

AutoNet

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Newsletter

Introducing Project
AutoNet

Joint Launching event
of the project

Creating AutoNet
Network

Matchmaking activities
started in Nitra, Slovakia

AutoNet project in
Leipzig

Joint Presentation of Slovenian
Automotive Suppliers in Togliatti

Future of the automotive industry
in Czech



Introducing AutoNet

In all regions the automotive industry is faced by worldwide economic crisis, which is resulting in the need of regional or national government to find efficient way of support. Project AutoNet is to provide activities for such a support by focusing on sustainable competitiveness of region in automotive innovations. This is why nine partners from seven European countries involved in the automotive industry have collaborated to create the project AutoNet.



and research and development institutes) and firms actively involved in the industry.

In addition, AutoNet provides a platform for firms in the CE automotive industry to cooperate and coordinate their activities as they begin expansion into the markets of the Ukraine and Russia.

The result of these collaborations is to increase trans-national matchmaking opportunities and the development of previously impossible business partnerships when the global economy and in particular, the automotive industry faces a severe economic crisis and many firms are shrinking rather than expanding.

cooperation

The AutoNet project is a new EU project that aims to promote the CE region as a sustainable, innovative environment for the creation of new processes, innovations and materials in the

automotive industry. Through the creation of the 'AutoNet' business network firms and actors in the automotive industry in the CE region will be able to establish new partnerships to further create new innovative solutions and products. This business network will create more productive collaborations between knowledge institutions (universities

innovation

promotion

Successful launch of Project AutoNet

The Joint Launch Event of project AutoNet took place on 10th November 2010 in the Agrokomplex Exhibition Area, Nitra. The launch was a success; partners and interested parties flew in from all over Europe to attend.

The event began with a welcome talk informing guests about the concepts, ideas and aims of the AutoNet project. The project manager Jozef Marušik introduced main objectives of the project : to boost innovation processes and promote CE region as the key region for creating new innovative processes, materials or products in Automotive industry.

We heard 5 presentations from prestigious members of the Automotive industry on the following topics:

- The Experience of a New Automotive Cluster Related to Suppliers in Lombardy
- SMEs Network Importance of R&D Activities in Automotive
- Improving Competitiveness through Collaboration
- The Saxon Cluster Strategy and Its Role in the Economic Cooperation in Central Europe
- Trends in Automotive Industry

All the presentations acquired the attention of the audience of 4.th Slovak Matchmaking fair and led to the further fruitful discussions on the Launch Event.



The Joint Launch Event of project AutoNet also marked the confirmation and signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the AutoNet project and European Automotive Strategy Network (EASN).

Considering the complementarity of goals and interests pursued by AutoNet and EASN in support of automotive industry across Europe, cooperation and mutual support between AutoNet project and EASN would provide the potential added-value for both actors. In facing the goal of enhancing the competitiveness of the Automotive Industry in the EU, we are confident of this being a successful and fruitful opportunity for cooperation for both parties.

We feel the event was a great opportunity to learn about new cluster initiatives with the world leading industry professionals, how to stimulate the trust and conventions between us and our partners and take the first step to improve automotive cluster innovations in CEE.

Connecting to AutoNet Network

AutoNet Partners are glad to announce that they have officially set up the AutoNet Network whose Presidency is taken over by Automotive Cluster – West Slovakia (Slovakia), and whose Secretariat is managed by Comunimpresa Scarl (Italy).



The Network is dedicated to internationalising the Autonet Project by casting it into the European Automotive arena as a reliable counterpart with whom to effectively cooperate. Cooperation, that will occur with other relevant European initiatives and policy actors, will be addressed to stimulate dialogue, cross-fertilisation, raising awareness and the sharing of information with a focus on advancing the policies to ameliorate the conditions for innovation in automotive industry in Central Europe.

The AutoNet network organizations cooperate with the intentions:

To support innovation by transferring and implementing common services and policies standards.

To boost automotive industry innovation by matchmaking relevant actors.

To stimulate more efficient cooperation of the so-called innovative triangle: Universities (other RTDs) – SMEs – Governments.

To foster international co-operations and partnerships among SMEs in the automotive industry.

To promote CE territory as the leading automotive area in the field of innovation within regions outside EU.

To involve the policy makers at regional, national and EC level, project-associated institutions and other relevant networks into the process of ameliorating the conditions for automotive industry innovation.

More info at comunimpresa@fiscali.it.



AutoNet Matchmaking Event

The first Auto Net Matchmaking Event took place on the 10th of November in Nitra (Slovak Republic) on the topic of "Ecology Friendly Products for Automotive Industry Including Light-Weight Production". Participants from 12 different countries, representing more than 80 companies and institutions, met to explore the possibilities for new ventures to produce innovative solutions.

With more than 300 face to face meetings, participants from Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia, Belarus, France and Austria discussed possible risks and opportunities of new innovative solutions in the field of ecology friendly product in the automotive industry. The composition of participants was promising and stimulating as the representatives from SMEs, R&D institutions,

OEMs, academia and regional development agencies were engaged in added-value exchanges.

The Match-making Event was organized by the Automotive Cluster

of Slovenia along with first AutoNet Exchange of Experience seminar which was dedicated to a series of brief companies' and innovative projects' presentations. In parallel, one-to-one meetings of innovative actors were taking place. Affiliation of these two events has brought a numerous positive externalities to both of the above mentioned events.

The topic "Ecology Friendly Products for Automotive Industry Including Light-Weight Production" was determined, since the call for green vehicles is becoming stronger and more and more mainstream. European legislation, governments, individuals and car manufacturers are pushing for more environmentally friendly vehicles and we are seeing an increasing number of hybrid vehicles and electric cars launched onto our automotive market.

AutoNet's Matchmaking Events aim to bring together actors from all partner regions to identify possible potential cooperation as well as ventures in development of innovative services. Participants are particularly identified through regional dissemination, based on topics specific for each event.



Project AutoNet in focus in Leipzig

The Wirtschaftsförderung Sachsen GmbH (Saxony Economic Development Corporation, SEDC) organized a symposium “Mobility and Environment – perspectives of cooperation in Central Europe” within the congress “Euregia 2010 – Local and Regional Development in Europe”.

65 representatives of Saxon companies, R&D facilities, universities and automotive stakeholders from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania presented an economic overview of the current situation in their countries with a special view of the situation in automotive sector. In the main part of the symposium the project AutoNet had a special place: Dr. Thomas Richter, Vice President of the SEDC, held a presentation about the project and afterwards, in an



experts' panel, the Managing Director of the Automotive Cluster West Slovakia (ACWS) Mr. Stefan Chudoba gave interesting hints and comments to the Saxon companies for using the project for better cooperation opportunities. As Mr. Chudoba is the Lead Partner of the project, he promoted the first Matchmaking Event in Nitra on November 10th to the present Saxon companies.

In addition Dr. Ákos Szépvölgyi, Managing Director of the Central-Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency and consultant of the Mid-Pannon Regional Development Agency in the project AutoNet, gave the latest information about the investments of Daimler, Audi and Opel in Hungary.

The “euregia” is a leading event for European local and regional development and combines a fair with specific congress programs. It is organized every two years in Leipzig, Saxony.

Lombardy Region supports Automotive Cluster POLI-AUTO

Lombardy Region has recently and officially endorsed the emergence and consolidation of 7 new Production Systems, including Regional Automotive Cluster called POLI-AUTO (www.poli-auto.org), under leading of Politecnico of Milan and technical Advisory of Comunimpresa Scarl. The project involves major companies like Brembo, Pirelli, Mercedes Same and the most innovative Research Center in Italy called "Kilometro Rosso" in Bergamo.

The initiative is a part of a funding program, DRIADE (Regional Clusters for Innovation, the Attraction and Dynamism of local Economy) which is an experimental action addressed to the establishment of new Production Systems not yet formally recognized in Lombardy, developed as a result of rapidly changing market conditions and technological knowledge.

The program mobilizes resources for more than 23 million euro, 14 million of public co-financing through agreements between Lombardy Region and the Ministry of Economic Development, and 9 million from the private sector.



DRIADE, through its main priority action line DAPHNE, has promoted the generation of innovation pilot projects that are experimenting new practices in support of the emergence and consolidation of previously identified local Production Systems, like POLIAUTO, carried out by groups of micro, small and medium enterprises.

This action line, with a budget of EUR 7.6 million, has enabled the co-financing of 25 innovation pilot projects presented by aggregations of at least 5 to 7 member companies adhering as a majority to the previously selected Production Systems.

As for the Automotive Production System named Poliauto, 5 are the experimental projects which have been acknowledged a total funding of € 1,450,000.00.

Comunimpresa Scarl has contributed to the design and preparation of the project proposal presented by the project Leader TSA Solutions, grouping major enterprises from the area of Lecco-Brianza, which a total amount of € 552.500,00.

Expected development of the automotive industry in the Czech Republic and Central Europe

The main conference aims, held under the Automotive Industry Association (Brno, October, 21st 2009), was to exchange experiences and views of representatives of vehicles manufacturers, parts and accessories manufacturers, economists, experts and representatives of companies involved in the development of the automotive industry.

During the conference there were presentations and discussions on topics concerning automotive industry development in:

- Competitiveness and the outlook,
- Experience and opinions,
- Successful strategies of manufacturers and suppliers,
- Quality management, performance and risk management,
- Increasing productivity,
- Consumer-supply chain management,
- Trends in the automotive market in the U.S., Asia and Europe,



- The cooperation of manufacturers, suppliers and interrelated companies.

In regard to project Autonet, this event was a great opportunity to attract all the aforementioned representatives in the automotive industry, to give them closer insight into the potential of matchmaking events and specific exchange of experience seminars organised by the project.

Mr. Ladislav Glogar, representative of Moravian-Silesian Automotive Cluster, disseminated the principles of project and other relevant information tackling innovative development issues, e.g. E-purchase, PIM (Poeder Injection Technologies) and Expert Centrum.



Joint Presentation of Slovenian Automotive Suppliers in Togliatti, Russia



Ljubljana, October 2010 - Hoping to strengthen their presence on Russia's growing market, Slovenia's automotive parts companies took part in this year's Autoindustry, Autocomponents 2010 fair in the Russian city of Tolyatti.

A total of 9 companies showcased their products with the assistance of the Automotive Cluster of Slovenia (ACS) and with co-funding of Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments (JAPTI).

ACS, which unites Slovenian automotive parts companies, believes

that the Russian market is one of the most promising for companies in the sector. Quoting Russian forecasts that predicts a doubling of car sales in the world's biggest country by 2020, ACS head Dusan Busen said that Slovenian companies must look to boost their ties with Russia.

According to Busen, Slovenian companies have the opportunity of both striking deals with Russian car makers as well as localising production for foreign car makers.

Moreover, the ACS is confident that it can help the Russian automotive sector with its technical know-how. "We can play an important role in this respect," said Busen, who stressed that the first deals to this effect have already been reached.



Encouraging electric vehicle market in Poland



Regional Development Agency „MARR” Joint Stock Company in Mielec have started their Project “The construction of the electric vehicle market, the charging infrastructure - the basis of energy security”

The project is funded by the European Union under the Innovative Economy Operational Programme. The general objective of the project is to initiate the development of the electric vehicle market in Poland and the development of distributed energy using renewable energy sources.



The project will increase the independence of the Polish energy, and improve care for the environment. To achieve this, there are plans to build an organizational base that will help to build electric vehicles by strengthening the



cooperative relations between the companies working in this sector. A cheap household and micro-plant electricity production should also be good stimulation for buying and operating of such vehicles. The project is entering a new market with a total budget of € 4 828 556.

Company AUTOMOTIVE COACHBUILDING AND DESIGN Ltd. got permission to conduct business in the Mielec Special Economic Zone SEZ EURO-PARK Mielec. The company currently employs 10 people. Plant (factory) built on a plot area of 0.7238 hectares. The investment volume amounts to € 625000.



Slovenian Automotive Excellence as a part of European Automotive Components

11 Slovenian companies attended European Automotive Components Expo in Stuttgart as a part of the Slovenian Pavilion, organized by GIZ ACS. During the fair there was a business conference "Slovenian Automotive Excellence" which was attended by over 50 different experts from potential customers and partners.

Exhibition was visited by over 15.000 automotive engineers and purchasing managers from over 50 countries in the area of the new fairground in Stuttgart. The European Automotive Components Expo 2010 with neighbouring fairs is definitely a part of the largest and most recognized B2B exhibitions of automotive components in Europe. With the participation of suppliers 1., 2. and 3rd order, attracts participants from all over the world (last year was attended by participants from over 35 countries; this year they expect more than 600 exhibitors). Together with the fairs' "Automotive Testing Expo", "Crash Test Expo" "Vehicle Dynamics" and "Automotive Interior" there was displayed a hundreds of



newly developed products and technologies.

The European Automotive Component Expo 2010 is a mandatory event for anyone involved in the development, industrialization, purchase of innovative automotive materials, components and electrical systems. Slovenian companies presented their innovations at a business conference "Slovenian Automotive Excellence", which was held on 22.6.2010. This conference offered the chance to learn more about Slovenian automotive industry and to meet with important representatives of the Slovenian automotive industry. The Conference was chaired by Mr. Dusan Busen, general manager of Automotive Cluster of Slovenia. Attendants had first hand information about new investment projects in Slovenia as representatives of Slovenian automotive suppliers presented their experiences and plans for the future.