Fraunhofer ILT named partner of the “Innovative Manufacturing CRC” in Melbourne

In Melbourne, Australia, a new cooperative research center for innovative manufacturing technology is being established. On May 26, 2015, Australia’s Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, gave the green light for the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC). Industrial partners, universities and the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT in Aachen, Germany, will be joining forces for this initiative.

On May 26, 2015 Australia’s Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, opened the 2015 Cooperative Research Centres Association Conference at the parliament building in Canberra, kicking off the Innovative Manufacturing CRC initiative, to be based in Melbourne. This joint research project is set to foster collaboration between research and industry in the field of additive manufacturing. The focus here is on researching and developing additive manufacturing processes, developing automated and supportive technologies and high-quality products and, finally, transferring the technology to industry.

Thanks to its expertise, Fraunhofer ILT will play a key role in two IMCRC research areas. These include additive manufacturing of 3D multi-material systems and components as well as expanding its areas of application, particularly in electrical engineering (microphones) and medical technology (implants). To meet these scientific challenges, Fraunhofer ILT will be providing a major share of the personnel, plant and system technology and will receive direct funding from Australia.

According to Dr. Peter Jonson, interim chair of the IMCRC, the project’s total budget is in the region of 250 million Australian dollars, consisting of 40 million Australian dollars in Commonwealth funding and another 210 million Australian dollars in contributions from industry.
IMCRC partners

The initiative is launching with a total of 18 international manufacturing companies, including SLM Solutions GmbH, RØDE Microphones and Stryker Corporation. More companies are set to join in the next few years. In addition, 16 international universities and research institutions are participating in the IMCRC alongside many well-known Australian universities, such as RMIT University – which has had a close partnership with Fraunhofer ILT for many years already – and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation CSIRO. Fraunhofer ILT is the only German R&D organization partnering with the IMCRC.

Further information: www.imcrc.org

Picture 1:

Professor Milan Brandt, technical director of RMIT’s Advanced Manufacturing Precinct. © RMIT.
The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft** is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 66 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of nearly 24,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling more than 2 billion euros. Of this sum, around 1.7 billion euros is generated through contract research. More than 70 percent of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft’s contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.

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