

Publishable summary

LASHARE has started 14 “laser-based equipment assessments” (LEA) in September 2013. Since then, the assessment teams with people from industrial users, SME suppliers and research and technology transfer associations have advanced the equipment in technology readiness level (TRL). During an intensive task, called initialisation of the assessment, this group defined the key performance factors and the associated technology gaps of the equipment. In the following “development and implementation” task, the team researched solutions and implemented changes to the equipment to make it more robust and to meet the required criteria. The prototypes that have evolved from this phase have been transferred to the users for a validation task in a production like environment. These validations are about to finish and show increases in TRL now, already.

LASHARE has conducted public workshops on key issues like automation and standardisation. The consortium had identified these areas to be of major importance in their day to day business. As such, entrepreneurs from different areas discussed at an event in Porrino (Spain) about the challenges that integration of laser-based equipment puts on users and suppliers alike. Closely connected is the discussion about the need for standardisation.

At LASER World of Photonics, LASHARE organised a conference on “Driving Innovation by Laser-based Manufacturing to the Regions of Europe”. This conference covered the challenges in Europe that laser-based equipment faces due to high labour cost, decreasing sales margins and high requirements towards robust quality levels. Key speakers from the European Commission, Photonics21 and I4MS Gate supported the conference which hosted 10 presentations on applied research in laser based manufacturing.

LASHARE has conducted a competitive call for new laser-based equipment assessments which will start their work in 2015. These laser-based equipment assessments will focus on sensors and knowledge based ICT systems that enable autonomous setup for fast and flexible manufacture or process and quality control for robust processes and fully documented production in the area of complex manufacturing tasks.

News and updates are published at the LASHARE website at <http://www.lashare.eu>. Follow the project on Twitter at @lashare_eu.

The above publishable summary is declared to be public. For the coordinator on behalf of the LASHARE consortium.

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