P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PrecisionPath Consortium for Large-Scale Manufacturing Conducts First Working Meeting

Coordinate Metrology Society (CMS) and UNC Charlotte join forces with Industry Players to Chart New Ground

Weatherford, TX – November 30, 2015 – The Coordinate Metrology Society, in collaboration with UNC Charlotte, today announced the completion of the first working meeting of the PrecisionPath Consortium for Large-Scale Manufacturing. The new project is funded by an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) Grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. At the 2015 CMSC (Coordinate Metrology Society Conference) in July, the PrecisionPath Consortium held their inaugural meeting to discuss team building strategies, short- and long-term goals, and project timelines. The group is tasked to identify and prioritize the technology needs of the aerospace, defense, energy, and other industries that manufacture large-scale, high accuracy parts and products.

"The PrecisionPath Consortium is building a solid foundation to identify barriers that hinder progress in the large-scale manufacturing sector," states Ron Hicks, CMS AMTech Committee Chair. "This working meeting was the first step in prioritizing the technology needs of the aerospace, defense, energy, and other industries that manufacture large-volume, high accuracy parts and products. The partnership between the Coordinate Metrology Society, UNC Charlotte, and leading industry players is critical to locking down the practical knowledge needed to move manufacturing and metrology forward in a meaningful way. This is a trailblazing project laser-focused on building a roadmap for both short-term and long-term objectives."

Roadmap for Innovation

The PrecisionPath Consortium held their Planning and Visioning Council during the Quality Show in late October at the Rosemont Convention Center in Chicago, IL. The first session of the meeting focused on refining the project scope and boundaries. The Council discussed the critical challenges in producing large products to precision tolerances, and then transitioned into identifying metrology technology families used by industry. This segment was followed by the team compiling the most important attributes of these systems for measurement and inspection.

The afternoon session progressed with dynamic group interactions and the use of sophisticated meeting facilitation technology to capture the input. The Consortium took up usage scenarios and amassed data on how portable metrology is being used to support diverse applications across different disciplines. The group proceeded to pinpoint sources of expertise and data for use in the roadmapping process, and firmed up the framing and vision of the PrecisionPath Roadmap project. The organizational structure and operational model were finalized, and the meeting concluded with the election of a Board of Directors and an overview of marketing objectives.

Representatives from leading manufacturing companies attended the meeting including Michael Jones, Siemens; Bob Elliott, Lockheed Martin; Chris Barrow, Lockheed Martin; Glen Cork, Spirit AeroSystems; Matthew Ilardo, Brookhaven National Labs, and Mons Lee, The Boeing Company. OEMs and metrology service providers were represented by Ron Hicks, Automated Precision (API); Patrick Welch, New River Kinematics (NRK), Joel Martin, Hexagon Metrology; Rina Molari, Hexagon Metrology and 2016 CMSC Chair; Ray Ryan, ECM Global Measurement Solutions; Eric Brandt, Nikon Metrology and Ron Rode, Planet Tool and Engineering. Consortium organizers are Ron Hicks, CMS AMTech Chair and UNC Charlotte

representatives Ed Morse, John Ziegert, Ram Kumar, and Antonis Stylianou. Other supporting attendees included Tom Lettieri, NIST; Danuta McCall, Facilitate.com; and Belinda Jones, HiTech Marketing.

The next meeting will be held in February 2016 in the Charlotte, NC area. Interested metrology professionals from the large-scale manufacturing sector who can commit to attending PrecisionPath technical meetings and associated conferences in the next two years are invited to contact Ron Hicks, CMS Committee Chair at ron.hicks@apisensor.com.

About the PrecisionPath Consortium

The PrecisionPath Consortium for Large-Scale Manufacturing is an industry-driven coalition led by the Coordinate Metrology Society and UNC Charlotte. The alliance is supported by an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) Grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The PrecisionPath Consortium will develop strategic roadmaps to solve universal technology challenges faced by manufacturers of large, high-precision parts and assemblies. PrecisionPath members hail from industries such as aerospace, defense, power generation, and more. For more than 30 years, the Coordinate Metrology Society has served industrial measurement professionals involved in large-scale manufacturing — end users, OEMs, software developers and service providers. UNC Charlotte supports industry-academia collaborations in search of next-generation manufacturing technologies. For more information, contact Professor Ed Morse of UNC Charlotte's Center for Precision Metrology at emorse@uncc.edu.

About the Coordinate Metrology Society

The Coordinate Metrology Society is comprised of users, service providers, and OEM manufacturers of close-tolerance industrial coordinate measurement systems, software, and peripherals. The metrology systems represented at the annual Coordinate Metrology Society Conference (CMSC), include articulated arm CMMs, laser trackers, laser radar, photogrammetry/videogrammetry systems, scanners, indoor GPS and laser projection systems. The Coordinate Metrology Society gathers each year to gain knowledge of the advancements and applications of any measurement system or software solution that produces and uses 3D coordinate data. For more information on this organization, visit their web site at http://www.cmsc.org.

Link to press release: http://www.cmsc.org/amtech