



Relevance of the SAM Project for Industry

Additive Manufacturing (AM) is catching on. This may seem implicit given the hype and investment that is present in the industry, but with CAGR's of 25%+ being touted¹, it is no wonder that many of us adopted the various AM associated terms into our lexicon. "Think topology optimisation", "biomimicry" and "anisotropy".

Words that a lot of us are not yet using in our AM conversations are that of; "reliability", "repeatability" and "scalability". This is not to say that many companies are not engaging in these activities, but more to say that if we are to truly realise the potential of this technology, we must take the novelty it brings with a healthy dose of traditional engineering realism.

A core tenant of scaling a manufacturing process is that of standardisation. In order to ensure compliance and scalability we must first ensure that all aspects of the process are captured, understood and standardised. As the various working groups within ISO/ASTM F42 TC 261 (Additive Manufacturing) work hard to create the standards we all need for this technology, we also need to ensure that the skills and qualifications of the individuals working on this technology are standardised. This is where projects such as SAM (Sector Skills Strategy in AM) and the greater effort of the International Additive Manufacturing Qualification System (IAMQS) come in.

SAM is the Blueprint funded through the Erasmus+ programme to develop out industry specific qualifications and skills and the governance model for the proliferation of said qualifications/skills under the IAMQS. Having been funded through the EU, the project is actively engaged with industrial partners, with some forming part of the project consortium. This is critical as the purpose of the project is to serve the existing and coming requirements for qualifications and skills for AM training across all industries in Europe. Without the active participation of industry, projects such as this may run the risk of not satisfying the requirements of industry.

Anecdotally, we have seen companies beginning their AM journey looking for generalist staff to design for, operate and control this production process. In an ideal world these people exist and are transferable across the entire process chain, unfortunately the depth of knowledge required to get the best out of the process is such that it is not possible to fill a factory with generalists. This is where projects such as SAM come into their own. By providing role definitions and qualifications devised from industry led forums and workshops, we can leverage a system that makes the scaling of human capital for this technology possible, alleviating the difficulties in training new and existing staff. This in of itself has made projects such as this extremely relevant to industry.

Get Involved:

If you are interested in learning more or engaging in developing skills in Additive Manufacturing mentioned above, please get in contact with us through the website: <http://skills4am.eu/contact-us.html>

References:

1, AM Power, 2020, <https://additive-manufacturing-report.com/additive-manufacturing-market/>

More information on SAM Project:

Keep yourself informed about progress and results on the project homepage: <http://www.skills4am.eu>



[Follow us on our social media channels for all the latest initiatives related to the SAM project!](#)



EU-Disclaimer:

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.