On 4th June 2013, the COMET project hosted a very successful Robotics’ Technical Seminar at partner SIR’s headquarters in Modena, Italy. This was the third event across Europe where partners have been able to disseminate the project developments to the public audience through both presentations and live machining demonstrations. The seminar room was filled with over 30 people from all different backgrounds, including robot manufacturer ABB Italia, Ferrari and Landi Renzo from the automotive industry, representatives from educational institutes like Politecnico di Milano, various R&D organisations, and even artists.

Davide Passoni, Project Manager at SIR and event host, opened the event with a warm welcome to all attendees and presentations began with an introduction to robotics from Jan Willem Gunnink, Manager of R&D Projects in Europe at Delcam followed by an explanation and live demonstration of the offline programming software. The online and offline compensation modules in particular generated excellent question and answer sessions between the audience and project partners, proving that the project developments are not only extremely relevant to today’s manufacturing needs, but also that they are truly state of the art. The event ended with a buffet lunch in the impressive manufacturing facilities and a visit to SIR’s COMET robot cell, providing further opportunities for networking and discussions to take place.

Jan Willem Gunnink, Project Coordinator, opened the 9th and final General Assembly meeting for the project on Wednesday 5th June. Having been granted an extension due to the project’s success, partners have been able to carry out additional robot machining tests to further improve accuracy, share and gain knowledge, and enhance developments. Franck Messmer, Senior Analyst at Delcam, presented the latest advancements in the offline programming module with his live demonstration on the PowerMILL Robot Interface software clearly showing the flexibility of the software, and in particular how simple adjustments can easily be made at the simulation stage to eliminate the risk of collisions and optimising the robot movements.
The second day of the GA began with updates on the six demo cells from partners AML, TEKS, SIR, Gizelis, BTU and Fraunhofer IPA, who have tested and machined a number of configurations to establish the optimum solution in terms of accuracy, tolerance, and toolpath efficiency. All project partners had the chance to reflect upon their initial expectations for the project compared to the results achieved and all were in agreement that expectations had not only been met but actually exceeded, and it had been both a successful and very enjoyable project to be a part of.

The meeting closed with final comments and feedback from the project officers and Advisory Board; Dr. Jan Ramboer, Prof. Vincenzo Nicolo, and Prof. Hans Norgaard Hansen, who were also in full agreement that the project has been an unequivocal success. Dr. Jan Ramboer summarised his thoughts saying, “At the beginning of the project the ideas were very ambitious but now through the demonstrations we see the concrete results, and what was originally being aimed for has really been achieved.” With Prof. Vincenzo Nicolo adding, “COMET has made clear the aspects of manufacturing with robots. There is a long way to go, but now we know the right direction.” Further to this they added how impressed they were with how well partners from industry, research and education had collaborated together and that the COMET project should be looked upon as a shining example and benchmark for other EU funded projects to follow.

For more information www.cometproject.eu

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