

Factories of the Future

“Factories of the Future” is a public private partnership launched in March 2009 as part of the Europe Economic Recovery Plan. It provides £1.2 billion for research between 2010 and 2013 for the development of the next generation of production technologies that will be applied in 2015 onwards.

Family owned small & medium sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 90% of manufacturing in Europe. SMEs have operated successfully for decades and are an integral part of Europe’s future. In order to face down global competition European manufacturers need to adapt to the current political and economic climate. To do so they will need to meet the goals of improved cost efficiency, higher product quality, improved workplace efficiency, and increased reusability of production systems. Sustainable production approaches will need to be taken in order to reduce negative environmental impact and to optimise

sustainable resource management. While technology plays an important role, human skill, organizational structure and medium and long term strategic goals play as important a role and will be key in launching the next generation of life cycle based products in a sustainable way.



Numerous recommendations are detailed in the Strategic Roadmap and include the following: 1) **Manufacturing green products in Eco-factories and developing processes based on the use of sustainable resources.** 2) **Incorporating intelligent**

manufacturing processes including agile manufacturing by using advanced robotics, globally networked manufacturing and logistics, and early life cycle management. 3) **High performance manufacturing options include hybrid production systems, micro manufacturing technologies, advanced interactive user interfaces, and proactive process monitoring.** 4) **New materials can be exploited through manufacturing processes including net-shape manufacturing technologies, the use of new material functionalities through manufacturing, material renovation and repair strategies, and product design using sustainable material processing technologies.** For more detail we encourage you to see: http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/useful_documents_en.html

Recycling Advances in British Columbia

The Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) is a non-profit organization that promotes the principles of zero waste. RCBC is Canada's longest serving recycling council, noted for expanding the beverage container deposit program and for establishing waste recovery programs for electronics, pesticides, and used paint to name a few. RCBC members are governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, and concerned individuals throughout the province that value sustainability. RCBC promotes the exchange of ideas and information and foresees a future where 100% of the product waste in the province is managed through Extended Producer Responsibility programs. The RCBC Recycling Hotline answers more than 120,000 questions from callers

around BC each year. For more information about RCBC see:

<http://rcbc.bc.ca/>



On October 1, 2012 the Product Care Association's LightRecycle program expands into the management of a collection and recycling system for used electric lamps, ballasts and fixtures from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors across the province with no disposal charge at the end of product life. For more

information about this service which will be of interest to your property maintenance team see:

<http://www.productcare.org/lights-commercial>

The British Columbia Industrial Materials Exchange program

(IMEX) is a trading service that

allows companies to find

alternative ways to dispose of

industrial waste by-products.

Businesses can trade industrial

materials with or without a price

attached to them. There is no cost

associated with becoming a

member of IMEX and your personal

information is not shared with third

parties through membership. If you

want to learn more about IMEX

check: <http://www.bcimex.ca/>

We help business plan for the future and profit naturally. If we can be of service, please contact us at:

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