FP7-People-IRSES-295130

Europe-China High Value Engineering Network (EC-HVEN):
Shaping Sustainable Engineering Sectors in Europe and China

Getting Started Guide

1st May 2012
Dear Partners,

Welcome on board and congratulations!

On the first day of our EC-HVEN project we’d like to circulate this short note and hope it will help us to get prepared for our long waited journey towards high value engineering. Our preparation will include four simple steps. Actions at each step are set out in the following pages.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without saying thanks again to all our Partners for a warmest collaboration that we have ever experienced. Together, we will form a fascinating community in this area full of excitement and of highest importance.

We are looking forward to a pleasant journey with you in the coming four years and further on! Now, Let the Project Start!

Best wishes,

Yufeng and Mike

Step1: Align the goal of EC-HVEN with your objectives

Step2: Introduce yourselves to our Partners

Step3: Refine the collaborative research projects

Step4: Attend the project kick-off meeting

LET THE PROJECT START!
Europe-China High Value Engineering Network (EC-HVEN)

1. Align the goal of EC-HVEN with your objectives

**ACTION:**

*Team Leaders* of our seven Partners please identify possible means to align the three strategic objectives of EC-HVEN with the main objectives of your research teams. This will feed into your introduction pack (see the attached *Partner Introduction Pack Template.ppt*, slide 9).

Europe-China High Value Engineering Network (EC-HVEN) aims to establish a framework for global network collaborations in high value engineering, manufacturing and innovation. The main strategic objectives (SO) include:

- **SO1:** Increasing awareness of the importance and potential value of engineering and networking within the community of high value engineering research.
- **SO2:** Providing a supportive environment for building collaborative research projects focusing on high value engineering capabilities and novel concepts of operations.
- **SO3:** Establishing a framework for global network collaborations in high value engineering areas.

We are going to achieve the above objectives through collaborative research projects, joint workshops, and exchange visits organised into eight work packages (WP). The ultimate goal of our work is to place international engineering collaborations on a solid base of scientific theories and enabling technologies. Together, we will shape and lead the agenda for future HVEN research on an international platform.
2. Introduce yourselves to our Partners

**ACTION:**

*Team Leaders* of our seven Partners please prepare a short presentation to introduce your organisation, your research teams, and relevant research activities taking place in your organisation. The attached *Partner Introduction Pack Template.ppt* will help you with this preparation. Please send your introduction pack to Yufeng by 1st June 2012. We will upload it to our Consortium Website.

EC-HVEN builds on leading expertise in Europe and China along the whole engineering value chain from research, design, development and production, to delivery, service, support, recycling and disposal. Seven Partners are involved from the Europe and China, who bring into this project complementary expertise along the full spectrum of the engineering value chain.

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The Antai College of Economics and Management

![Figure 2. EC-HVEN Consortium Structure](image-url)
3. Refine the collaborative research projects

**ACTION:**

*Work Package Leaders* please review your work package proposal together with our partners (pp. 8-16 in the attached Working Programme). The attached *Project Briefs Template.doc* will help you to plan individual projects within your WP. Each WP will send refined project briefs to Yufeng by 1st August 2012. Please indicate any changes from the original proposal and feel free to introduce new projects.

Each WP will have a few co-WP Leaders to facilitate communication and knowledge sharing between Partners. Named colleagues (with their names underlined) please initiate the first meeting (or telephone conference) with your co-WP leaders by 1st June 2012.

EC-HVEN has identified a set of main research themes which will collectively form a solid base for Europe-China collaborations along the engineering value chain, i.e. engineering and research (WP3), engineering design (WP4), engineering manufacturing (WP5), engineering services (WP6), engineering and sustainability (WP7), and ICT for high value engineering networks (WP8). WP leaders have been assigned by your research interest for the convenience of communication. Please feel free to join the other WPs. Yufeng will be very happy to make the introduction if this may help.

**Figure 3. The Engineering Value Chain**

To facilitate effective communication within and across the above main themes, we have suggested eight work packages (WPs) involving partners with common research interest:

WP1 & 2: Project Management and Knowledge Transfer, WP Leaders:
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WP3: Engineering and Technology Management, WP Leaders:
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WP4: Engineering Design and Innovation, WP Leaders:
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Yuan Zhou, E-mail: zhangys@bham.ac.uk, Phone: +86 13801207051

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Xiaobo Wu, E-mail: xbwu@zju.edu.cn, Phone: +86 13957123215

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Xiaofei Xu, E-mail: xiaofei@hit.edu.cn, Phone:+8613904517483
Yufeng Zhang, E-mail: zhangys@bham.ac.uk, Phone: +44 (0)121 414 6695

WP7: Industrial Sustainability and Engineering, WP Leaders:
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Yongjiang Shi, E-mail: ys@eng.cam.ac.uk, Phone: +44 (0)1223 339560

WP8: ICT for HVEN, WP Leaders:
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Xiaobo Wu, E-mail: xbwu@zju.edu.cn, Phone: +86 13957123215
Xiaofei Xu, E-mail: xiaofei@hit.edu.cn, Phone: +8613904517483
Yufeng Zhang, E-mail: zhangys@bham.ac.uk, Phone: +44 (0)121 414 6695
We understand that there must be a lot of interesting things we can do together with our Partners. To encourage a sense of integrity in this project, we’d like to suggest the following three main criteria for your consideration in project selection.

- The projects are something that you are likely to do in the coming four years. You may begin with your ongoing research projects, your recent grant applications, or something in the pipeline.

- The research topic has a close link to the engineering value chain. You may look at some business or technical issues from the perspective of a particular segment of the engineering value chain, e.g. engineering design, engineering services, etc.

- The research topic has a close link to international engineering collaborations.

Figure 4. Exploring the critical bonds between Europe-China engineering value chains.
4. Attend the project kick-off meeting

We are going to organise a formal meeting to kick-off EC-HVEN at Cambridge on 22nd September 2012.

In the meeting,
- The **Team Leaders** will introduce their research teams; and
- The **WP Leaders** will present collaborative research projects within individual WPs; and
- Together, we will explore synergies between individual research projects and finalize the working programme for the first two years of this project.

**ACTION:**

*Team Leaders and WP Leaders* please confirm your availability and let Yufeng know if you need any help to get a visa to visit UK by 1st July 2012.

Please feel free to suggest issues or agenda items to be discussed in our kick-off meeting.

**Figure 5. Things are going to happen in the future**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>March 2012</th>
<th>May 2012</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• Project Starts</td>
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<td>• Sept 2012 Getting Start Meeting</td>
<td>• 2013 WS I: Towards an overall framework for HVEN research</td>
<td>• Following up activities</td>
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<td>• 2014 WS II: HVEN implementation and application</td>
<td>• 2015 WS III: Integration &amp; synergies between HVEN research areas</td>
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**ACTIONS**
- Partners introduce themselves to the Consortium.
- WP Leaders say hello to each other and explore/refine collaborative research projects by 1st June 2012.
- WP leaders submit stage 1 research plans (Year 1 & 2) by 1st August 2012, using the project brief template.
- WP leaders present their research plans at the Cambridge Meeting on 22nd Sept 2012.
- Stage 1 projects agreed by the Supervisory Board in Sept 2012.
- First joint publication by 1st March 2014
- WP leaders submit stage 2 research plans (Year 3 & 4) by 1st April 2014.
- Stage 2 projects agreed by the Supervisory Board in April 2014.
- 2nd joint publication by 1st March 2015
- The rest of joint publications by March 2016
By the way, we will have a busy week full of interesting industrial and academic events commencing 17th September 2012 at Cambridge. We’d like to encourage our Partners to come earlier to attend the following events, and of course to explore the beauty of Cambridge when the weather collaborates.

Industry Conference - **Big Data and Big ideas: Future Opportunities for Complex Services**  
18 September 2012, Cambridge, UK  

Academic Conference - **The Future of Services in a Connected World**  
19-20 September 2012, Cambridge, UK  

The annual Cambridge International Manufacturing Symposium  
20-21 September 2012, Cambridge, UK  

*** The End of EC-HVEN Getting Started Guide ***