



**INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING
AND ENGINEERING**

■ A UNIPART & COVENTRY UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION ■

Latest news from AME

New Technology Director targets £5m research fund for AME

The new Technology Director of the UK's first dedicated 'faculty on the factory floor' has set his sights on securing up to £5m of funding this year to help develop the next generation of fuel rails and powertrain systems.

James Simester joins the £32m Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) from Jaguar Land Rover and will be responsible for developing new forming, joining, metrology and simulation processes.

He will also be charged with co-ordinating a team of industry experts and professors to work in partnership with research organisations, including the EU Commission, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Technology Strategy Board.

The long-term aim is to develop cutting edge technologies that can be used to give UK industry a competitive advantage in delivering lighter, cleaner and more efficient vehicles.

"I'm very excited about joining AME and playing a role in creating a world class R&D facility that will use the best automation, the best engineers and the best academic minds to create new production lines for fuel rails and powertrain systems," explained James.

"The initial focus will be on the automotive sector with the intention of applying the cutting edge research and advanced manufacturing and engineering capability in other sectors, such as aerospace, power generation, oil and gas and rail."

He continued: "We have the capacity to deliver over £5m of research projects in the first year and we are already well on the way to securing our first two tranches of funding."

The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering - a collaboration between Coventry University and Unipart Manufacturing Group - is set to pioneer a new higher education model for manufacturing degrees, offering a blend of innovative activity-led teaching, product development and research to create a unique learning environment.

Construction work on the 1,700 square metre, state-of the-art manufacturing and R&D space in Coventry has just started and will be the focal point of training 40+ undergraduates and postgraduates in the first year.

One of the Technology Director's first tasks was to agree more than £2m of investment in the latest machinery to fit out what is being described as the 'UK's first 'dedicated faculty on the factory floor'.

“We have just signed a deal to equip the new building with the latest robots, CNC tube manipulation, high pressure test rigs and metrology equipment,” explained James.

“This should create one of the most advanced manufacturing centres in the UK and a perfect environment for the next generation of engineers to learn on ‘live’ manufacturing projects that will be immediately used by Unipart and its supply chain.”

James brings to the role more than 15 years experience of working at Cosworth and Jaguar Land Rover.

The Graduate Engineer has secured a number of notable achievements during his career, including gaining process and product approval for the manufacture of engine components and significant involvement in the successful launch of the new Range Rover Sport.

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For further information, please contact Russ Cockburn on 07812 600271 or email russ@dc-pr.co.uk

Notes to editors

About the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME)

The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering is a £32m project led by Coventry University and the Unipart Group.

It will create an international centre of engineering and manufacturing excellence, which will be the base for a sustained programme of innovative teaching, learning, product development and research activity.

Accommodating new undergraduate, postgraduate and low carbon R&D programmes; the facility will create a ‘faculty on the factory floor’, allowing students the opportunity to be connected directly to the latest technology, engineers and ‘live projects’ on the Unipart shop floor.

The aim is to develop the next generation of highly skilled, specialist engineers and operational leaders needed for the UK’s high-value manufacturing sector.

The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering has received £7.9m funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England’s Catalyst Fund. Unipart is contributing £17.9m towards the creation of the state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and a further £5.6m towards student scholarships and product R&D.

About Coventry University

Coventry University is a forward-looking modern university whose roots can be traced back to 1843 to the Coventry School of Design. With a proud tradition as a provider of high quality education and a focus on multidisciplinary research, the University has established a robust academic presence regionally, nationally and across the world.

Through its links with leading-edge organisations and its longstanding culture of business support, the institution has earned a strong reputation for enterprise and innovation which sees it work with more SMEs each year than any other University, and helped it to secure the Times Higher Education ‘Entrepreneurial University of the Year’ award in 2011.

The University's city centre campus is continually developing and evolving, and a £100 million-plus investment in a new student centre, engineering and computing building and science facility is playing a key role in modernising the entire learning experience.

About The Unipart Group

The Unipart Group employs around 10,000 people worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading UK manufacturer, full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

Unipart Manufacturing Group provides a complete manufacturing and logistics solution to Tier 1 automotive and wider industry.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group's proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

The company, which is based in Oxford in the UK, has a growing number of international sites supporting a wide range of blue chip clients. For more information visit: www.unipart.com