

**BIG-Kent wishes you a very Happy & Prosperous New Year 2013!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BIG-Kent supports: Engineering and Manufacturing, The Future in Kent.**



### Kent Economic Board

**Monday, 4 February 2013 from 15:30 to 19:00 (GMT)**

**West Malling, United Kingdom**

University of Greenwich and BIG-Kent supports this event while the Kent Economic Board is hosting this event in partnership with Kent County Council. This meeting is one in a series of many, involving the industry sectors that have the most potential to grow the Kent economy. Proceedings start with a short address from Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council followed by Jim Davison, Region Director South East - EEF, who will set the scene and introduce the focus group discussions.

Please choose **3 groups** to attend from these topics:

- Skills and Apprenticeships - raising young people's aspirations.
- Business support for lean manufacturing and reducing carbon emissions.
- Case study - Exporting - the way forward?
- Case study - Maintaining pace with Technology.
- Case study - Accessing Finance, from East Kent Expansion funds

Importantly this event allows plenty of time in the discussions to hear from you, about what you believe should be happening in terms of driving investment, tackling the requirement for skills and shaping business development that will be most effective in securing a prosperous future. What we learn from you is going to directly influence the action plans policy and programmes of delivery partners. Especially important in a time of limited public sector investment.

Delegates will find it a stimulating afternoon, and as we are expecting a strong turnout, there will also be a 'market place' where there will be an opportunity to network whilst enjoying refreshments and canapés, we hope you will also find it a useful and stimulating opportunity.

**For more information about this event and to register your interest please email at [info@big-kent.org.uk](mailto:info@big-kent.org.uk) or call on (01634) 883912.**

### 2013 Calendar

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

**Southern Manufacturing Show 2013**, FIVE, Farnborough  
BIG-Kent network partners, University of Greenwich, MJ Allen Group, Circatron, Rastervision will be exhibiting for a third year in series. For opportunities to exhibit as part of the BIG-Kent network, please contact us.

March

**Factory Automation workshop** and EU-IMOCCA project industry group; in partnership with PI-UK



Sub-Regional Network for  
Technology,  
Engineering & Manufacturing  
[www.big-kent.org.uk](http://www.big-kent.org.uk)

Supporting  
Organisations:



**2013 Event Partners**



- April 1) Intellectual Property Rights seminar  
2) Kent Vision 2020 exhibition
- May **Standards & Quality Policy Master class**

For more information about the above events and to register your interest please email at [info@big-kent.org.uk](mailto:info@big-kent.org.uk) or call on (01634) 883912.

## NEWS UPDATES and ARTICLES

### Updates from recent events and shows

#### IP and Trademarks event 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

The Intellectual and Trademarks event was attended by companies and members of the BIG-Kent network which happened on 28<sup>th</sup> November at the University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime. The guest speaker was Simon Stanes, a European and UK trademarks Attorney and the head of trademark practice, *EIP brands*, at intellectual property attorneys and solicitors, EIP. Using practical examples and case studies from SMEs, the event featured a series of topics regarding the trademark and intellectual property protection issues and the benefits of trademarks as a 'safeguard' for brands and products. The seminar was very informative on the procedures for protecting, registering and enforcing trademarks on brands and products.

#### Innovative Product Development Workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012

The event was attended by major manufacturing companies in Kent and surrounding areas with senior industrial speakers from **BAE Systems, Ford, Cummins Power Generation** and invited senior speakers from the French side of the Channel. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together companies in Kent and the INTERREG region, to discuss and share experiences in manufacturing engineering, focusing on strategic issues related to new product development and associated lifecycle activities. The workshop was a joint event with the industrial and academic partners of the recently awarded EU INTERREG project - **BENEFITS (Building an Expertise Network for an Efficient Innovation and Training System)** in both the UK and French sides of the Channel and it focused on interactive discussions about industrial problems, issues, solutions and trends in product lifecycle management and related topics. The delegates were also involved in discussions and interactions on **six sigma** and **statistical process control**.

#### Apprenticeship opportunities facilitated by SEMTA

The **Sector Skills Council** for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (SEMTA) is promoting a streamlined apprenticeship scheme targeted at Manufacturing companies, part funded by SEMTA. BIG-Kent is working together with SEMTA to promote this scheme for the benefit of the network members. For more details about this scheme contact us at [info@big-kent.org.uk](mailto:info@big-kent.org.uk) or Tel 01634 883 912

#### SEMTA regional event 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012

BIG-Kent hosted the SEMTA London region meeting at the Dartford Nucleus. SEMTA is to become a supporting organisation of BIG-Kent and Dr Pal Kulandaivel has been invited to join the SEMTA London and South East Advisory Board.



### Contributors:



## Manufacturing Advisory Service for KENT

### MAS Kent joins BIG-Kent as a Supporting Organisation

#### What is MAS?

MAS (Manufacturing Advisory Service) is funded by BIS (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills). We provide support for manufacturing businesses based in England to help them improve and grow.

MAS is designed to help you, the manufacturer, streamline your processes, reduce waste, become more energy efficient and generally improve and grow your business.

Regardless of the size of your business our experienced and highly skilled advisors can help you. They all have 'hands-on' experience of both shop floor working and management skills. They will work with you and your workforce to ensure that your business is run in the best way possible and if you're a small or medium sized manufacturer in England, many of our services are free and supplemented by appropriate grant funding.

Don't just take our word for it - read some of the case studies you will find on this website. They are about companies like yours that have discovered the benefits of MAS.

MAS has been a huge success since its launch in 2002. Working with thousands of companies it now plays a vital role in helping manufacturers in England to share knowledge, improve productivity and achieve success in an increasing competitive global economy.

#### 50% grant towards improving your business?

- You choose the consultant.
- You choose the project that will help grow your business.
- MAS will support it\*.

#### It's that simple.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service is here to make it easier for your business to grow. Talk to our team of experienced Advisors who can talk you through the MAS funding options and the types of consultancy projects that are eligible for a grant of up to 50%\*.

Projects in scope include:

- Lean, 5S, continuous improvement
- Patent search activities
- IPR strategy
- Staff training
- Sales and marketing strategy
- IT and E-commerce
- Finance
- Consultancy to improve product design
- Design for manufacture and assembly
- Product development consultancy
- Rapid prototyping to support advanced manufacturing
- Material selection
- Subcontract cad design and drafting



- Tooling costs

The MAS funding process is quick and easy to access for SMEs; and you're able to seek support for up to three significant projects every 12 months.

### **Who can take advantage of what MAS has to offer**

The MAS services are open to any company provided they are engaged in manufacturing regardless of size. We mainly provide support for SMEs, but larger companies can use our resources at market rates. Subsidised project support from our advisor teams is available to SMEs whereas larger companies will pay the current rate. You must be a manufacturer based in England to access our support.

The definition of manufacturing as per the MAS Guidelines is: "The modern definition of manufacturing is broad. The full cycle of activities from research, design and development, production, logistics, and service provision to end of life management."

The definition we use for manufacturing makes a strong distinction between production (the physical processes of making, bending, etc.) and manufacturing (the overarching process of getting raw materials to goods and their associated services). By taking this approach to defining manufacturing it becomes easier to see that although an organisation may choose to outsource its production activities, it remains at heart a manufacturing company.

**\*We are able to offer funded support to SME manufacturers in England.**

### **Your company can call itself an SME if:**

- Less than 250 employees
- Having an annual turnover of less than €50m or a balance sheet of less than €43m
- Not part of a group which in itself exceeds one of the criteria above.

### **Working in Partnership with MAS**

The MAS Directory is an on-line searchable directory to allow manufacturers to search for a suitable specialist providers and consultants to address their manufacturing issue. All specialist providers able to deliver MAS funded projects must be registered on our directory.

**[01634 883 912](tel:01634883912) or E: [info@big-kent.org.uk](mailto:info@big-kent.org.uk) so that we can help you.**

*"BIG-Kent established in 2009, is the umbrella network in Kent and Lon/SE LEP area (Kent arm for [www.lsema.org.uk](http://www.lsema.org.uk)) for Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology sectors. It is a platform for peer-peer learning and collaborating aimed at private and public sector opportunities, supply chain, funding, partnerships, innovation and growth. BIG, led by the local Manufacturing industry community is promoted by the University of Greenwich at Medway in Kent, the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, the Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Europe Network (south east), EEF-The Manufacturers Organisation, Archant KOS Media (Media Sponsors), the Institute of Directors Kent, The Bridge Nucleus, The Medway Innovation Centre, IMWA CiC and Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). Key support organisations also form the Business Support Advisory Group and Key Manufacturers like MJ Allen Group, Wirebelt Ltd, MEP Ltd and BAE Systems form the Industry Board Advisory Group; they represent the wider interests of the business community, gauge relevance of activities set-out to promote the BIG members' interests and support the activities. BIG-Kent partners with equivalent networks in London and South East making the London and South East Manufacturing Alliance." For more details please visit [www.big-kent.org.uk](http://www.big-kent.org.uk)*

#### **Contact Details:**

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