CoRoT Industrial Workshop

Thursday 7th September 2017
Venue: Edinburgh Room, Queen Anne Court Room 075
University of Greenwich, Greenwich Campus
(For more information please visit: www.icmr.org.uk)

12:00: Arrival and lunch, Queen Anne Council Room (QA 063)

13:30: Session 1 (Edinburgh Room QA075): AGV and mobile robotics
Leader: BAS; Supporting partners: ESIGELEC and CESI

14:30: Session 2 (Edinburgh Room QA075): Low cost robotic arm and cobotic
Leader: Autofina; Supporting partener: UoH

15:30: Session 3 (Edinburgh Room QA075): Automation and flexible manufacturing systems
Leader: CERI; Supporting partners: CESI, UoG, UoE

16:30: close

Introduction to the EU Project - CoRoT

With the average productivity of SMEs falling in both the UK (12%) and France (2%), the Interreg France (Channel) England programme has today announced (25 May 2017) that it will fund 2.6 million euros towards a Franco-British project that will develop new autonomous robot technology to help improve the competitiveness of SMEs. Led by French engineering university CESI, the project, entitled 'Improving the design of flexible and responsive manufacturing systems involving autonomous and Collaborative RoboTs' (CoRoT), will develop innovative and affordable robot software and hardware that is focused on the needs and budgets of smaller businesses. SMEs often face issues such as large variances in volume and short deadlines, and the automated robotic systems and software developed by the CoRot project will allow SMEs to become more flexible and responsive to this type of demand.

This is an important step in improving the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs, as existing industrial robots on the market are often seen as being too expensive and too complex for smaller businesses to implement into their production processes. The new systems will be trialled in industrial workshops (in France and UK) where the project will aim to improve productivity in these trials by as much as 30%. After the project has ended a

combination of software packages, a low-cost robot arm and training guides will be made readily available to SMEs.

Commenting on the announcement, Chantal Hurard from the Lead Partner, CESI said: *"This project is an important step in our process of supporting regional businesses to adapt to the 'industries of the future', and in the development of similar research activities. The elements developed by CoRot will allow any interested SMEs to then adopt these key technologies to help improve their competitiveness".* The project budget totals 3.9 million euros for 3.5 years, of which 69% is funded by the Interreg FCE Programme, representing a European Regional Development Fund budget of 2.6 million euros. Full list of project partners: *Lead Partner – CESI* (French),University of Greenwich (UK), University of Exeter (UK), ESIGELEC (France), Autofina Ltd (UK), University of Le Havre (France), BA Systèmes (France), and CERI (France). More information about the Programme can be found at https://interreg5a-fce.eu/.