



Special Interest Group on Reconfigurable and Flexible Manufacturing Technologies

The Reconfigurable and Flexible Manufacturing Technologies Special Interest Group focuses on technology to allow manufacturers to rapidly adapt assembly processes to suit production requirements. Pre-competitive research and development projects are defined in collaboration with the members and executed by NRC-IMTI. The main focus of the R&D will be on reconfigurable and flexible systems of products assembled by small and medium sized manufacturers.

Areas of R&D include technological advances in primary assembly processes: fixturing, material handling, joining, inspection and planning. These areas are essential to OEM's, automotive, aerospace and other transportation suppliers, and heavy equipment manufacturers.



Pre-competitive collaborative research

This proven collaboration model provides a cross-functional technology platform to forge durable relationships with key industrial partners, to maximise the impact through collaborative pre-competitive projects and to increase the awareness level in industry and academia. The SIG projects may benefit members in areas of cost reduction, time reduction and quality improvements through:

Improvements in development cycle time:

- Prediction of engineering requirements to launch new products



- Reduction of problems and ramp-up time
- Improved market response time.

Improvements to products and processes:

- More efficient processes and reduced costs
- Improved quality & product consistency
- Improved robustness and capital utilization.

For more information about the SIG on Reconfigurable and Flexible Manufacturing Technologies, please contact:

Dr. Sherman Lang, Coordinator
Telephone: 519.430.7096
Fax: 519.430.7064

For general information please contact:

NRC-Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Institute
800 Collip Circle
London, ON N6G 4X8
Canada
Tel: 519.430.7000

Visit our website: www.imti-itfi.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

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