

CCOPPS - Certification of competences for the Power and Pressure systems Industry

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Malta is now involved in a half a million Euros EU-funded Leonardo da Vinci Scheme for a 2 year project. The project will be led by Dr. Jim Wood at the University of Strathclyde and also involves the University of Stuttgart, Warsaw University of Technology, CETIM (France) and NAFEMS (UK). The Leonardo da Vinci programme aims to stimulate innovation and enhance the competitiveness of the European pressure vessel and piping industry, through development in the skills of the workforce.

The power and pressure systems sector is one in which there is a particularly strong need for innovation and ongoing education and training. The European pressurised equipment market is estimated by manufacturer's associations to be worth around EUR 65 billion. The facts clearly show that in order to face the challenge of the emerging countries, the European power and pressure systems community must introduce innovative products and processes and prepare for the challenges that new power generation technologies will bring. At this point in time, many EU governments are wrestling with the perceived unpopular decision of sanctioning the building of new nuclear power stations. Currently, nuclear energy is the largest source of power generation in Europe and there is a growing concern that renewable obligations and associated technologies will not be able to replace the capacity of ageing coal and nuclear power stations. Meanwhile, work progresses on all fronts, including wind, wave and tidal generation, as well as clean coal and Generation 4 nuclear. While Europe's future energy policies remain a *hot* topic of debate, it is apparent that analysis and simulation will be used to ensure that all technologies are as safe, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly as possible.

Education is at the heart of these challenges and this is the focus of **CCOPPS**. In conjunction with industry, the partners will produce an Educational Base consisting of competence statements, which in turn will guide the development of effective modules for work-based learning. The focus is staff and personal development for engineers involved in the growing use of analysis and simulation in this industry sector. If any company working in the power and pressure systems sector is interested in the development of this educational resource, or in eventually assessing work-based learning modules in FEA and Design by Analysis, please contact martin.muscat@um.edu.mt.