



PRESS RELEASE

date: 11/12/2006

aluMATTER AWARDED BEST PRACTICE SUPPORTING EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN VET

The European Aluminium Association is delighted that aluMATTER, the European aluminium industry's interactive e-learning tool, received one of only ten awards for Best Practices supporting European cooperation in Vocational Education & Training (VET).

The Finnish Minister of Education and Science, Antti Kalliomäki, and European Commissioner, Ján Figel, presented the awards for projects supported under the Leonardo da Vinci programme on 4 December. Ten projects, out of a total of around 2000, received the award for having successfully promoted the European goals° at grassroots level, three of which were awarded in the category 'sectoral cooperation' which included aluMATTER.

The European Commission commented the aluMATTER project as follows: "The creation of European inter-institutional cooperation (companies – educational institutions) for production of industrially relevant learning resources in the complex field of aluminium engineering and technology is an achievement of true sectoral cooperation. The project is also a best practice for the creation of e-learning modules incorporating valuable pedagogical approaches for interactive simulations of the processes in the industry."

AluMATTER, coordinated by the EAA, is a partnership* programme on aluminium science and technology, which benefited from a three-year co-funding from the EU Commission's Leonardo da Vinci programme, is a high quality, interactive, pedagogically sound, innovative and freely accessible e-learning tool. The portal counts nine modules available for students and professionals alike, dealing with: Strengthening Mechanisms, Softening Mechanisms, Anisotropy, Surface & Physical Properties, Mechanical Properties, Machining Technology, Joining Technology, Forming Technology, Corrosion Control.

To visit the aluMATTER website please go to www.alumatter.info

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The 10 awarded projects with the Finnish Minister of Education and Science **Antti Kalliomäki** and EU Commissioner for Education, Training and Culture, **Ján Figel**

Notes to Editors:

° The projects awarded promote the aims of the Copenhagen Process on enhanced European cooperation in VET. The aims of the process, parallel to the Bologna Process in higher education, is to improve the performance, quality and attractiveness of VET, to promote the development of a European labour market and, consequently, to improve European competitiveness.

* Twenty alumatter partners from the aluminium industry, technical centres or universities contributed to the six last modules development: the European Aluminium Association, Aluminium Centre Belgium, Remi Claeys Aluminium (member of Sapa group), Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Dept Metallurgy, Electrochemistry and Materials Science, GDA - Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie (DE), RWTH - Institut für Metallkunde und Metallphysik, University of Stuttgart – Institut für Umformtechnik (IFU), University of Paderborn - Laboratory of material and joining technology (LWF), SLV Duisburg (Schweißtechnische Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt), Hydro Aluminium, CETIM (centre technique des industries Mecaniques), GLFA - Groupement des lamineurs et fileurs d'aluminium, Aluminium Centrum (NL), Corus, Alucluster (DK), Alcan, Cambridge University - Engineering Dept., University of Manchester - Materials Centre, MATTER Project - University of Liverpool, Alcoa.



Project co-funded by:



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

Aluminium is all around us. It is light and strong, corrosion resistant and durable, formable and highly conductive, it has natural shine and is recyclable. Aluminium provides intelligent solutions for present and future generations.

The European Aluminium Association, founded in 1981, represents the European aluminium industry from alumina and primary production to semi-finished and end-use products, through to recycling.

The European aluminium industry directly employs about 250 000 people.

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