



SME Programmes

Advancing UK High Value Manufacturing, accelerating innovation and increasing productivity in SMEs

CATAPULT
High Value Manufacturing

WMG
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

- ▶ Are you an ambitious SME in the UK and part of a manufacturing supply chain?
- ▶ Do you want to create smart, innovative, products and processes?
- ▶ Would you like to collaborate with us to develop new capabilities in your business?

“I think it’s really important for a progressive company to be right at the forefront of any developments in their industry, and working with WMG has really given us that.”

Karen Drinkwater,
Director,
JSC Rotational Ltd

The WMG SME Group is a dynamic team based at the University of Warwick, pioneering university support for innovation in small and medium sized businesses. We accelerate productivity and growth in SMEs by applying research-led tools and techniques, building sustainable and collaborative relationships.

We provide workshops and technology demonstrations, access to cutting edge manufacturing equipment, and customised company projects. We also offer technology focused networking events and opportunities for joint research. Funded by Innovate UK, our support is available to SMEs in the manufacturing sector.

Support themes

Automation systems, circular manufacturing, design for manufacture, low volume manufacturing, materials testing, product verification and measurement systems, smarter factories, smarter products

How we help

Barton Coldform Ltd

Product development innovation leads to new contract win

Droitwich based company Barton Coldform Ltd secured a contract with the Ford Motor Company worth £300,000 thanks, in part, to the implementation of additive layer manufacturing technology through a project with Dr Paul Milne at WMG. Using traditional methods, it would normally take Barton Coldform up to 14 weeks to produce tooling to create demonstrator parts and products. Now using additive manufacturing technology, the process takes just days, resulting in a saving of both time and money for the supply chain.

“Barton are proud of their position at the forefront of UK manufacturing innovation and are confident that this technology will revolutionise certain areas of our pre-manufacturing processes.”

Andrew Nuttall,
Managing Director,
Barton Coldform Ltd

Thermotec Plastics Ltd

Manufacturer validates new industry ready material

Birmingham based Thermotec Plastics worked with Dr Ben Wood to gather vital data for their lightweight materials by accessing WMG materials characterisation facilities free of charge. One of Thermotec's key customers, a luxury automotive manufacturer, had a specific requirement for performance related data for a new composite material that Thermotec were using to make their components. Thermotec were unable to produce the data themselves as the testing equipment required was investment prohibitive. Through the work undertaken with WMG, Thermotec are now able to demonstrate the capability of their products with meaningful, technical data that will be used by the luxury automotive customer on a £500K potential project. It also allowed Thermotec to target other clients with a potential spend expectation of £1m.



Koolkwic

Novel cooling solution for high performance applications

Since 2012, Koolkwic has been developing ideas for new types of cooling systems. In early 2013, with the help of the WMG centre HVM Catapult, Koolkwic were able to demonstrate that one of their concepts had huge potential for use in a range of industries including automotive, motorsport, and aerospace, as well as for the beverage and facilities management industries where thermal control is a critical issue. Following this initial proof of concept, they worked with WMG and Coventry University to secure Regional Growth Funding to investigate the use of this technology for a fully sized battery pack cooling system.



How can you work with us?

- ▶ Must be a registered business
- ▶ Must be an SME (organisation with < 250 employees, turnover of <€50 million)
- ▶ Must be a manufacturing organisation in the UK, or deliver activity that adds value to the UK manufacturing supply chain

Our key achievements to date

- ▶ Created and safeguarded over 500 jobs
- ▶ Created 20 new businesses
- ▶ Developed 270 new products and processes
- ▶ Generated £55 million of value add to the West Midlands economy



Contact us to find out more:

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