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Project Case Study: Renewable Engine Project Update March 2021

THEME:

Research and Innovation Health & Life Sciences Renewable Energy

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€5,802,426.20

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department for the Economy Northern Ireland, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

South West College (SWC)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Institute of Technology Sligo, Action Renewables, Queen's University Belfast, Manufacturing Northern Ireland, Mid Ulster District Council and University of Strathclyde.

Start Date: 01/01/2017

End Date: 31/01/2022

www.renewableengine.eu

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Since launching in late 2017, the project has facilitated direct knowledge transfer and technological development in the Advanced Manufacturing and Renewable Energy Sectors, with research focusing on areas such as Energy Generation, Energy Storage and Innovative Enabling Technologies.

In November 2020, the project team met virtually for the third, and final, Research Colloquium with participation from all PhD students. Instead of the standard 'research progress' presentations, the PhD students were pitted against each other and given the challenge of detailing the commercialisation potential of their project in a short and concise presentation.

RENEWABLE ENGINE

PhD researcher, Eleanor Smith (University of Strathclyde) has been trailing AR technology for collaborative robot assembly. Entitled 'Industry 4.0 & Augmenting the Millennial Worker' Eleanor's project is investigating how traditional paper-based instructions and procedures for assembly tasks can be replaced with Augmented Reality (AR) technology. Working closely with her industry partner, Booth Welsh, Eleanor has been conducting socially distant trials at the company's Head Office. With the help of iTech, and their Techman Robot, the trials involve using mobile AR technology (i.e. smart phone or tablet) to guide the user on how to assemble a Cobot and perform simple tasks. The final outputs of the project will be known later in 2021.

Through engagement and partnership with the project, enterprises ranging from micro-SMEs to large multinationals have had the opportunity to apply for technology development grant funding, in order to bridge the gap between research and technological innovation within industry. To date, approximately €350,000 has been awarded in technology development grant funding to the partnered enterprises in order to support and advance their potential within the Renewable Energy sector.