



Monday 8th September 2014

Latest news from AME

‘Full house’ as students sign up for the UK’s first ‘Faculty on the Factory Floor’

More than 20 students are set to take part in a new approach for delivering industry-ready graduates it was announced today.

The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME), a £32million joint collaboration between Coventry University and Unipart Manufacturing, has exceeded the number of applications it had expected with interest coming from all over the country for its three-year BEng and four-year MEng courses.

Senior management at the UK’s first ‘Faculty on the Factory Floor’ said they have passed their first year target and believe it’s a further indicator of the sector’s growing popularity and the desire from undergraduates to participate in activity-led learning that gives them real-world manufacturing experience.

“This is a fantastic first response to what we are looking to achieve at AME and shows that we’ve certainly got the student world excited,” explained Wendy Garner, Associate Head of Mechanical, Automotive and Manufacturing at Coventry University.

“Our courses have been designed to meet industry’s need for graduates that can have an immediate impact on the shopfloor and also help to ensure our students gain skills that accelerate their own career paths.”

She continued: “External construction work on the new 1700 square metre manufacturing hub is nearly complete and this will provide the focus for a lot of the activity and will house more than £2m of robotics, CNC tube manipulation machinery, metrology equipment and simulation software.

“The undergraduates will be learning on cutting-edge technology, not to mention working with Unipart engineers who have years of experience. It’s a real win-win situation for them.”

Studying at AME will be split into two 16-week semesters per academic year, with students focusing on specific industry disciplines and then working in teams to apply what they have learned to commercial shopfloor projects.

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Over the course of the three years this will include manufacturing processes and materials, quality and metrology, advanced manufacturing and automation, design and sustainability and strategic management.

In the final year, they will have the choice to specialise in lean systems and production control or engineering materials and manufacturing technology.

“At the end of the degree they should be ready to apply and enter into employment either at Unipart or within the manufacturing supply chain. For those interested, we will also be operating a Masters course, which takes a further year to complete and will be suited to students looking to become a technology leader,” continued Wendy.

Charlie Bond from Kenilworth is among the first undergraduates heading to AME after he completed a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering at Warwickshire College.

The former Princethorpe College pupil is looking forward to putting the skills he has learned in the classroom to use on commercial manufacturing exercises and working on projects that could change the way powertrain systems are developed all over the world.

“I’ve always enjoyed making things and definitely want to try and make a career for myself in engineering and manufacturing.”

He went on to add: “I enjoy a more ‘hands-on’ approach to learning and this gives me the chance to use my practical skills in a number of different scenarios.

“The fact I can be part of a ‘UK first’ and will be learning from researchers, experienced lecturers and Unipart engineers were all major selling points, not to mention having access to the latest machines and technology.”

Charlie, who has just turned eighteen, concluded: “Studying at AME should also help me gain valuable shopfloor experience that a lot of other manufacturing and engineering graduates will only get after a year out.”

AME, which has received £7.9m of Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), is also recruiting for ten postgraduates as part of its first year of activity.

For further information, please visit www.ame.co.uk or follow @ame_uk on twitter.

Notes to Editors

About the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME)

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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 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.

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About Unipart Manufacturing Group (UMG)

Unipart Manufacturing Group (UMG) is a global specialist in manufacturing, supply chain and consultancy and part of the Unipart Group.

UMG consults and delivers a unique and tailored solution to manufacturing, engineering and supply chain problems. With a proud heritage in the automotive industry, it has established itself, expanding into wider sectors while continuing to deliver engineering excellence for its customers.

It comprises;

Unipart Eberspächer Exhaust Systems (UEES) - a joint venture between the Unipart Group of Companies and Eberspächer GmbH providing the automotive industry with not only exhaust systems, but fuel systems, fuel rails and engine componentry for a wide range of vehicle manufacturers throughout the UK and Europe.

Kautex Unipart – manufacture of automotive blow moulded fuel tanks

Unipart Expert Practices Manufacturing – lean manufacturing Expert consultants using ‘The Unipart Way’

Unipart Manufacturing Services – Supply chain solutions within multiple sectors and industries

Unipart Aerospace and Defence – specialist logistics provider to the aerospace and defence sector

Unipart Manufacturing Serck Heat Exchange – design, manufacture and refurbishment specialists of heat exchange

Unipart Manufacturing Serck Motorsport – design, manufacture and servicing of high performance cooling systems to the race and road motorsport industry

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