



**ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING  
INNOVATION  
CENTRE**

**DIGITAL  
FACTORY**

MANUFACTURING  
INNOVATION  
FOR REAL  
WORLD IMPACT



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

BELFAST  
REGION  
CITY DEAL





**Graeme Ralph**  
***Head of Digital Factory***

- **MSc Advanced Manufacturing – Technology and Systems from Strathclyde University**
- **20+ Years in high value manufacturing;**
  - **Spirit Aerosystems manufacturing engineering and processes development on Airbus A320 Wing, A380 Wing, A350 Wing and Fuse and Boeing 787 Wing**
  - **Implementation of automated welding and discrete event simulation at BAE Govan & Scotstoun**
  - **Owner of digitization, automation and advanced assembly development work at Spirit including various ATI projects and Wing of Tomorrow Fixed leading edge rate 100 program**
  - **Spirit distinctive capability leader and tech board representative at AMRC and AFRC**





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# DIGITAL FACTORY

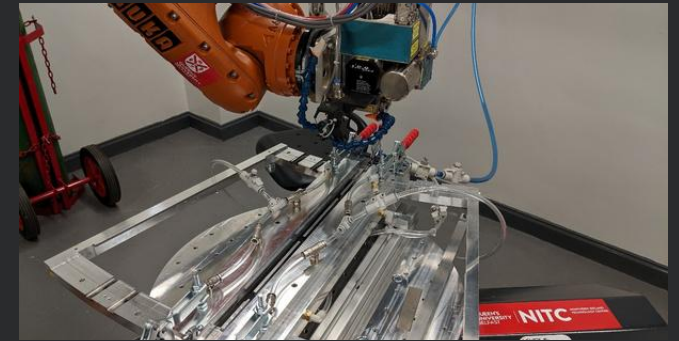
## Machining



## Ind Metrology & NDI



## Automation



## Digital Manufacturing



## Digitalisation



## Digital Transformation



# Examples of AMIC Digital Factor Project Partners & TSG Members



Short Brothers  
A Boeing Company

**KIVERCO**

denroy®



**MOYOLA**  
Precision Engineering



**NORTHERN**  
Regional College



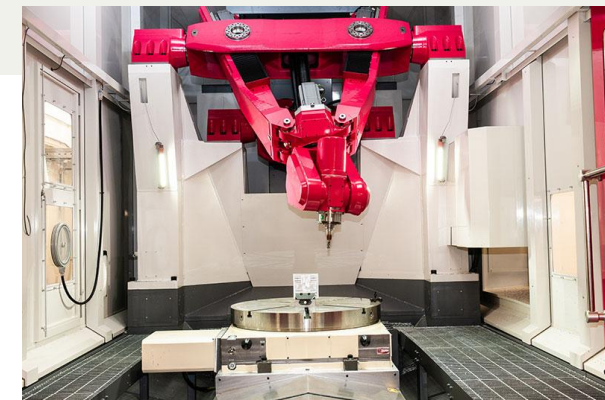
**THALES**



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**Digital Factory**

**Advanced Manufacturing Processes and Systems**



Automated Welding

Automated Drilling and Fastening

Aerospace Stack Drilling

Automation Platforms for Aerospace  
Manufacturing Processes (Stationary/Mobile)

Advanced Machining for High Rate

Laser Manufacturing  
(Cutting/Welding Robotics)

Advanced Machining (Data and Analytics)

Flexible Non-Intrusive Industrial  
Metrology (Scanners, Photogrammetry)

High Accuracy Inspection  
(CMM, Laser Tracker)

Non-Destructive Inspection

WAAM Additive Tooling

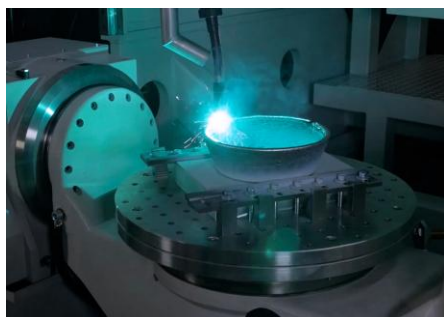
Novel Platforms – Flexible, Agile, Sustainable  
Manufacturing Processes (PKM)

Double Sided Machining

Flexible/Reconfigurable Manufacturing  
Systems

Automated Assembly Inspection

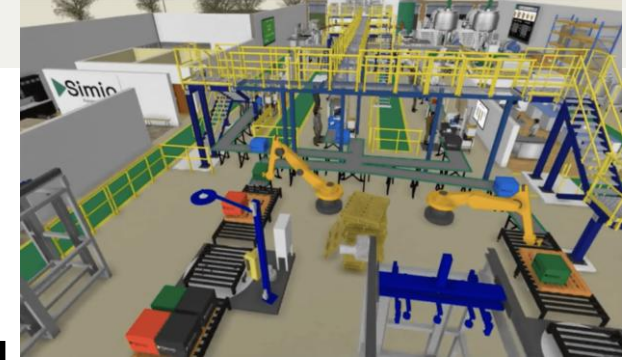
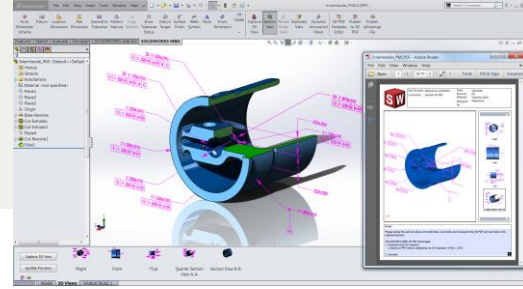
Automated Robotic Sealing



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**Digital Factory**

**Connectivity and Digital Technologies**



Advanced Visualisation

Design Driven Reconfiguration

AI and ML

Offline Programming and Simulation

Factory Design and Discrete Event Simulation

Dynamic Scheduling

IoT Devices

Data Capture and Analytics

Model based and as built definition

Connected supply chains

Data driven manufacturing systems

Advanced data architectures

Standards driven rapid integration

Cyber secure supply chains





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# CAPABILITY EXAMPLES

Direct application support to more complex multifunctional solutions that also support other AMIC groups in bespoke applications

Machining	Metrology	Automation	Digitalisation	Digital Manufacturing
Optimised Machining Method	Part or Assembly Measurement	Automated Part or Assembly Movement	Dashboarding from IoT Devices and Sensors	Manufacturing System Model for Virtual Commissioning
In process measurement of run out to ensure stable process		Embedded sensing within automation systems to monitor performance and maintenance		Facility Scanning for 3D visualisation
Cutting tools comparison trials	Improvement in robotic accuracy driven by corrective measurement system feedback and machine learning		Data driven DES model utilising OT devices to capture production cycle data	
Robotic assisted machining process to reduce setup times and minimise distortion, processes and product validated through the machining processes		Data from supply chain enabling scenario planning within a live manufacturing system that can be interrogated with a natural language interface (IS95)		
Coolant level and type testing on specific application	Simulation driven modification to manufacturing flow due to automated measurement identifying non-conformance, planned rework and line balancing plan generated to minimise impact			
Automated machine tending and part measurement and verification producing product passport details linked to part number				Smart scheduling and dynamic planning
Data driven manufacturing system utilizing design model-based definition, as built measurement data from parts and fabrications to enable flexible automation systems that react to variation driven by schedule, design change or any planned or unplanned impact. No faults forward validated by low-cost measurement with full traceability captured in product passport				

Digital Transformation



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# AMIC GROUP COLLABORATION



DIGITAL  
FACTORY



SMART  
DESIGN



NANOTECH  
&  
PHOTONICS



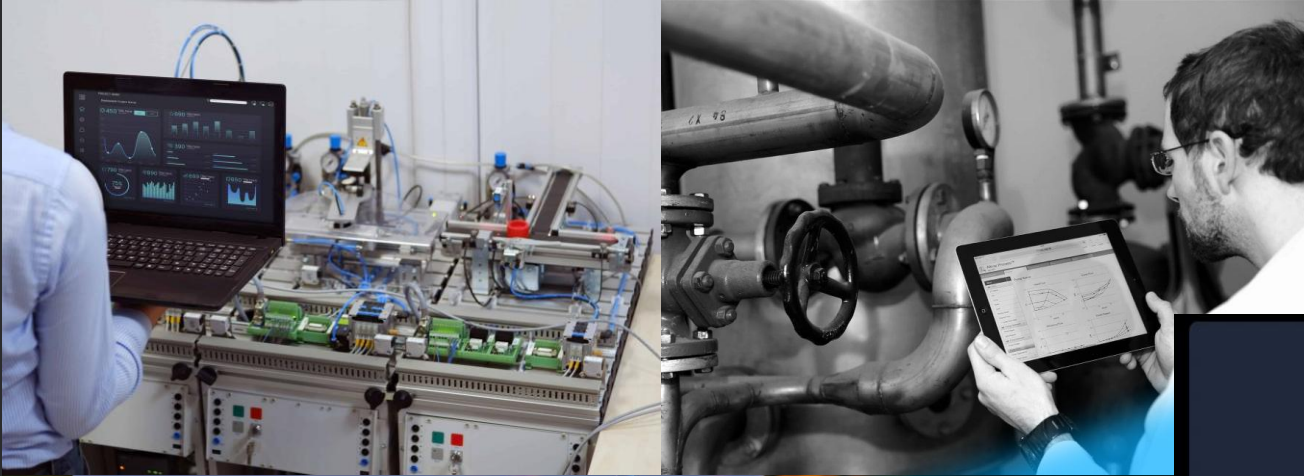
SUSTAINABLE  
POLYMERS &  
COMPOSITES

Skills

Sustainability

Supply Chain

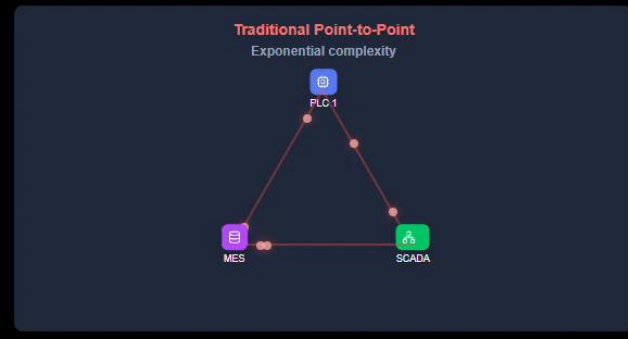
# LEGACY EQUIPMENT



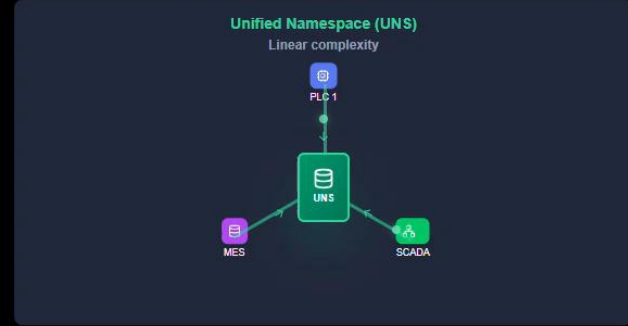

# UNS

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

AMRC Sheffield · AMIC Belfast



<b>Traditional Connections</b>
<b>3</b> <small><math>n \times (n-1) / 2</math></small>
<b>UNS Connections</b>
<b>3</b> <small>n systems</small>



<b>Data Volume (MB/s)</b>	
<b>Traditional</b> <b>0.3k</b> <small>MB/s</small>	<b>UNS</b> <b>0.3k</b> <small>MB/s</small>



**DIGITAL FACTORY**

# Equipment and Capability



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## **Machining**

Multi-Axis Machining of a range of metallics, Flexible machining platforms to enable distortion and cycle time reduction, Robotic support machining platforms, Advanced measurement of machining performance to enable optimisation of subtractive processes.

## **Automation**

High accuracy flexible robotic and automated systems for a range of applications such as assembly, welding, assisted inspection, machining support, sealant application etc. for both high rate, complicated and high mix products.

## **Industrial Metrology**

The measurement and validation of geometric, material properties and validation of performance of parts, components, assemblies and products using advanced contact and non-contact methods along with the use of the data generated.

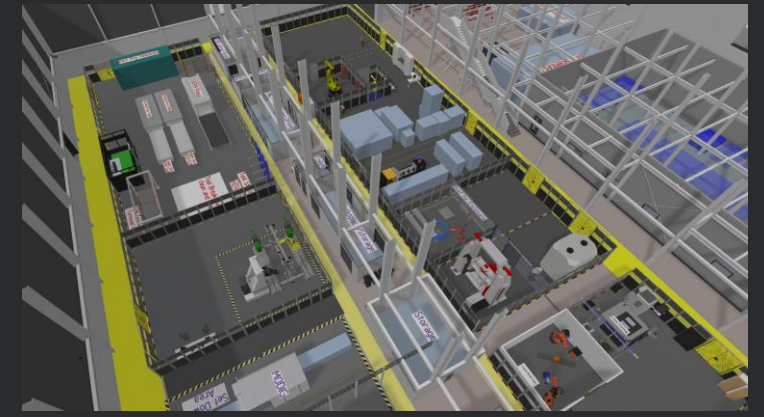
## **Digital Manufacturing**

Development of offline and connected validation and visualisation of manufacturing processes and systems through the use and development of advanced software, analytics and methodologies.

## **Digitisation**

Enabling manufacturing technologies, design driven flexibility and business process understanding through connectivity, advanced data architectures, closed loop systems and cyber secure supply chains

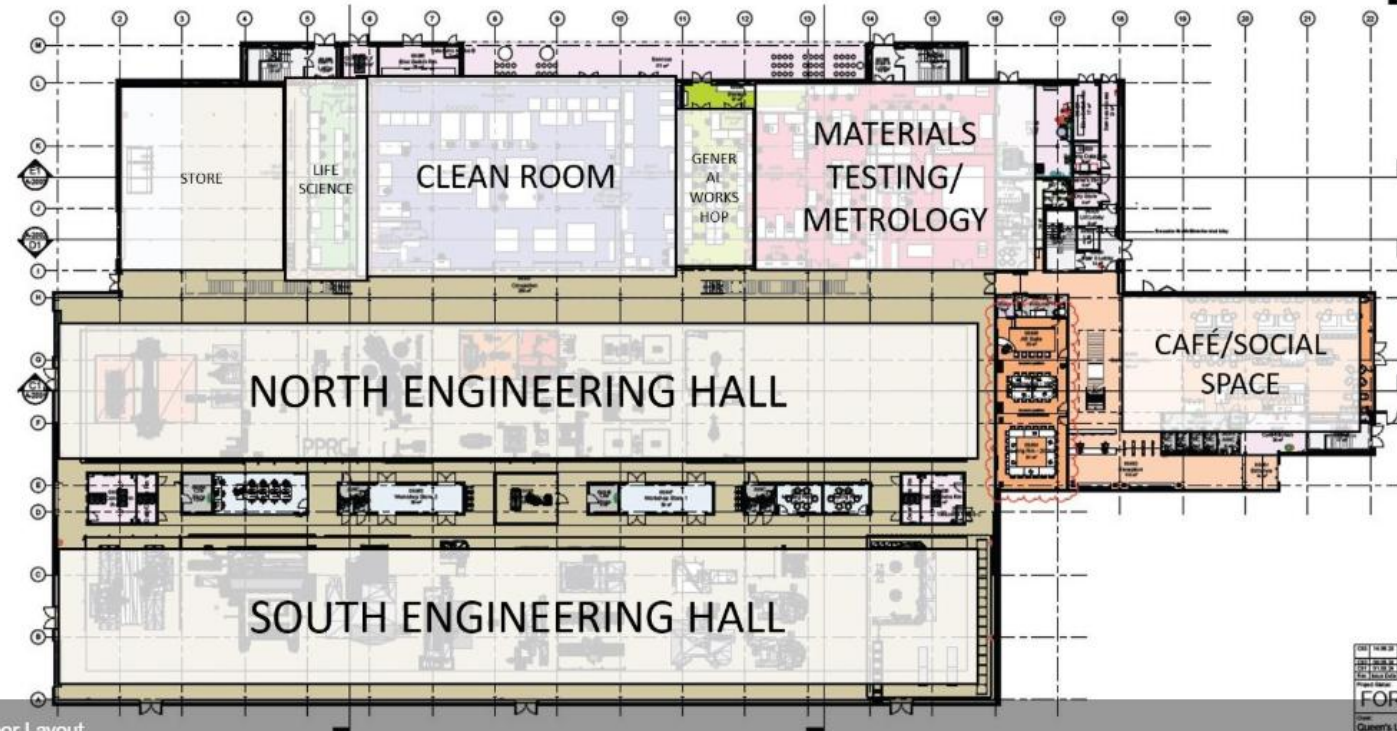
# FoF



## Interior Site Layout – Ground Floor



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Ground Floor Layout

FOR  
Queen's U