

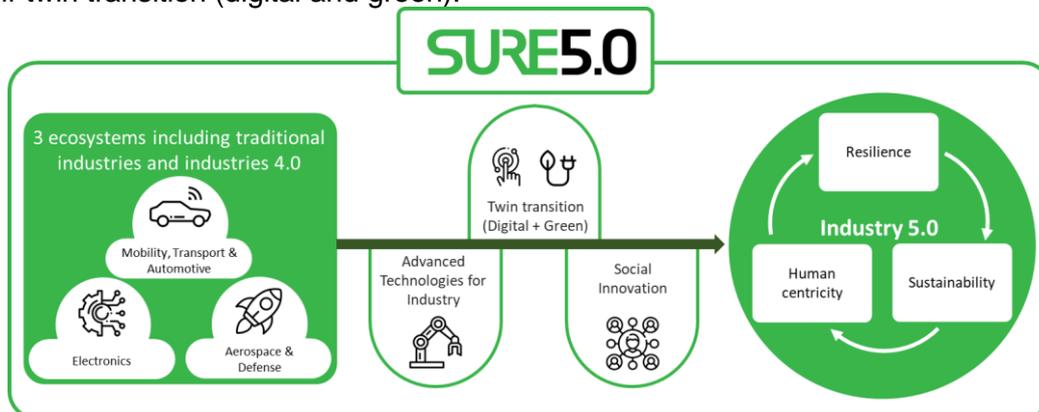
11 European partners from 3 industrial ecosystems join forces to support SMEs in their transition towards industry 5.0

- The project is focused on the collaboration of three industrial ecosystems of key relevance in Europe: mobility, transport & automotive (MTA), aerospace and electronics.
- These three ecosystems account for more than 10% of the value added in Europe, gathering 2M+ companies and 20M+ employees.
- The project will mobilise EUR 2,6 million in cascade funds addressed to SMEs so they can finance their 5.0 projects.

June 1st, 2022

A consortium formed by 11 partners from 8 different countries (France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Estonia and Greece) will work during the next 3 years in the European project *SURE 5.0 “Supporting the smes sUstainaibility and RESilience transition towards industry 5.0 in the mobility, transport & automotive, aerospace and electronics European ecosystems”*, supported by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme.

The main objective is to support SMEs from the Civil Transportation (MTA and aerospace & defence) and Electronics ecosystems to integrate in their manufacturing processes the industry 5.0 principles, in order to become more human-centric, sustainable and resilient. For this aim, the project will foster the adoption and deployment of advanced technologies as well as the consideration of social innovation practices that will facilitate their twin transition (digital and green).



Through the different activities promoted under SURE 5.0, SMEs could benefit from: assessment reports, webinars, access to the project community, networking and peer-learning events, tailored services and most importantly, financial support for their 5.0 projects, provided through the launch of FSTP open calls.

In terms of expected project results and impact, 1,000 SMEs will be involved in the project activities, 700 will be assessed, 90 will be supported with services from the partners and 53 will receive financial support.

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Behind the project there is a consortium carefully selected, with cluster organizations, RTOs, universities and business innovation centres as members, being able to offer cross-border high level expertise in various domains of competence and the best value to SMEs.

The consortium partners are:

- Aerospace Valley (AV, France)
- Fundación Cluster de Empresas de Automoción de Galicia (CEAGA, Spain)
- Silicon Alps Cluster GmbH (SAC, Austria)
- Fraunhofer IPT (Germany)
- F6S Network Ireland Limited (F6S, Ireland)
- Asociación de Investigación Metalúrgica del Noroeste (AIMEN, Spain)
- Associazione Nazionale Filiera Industria Automobilistica (ANFIA, Italy)
- Iniziativa Cube (INIZIATIVA, Italy)
- EIT Manufacturing West (EITM, Spain)
- Tallinna Tehnikaülikool (TalTech, Estonia)
- Athena Research Center/Corallia clusters Initiative Unit (CORALLIA, Greece).



On June 15th and 16th, the consortium will hold the project kick-off meeting in Bordeaux (France), with the aim of reviewing the different work packages and tasks and coordinating the steps to be taken during the first six months.



ANNEXE 1 - More information about the consortium partners:

Aerospace valley (project coordinator): With currently 828 members from industry and academia (of which 555 are SMEs), Aerospace Valley is the most significant innovation competitiveness cluster in France in the field of Aeronautics, Space and Unmanned Systems, in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie regions. It is member of the French Association of pôles de compétitivité (AFPC) and belongs to the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP), which represents 45 European aerospace clusters of 18 countries, gathering altogether around 4.300 companies.

AIMEN - Northwest Metallurgical Research Association: This technology centre, located in Spain, is specialised in materials and advanced manufacturing technologies such as joining and welding, laser technologies for materials processing, robotics, and automation. At national level, the centre is associated to more than 80 Spanish industrial companies, but it also carries out international activities in 20 countries, thus working with over 750 customers. It is an active member in technological platforms (PT MANUFACTURE, EuMAT, SMART, SECPhO, EPIC), Public-Private Partnerships (Made In Europe, Process4Planet, AI, Data and Robotics, Photonics Partnerships) and Associations (EFFRA, euRobotics, A.SPIRE and Photonics21) related to Industry 5.0.

ANFIA – Italian Association of the Automotive Industry: Born in March 1912, it is one of the leading Italian Trade Associations, representing over 400 companies (of which more than a half are SMEs). Among its members we can find motor vehicle manufacturers, component suppliers and companies involved in design and engineering processes. At national level, ANFIA is member of Cluster Trasporti Italia (association representing 33 industries operating in the production of transport vehicles, technologies and services) and Confindustria (association representing 150,000 manufacturing and service companies in Italy). At European level, it is member of the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA), with more than 3,000 companies as members.

CEAGA - Galician automotive cluster: located in Galicia (region in the northwest of Spain), this cluster organization gathers 350 members from the automotive ecosystem, of which 180 are SMEs. At regional level, CEAGA is part of the Digital Innovation Hub of the Galician Industry (DIHGIGAL), with 400 companies as members. At national level, it holds the vice-presidency of the Spanish Federation of Innovative Business Groups and Clusters (clusters.es) and is also a member of the Automotive Regional Clusters Alliance (ACREA). At European level, it holds the vice-presidency of EACN, the leading cluster network active in the fields of automotive, transport and mobility, representing more than 3,000 companies. Furthermore, CEAGA chairs the Cluster Excellence Experts Group (CEEG), an international board made of clusters awarded with the ECEI Gold label in cluster management excellence.

Corallia: Based in Athens, this cluster initiative of currently 175 members (of which 111 are SMEs), has the objective of boosting competitiveness, entrepreneurship and innovation; it is also an incubator, youth entrepreneurship accelerator and since 2018, a Digital Innovation Hub recognized by the EC, belonging to a network of more than 150 organizations. It acts as competence centre and one-stop-shop, where companies can get access to the latest knowledge, including Industry 5.0, social innovation, technology-testing, financing advice and market intelligence, to help them become more competitive by using digital innovations. Furthermore, Corallia is member of the NEM initiative, established as one of the European Technology Platforms aiming at fostering the convergence between consumer electronics, broadcasting and telecoms.

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EIT Manufacturing West: Based in San Sebastian (Spain), it is one of the five Co-Location Centres of EITM, an Innovation Community supported by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), that connects the leading manufacturing actors in Europe. Launched in 2019, EITM brings together near 70 European leading partners from business (large companies), education, and research sectors, operating in 17 countries. EITM has agreements with over 60 innovation support ecosystem players, such as DIGIHALL (DIH of Île de France), DIHNAMIC (DIH in Nouvelle-Aquitaine), the Basque DIH or EFFRA, the European Factories of the Future Research Association.

F6S Network Ireland: F6S is a global community that connects more than 4 million startups and companies with funders, accelerators, jobs, grants and other opportunities. It is a leading platform to manage the application to commercial, corporate, government, university, and other accelerator programs, helping more than 17,000 such initiatives worldwide. The company focuses on connecting founders with the best opportunities to launch and scale-up their business. Every year F6S processes more than 700,000 applications and delivers about €2 billion to startups/SMEs.

Fraunhofer IPT (Germany): The Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology IPT develops system solutions for the networked, adaptive production of sustainable and resource-saving products. It optimizes new and existing methods, technologies and processes for efficient and ecological production of the future, integrating climate protection and environmental compatibility into its calculations. The Fraunhofer IPT is part of Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (FhG), the largest European organization for applied research. With more than 540 research and industrial projects per year as well as several international centres, FhG has built a strong network of collaborators across Europe, including many SMEs.

INIZIATIVA: This consulting company with more than 30 years of advisory expertise, supports SMEs in the maximisation of development opportunities, growth and impacts related to the ecological transition. INIZIATIVA, ex Ernst&Young network, with services in three main areas (sustainable finance, innovation and strategy), will support SURE 5.0 SMEs with advisory services aimed at creating conditions for nourishing sustainable development and generate tangible added value for the stakeholders involved in the process. INIZIATIVA is member of CONFINDUSTRIA Assoconsult, the national association of management consultancy companies and also a partner of the ELITE programme, a Euronext group company connecting private companies with diverse sources of capital to drive their growth.

SAC - Silicon Alps: It is a public-private partnership that brings together players from industry, research, academia and public authorities in the renowned Silicon Alps region, with the aim of developing and positioning the Austrian electronics and microelectronics sector internationally. This cluster currently gathers 134 members, of which over 70% are SMEs. The Silicon Alps Cluster is member of Silicon Europe, the European cluster alliance for innovative electronics & software technologies, representing more than 2,000 companies and research institutions, serving and driving business in the fields of Smart Mobility, Smart Living, Smart Health and Smart Industry.

TalTech (Estonia): Founded in 1918, The Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) is the only technological university in Estonia and a research-based centre offering Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees in technology, applied science, IT, business and maritime studies. It is member of EFFRA, the EuroXR association, the Estonian ICT cluster, the Federation of Estonian Engineering Industry, EIT Digital, EIT Raw Materials and member of networks like ManuFuture, DIH WORLD or AI DIH.



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PRESS RELEASE

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