Manufacturing and the Circular Economy Workshop

Call type: Expression of Interest

Closing date: 9th January 2023, 16.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest opens</td>
<td>November 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest</td>
<td>9th January 2023 16:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successful applicants notified</td>
<td>20th January 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates of workshops</td>
<td>Swindon 31st January 2023</td>
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<td>Manchester 9th February 2023</td>
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Summary

EPSRC is inviting expressions of interest to attend a 1-day community and stakeholder workshop to inform understanding of the priorities and opportunities for research and innovation in driving a sustainable, resilient, thriving, and productive UK manufacturing sector and a truly circular economy.

The same workshop is being run twice in different locations, in order to maximise opportunities for participation and will take place in person in:

- Swindon 31st January 2023
- Manchester 9th February 2023

As part of the expression of interest, applicants are asked to submit views on a vision for a productive UK manufacturing sector and UK circular economy, alongside the research and innovation challenges that need to be addressed to achieve it.

To provide the opportunity for broader input into the discussions at the workshop as well as overall outputs from this activity EPSRC welcomes submissions to the
survey from anyone with an interest in the area, irrespective of whether they
are willing or able to attend the workshops.

The survey submissions will be used at the workshop to guide discussions and support
the identification of research priorities for the areas.

Through these community workshops EPSRC are aiming to understand and priorities
the future ambitions and research challenges for the areas.

Please note there is no funding directly associated with this activity.

Background

The EPSRC Manufacturing and the Circular Economy theme, has a vision for a
sustainable, resilient, thriving and productive UK wide manufacturing sector and a
truly circular economy.

A sustainable and productive UK manufacturing sector and a truly circular economy
contributes to numerous national and Global priorities, across many sectors that
support UK economic growth.

- achieving net zero carbon emission targets
- reducing resource consumption, waste and pollution harmful to biodiversity
- enhancing health and resource security
- offering the UK significant economic, social and environmental benefits.

The UKRI Strategy details the UKRI aim to focus the UK’s world-class science and
innovation to target global and national challenges, create and exploit tomorrow’s
technologies, and build the high-growth business sectors of the future. Manufacturing
and circular economy research is core to delivering the benefits associated with many
of these global and national challenges including:

- Building a green future
- Securing better health, aging and wellbeing
- Building a secure and resilient world.

The EPSRC Strategic Delivery Plan details how engineering and physical sciences can
deliver against the UKRI strategic objectives through mission inspired and discovery
research priorities. The ambitions embedded within many of these priorities cannot be
realised without advances in manufacturing and circular economy research.

For example delivering a future circular economy and driving a sustainable, resilient,
thriving and productive UK wide manufacturing sector directly delivers against
EPSRC’s Engineering Net Zero priority ambitions to tackle climate change, enhance
sustainability and ensure economic prosperity and fairness.

Manufacturing and circular economy research and innovation also has a significant
role to play in delivering against a broad range of government strategies including:

- UK Innovation Strategy
- Waste Resources Strategy
- Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy
- Net Zero Strategy
- UN Sustainable Development Goals

EPSRC invests in manufacturing and circular economy research, drawing on
innovations and skills across the engineering, physical, and mathematical sciences,
which helps to support and stimulate the design and production of new technologies,
products and services, and create jobs in the UK and abroad.
The EPSRC Strategic Delivery Plan sets out a number of ambitions relevant to manufacturing and the circular economy. These workshops will inform further understanding of the priorities and opportunities for research and innovation in the area to deliver against EPSRC, UKRI and UK government strategies and goals over the next 5-10 years.

**Who can apply**

Both the workshop and associated survey are open to all academic researchers, industrial partners and other stakeholders, with interest in activities related to manufacturing and the circular economy.

All research disciplines and industries within the engineering and physical sciences who have an interest in manufacturing and/or the circular economy are welcome. We are keen to engage with individuals with a diverse range of experiences of research related to these areas, across all relevant disciplines and career stages. Experience in both manufacturing AND circular economy research is not necessary.

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities, and encourage applications from women, those with a disability, members of ethnic minority groups, and other groups who are currently under-represented at EPSRC’s events.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided for attendees on the day, however EPSRC will not be supporting T&S as standard for those travelling to attend.

**How to Apply**

**Workshop attendees**

EPSRC are looking to select up to 40 attendees for each of the two workshops, with a diverse range of expertise and experience in research and innovation from all of EPSRC stakeholder groups.

Applicants must apply by completing and submitting the Expression of Interest (EoI) form below, before 16.00 9th January 2023. We will not consider applications received after this time. Those completing the form to submit survey questions only, must also submit by this deadline to enable the inputs to be taken forward into the workshops.

Submission of a complete EoI form with selection of preference for workshop dates will be taken as a commitment that you are available for the workshop and will attend if selected.

The sections to the application are as follows;

**Applicant details**: Basic information and contact details, including name, current organisation, and email address.

**Area of knowledge and experience**: Please outline your current research area interest. There is space for keywords to be added.

**Strategic questions**:

- What will a prosperous UK manufacturing sector and a truly circular economy look like in 2040? Please describe up to three key features. Features may relate to manufacturing, the circular economy or both.
- What research challenges need to be addressed to realise these ambitions? Please describe three of highest priority
For those wishing to attend the workshop the following sections also apply:

**Preferred date:** Applicants will be asked to indicate their preferred workshop date – EPSRC will aim to accommodate this wherever possible but in the event of high demand this may not be possible. This section also requests information on dietary requirements and accessibility concerns we should be aware of.

**Workshop alignment:** We aim to gather the views of the wider community as much as possible. Please provide details of how you would be able to represent views beyond your own. Consider your research group, programme, broader organisation, or networks/groups you are involved with.

**Survey respondents**

For those who do not wish or are unable to attend the workshops in person but would still like to contribute to this activity please use the same link and select “no” for workshop attendance. The survey will ask for your personal details, area of expertise and the strategic questions as outlined above.

The survey submissions will be used at the workshop to guide discussions and support the identification of research priorities for the area.

The comments included will not be published with attribution without permission.

**Selection Criteria**

If the event is oversubscribed, EPSRC reserves the right to select attendees.

Completed expression of interest forms will be assessed by a panel of EPSRC staff. Applications will be assessed solely on the information provided in the application, with the focus of the assessment on the answers to the questions provided.

The panel will select participants on the basis of:

1. Relevance of prior experience and/or expertise to the scope of the workshop.

2. Potential to contribute to the workshop, by representing the views of the broader community.

Out of applications meeting this criterion, EPSRC will look to ensure diversity of membership from across organisations including academia, industry and other stakeholders, with a balance of expertise, institutional representation and diversity.

EPSRC’s decision on attendance is final and feedback will not be given to unsuccessful applicants.

Applicants will be advised on whether their application was successful by the 20th January 2023.

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/1OGOT1/

**Key Contacts**

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