

Issue 01 - March 2011

Supporting Organisations:

BIG-Kent exhibits at Southern Manufacturing 2011.

The BIG-Kent network, alongside key business support organisations and member companies, recently exhibited at the 2011 Southern Manufacturing Exhibition in Farnborough. The exhibition featured over 600 companies heavily involved in manufacturing and engineering, and was attended by over six thousand industry delegates.

The BIG-Kent stall was quite busy throughout receiving enquiries from over 40 visitors, signed up at least 4 new companies to the BIG network. The University of Greenwich, MJ Allen Group, Circatron Ltd, EEF-The Manufacturers Organisation and The Partnership all exhibited under the BIG-Kent Umbrella and put up a good show and excellent team effort.

BIG-Kent holds focus group meetings for electronics manufacturers and civil engineering companies.

The BIG-Kent network, in partnership with key business support organisations, recently hosted the Electronics, Embedded Systems and high value manufacturing focus group and the Pipelines and Infrastructure focus group. These meetings were held both on the University of Greenwich Medway Campus at Chatham Maritime.

The event Electronics focus group was of particular value to component manufacturers, subcontract driven companies and original equipment manufacturers, with topics applicable to the Aerospace, Defence, Security, automotive and consumer goods markets. The Pipelines and Infrastructure meeting was of value to utilities and civil engineering companies, with topics applicable to the water, gas and construction industries.

The industry specific topics addressed within the Electronics focus group included Electronics Design, Manufacturing, Testing and Computational Analysis, High precision engineering, design, development & manufacturing and Rapid Prototyping.

For the Pipelines and Infrastructure focus group industry focussed topics included advanced computer modelling of material time to failure, introducing sustainability into the manufacturing of pipelines, minimising the embodied carbon footprint of manufacture and maintenance during infrastructure lifecycle, the credibility, reliability and availability of data (in reference to computational modelling and whole life analysis) and the potential sources of innovation within the industry, with cost of innovation being a key factor.



The scope and aim of the focus group meetings was to get consortium(s) in place ready for leveraging into EU Funding and UK funding sources, to be able to cross-sell products/services to members in the network (including EU contact networks) and to develop a peer to peer network for sharing best practices.

Upcoming BIG-Kent events in May and July.

In early May, the BIG-Kent network is planning a specialist event to focus on the issues affecting the Transport Industry.

In July, BIG-Kent will be hosting a specialist event for the manufacturing and engineering sectors, focusing on innovation in product development.

More details on both of these events are set to follow, please check the BIG-Kent website to keep updated.

For more information on these events and BIG-Kent, please visit our website at

www.biq-kent.org.uk

Membership application form available [\[here\]](#).

Follow BIG-Kent on



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