**, Senior VP Strategy Industry Business, Schneider Electric
- **Dieter Wegener**, Vice President, Siemens AG
- **Guido Falkenberg**, Senior VP of Product Portfolio Management & Innovation, Software AG (Chair of Bitkom)
- **Tommi Mäkinen**, Innovation Lead Europe, Tata Consultancy Services
- **Bertrand Deprez**, Vice President EU Government Affairs Strategy, Schneider-Electric is the Sherpa group leader of the high-level group



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ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total over 35,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 63 Corporate Members and 39 National Trade Associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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Slovakia: ITAS

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Spain: AMETIC
Sweden: Foreningen Teknikföretagen i Sverige, IT&Telekomföretagen
Switzerland: SWICO
Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID
Ukraine: IT UKRAINE
United Kingdom: techUK