



Dear reader,

2020 has been a year full of changes and new challenges, but our team has been more active than ever!

We are pleased to send you the second edition of the Sector Skills Strategy in Additive Manufacturing (SAM) project e-newsletter with the latest updates on the project, events, and other related news about what happened during the second year of the project.

Regardless of the current circumstances, we wish you a wonderful holiday period, and we hope you'll be able to spend it with your family and recover well ahead of the new year!

SAM project team

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1. SAM: The Sector Skills Strategy in Additive Manufacturing

A large part of the existing industrial workforce does not have a background in emerging areas like additive manufacturing. As such, many companies are facing difficulties in employing competent engineers, operators, and technicians.

In the additive manufacturing sector, the European project Sector Skills Strategy in Additive Manufacturing (SAM) is working on solving this issue.

The SAM project started in January 2019 and will continue until December 2022. The main objective is to tackle the current European need for developing an effective system to identify and anticipate the right skills for the Additive Manufacturing sector demands.

To achieve these goals, we can count on 17 partners from 9 EU countries supported by a wide network of experts.

For more information please visit:

[SAM website](#)



2. Project News

SAM endorses the New Pact for Skills

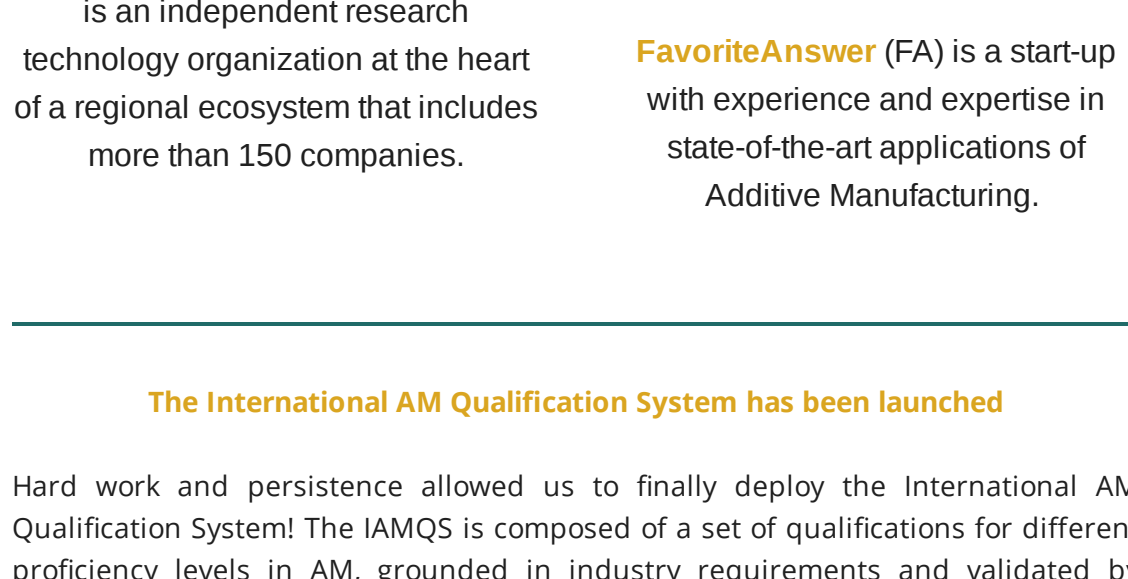
The European Commission launched the new Pact for Skills during the European Vocation Skills Week on 10th of November 2020. This was a key milestone for the promotion of skills development around Europe.

The SAM project supports the **Pact for Skills** by setting the Sector Skills Strategy Roadmap for the Additive Manufacturing sector. The flagship of this activity is the deployment of the **International AM Qualification System (IAMQS)** through a network of training providers, sustained by a strong connection between a wide range of industrial sectors.

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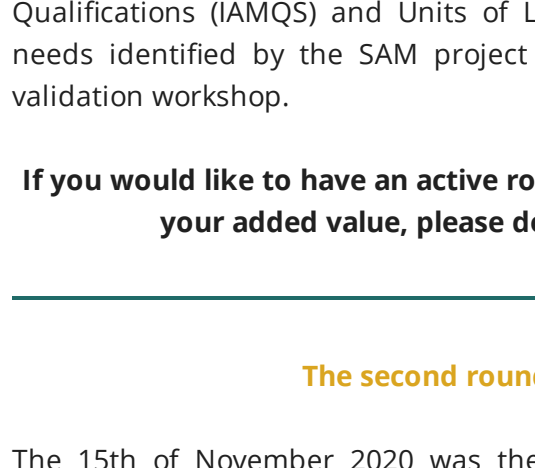
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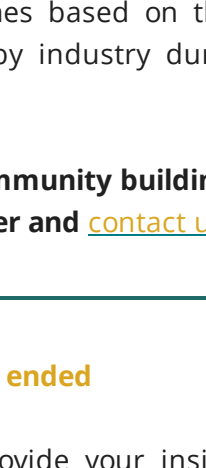
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Irish Manufacturing Research and **FavoriteAnswer** joined forces with us in the development of the Sector Skills Strategy in Additive Manufacturing. Both will be closely involved in all our project's activities, from the implementation of the methodology to the revision and creation of new Qualifications and dissemination activities. Welcome on board!



The **Irish Manufacturing Research Ltd. (IMR)** based in Dublin is an independent research technology organization at the heart of a regional ecosystem that includes more than 150 companies.



FavoriteAnswer (FA) is a start-up with experience and expertise in state-of-the-art applications of Additive Manufacturing.

The International AM Qualification System has been launched

Hard work and persistence allowed us to finally deploy the International AM Qualification System! The IAMQS is composed of a set of qualifications for different proficiency levels in AM, grounded in industry requirements and validated by experts. Managed by SAM's coordinator, EWF, the IAMQS can count on an experienced partner to deliver training aligned with European standards. The IAMQS will make up the backbone of the [SAM Observatory Platform](#) to be launched in January 2021.

If you wish to become an Approved Training Body for AM in your country and start delivering training aligned with the IAMQS, or you would simply like to know more, visit our [dedicated page on the SAM website](#).

The AM Metal Working Group started its activities in September

As a result of the engagement of SAM consortium with external AM experts, the first **Metal AM Working Group** has been defined and kicked off its activities on the 16th of September 2020. The group, led by David Wimpenny from MTC, will be responsible for the review and/or development of the International AM Qualifications (IAMQS) and Units of Learning Outcomes based on the industrial needs identified by the SAM project and validated by industry during the first validation workshop.

If you would like to have an active role in the AM community building and bring your added value, please do not wait further and [contact us!](#)

The second round of surveys has ended

The 15th of November 2020 was the last day to provide your insights via our surveys. We collected around 150 replies from AM operators and about 50 from companies using 3D printing in their everyday operations.

While we are preparing our needs validation workshop taking place on the 27 of January 2021, you can check the preliminary survey results addressing AM skills needs for 2020 [here](#).

The surveys represent the core tool to assess the current situation from different fields, and are working on making them more appealing, especially for the industry stakeholders. If you would like to know more about our methodology, read this article on [3D Printing Industry](#).

3. SAM Pilot Courses

Introduction to Materials (metal and alloys) - November 2020

Perhaps the most awaited achievement of 2020: in November, we launched our first **FREE SAM online course** based on the findings gathered from our survey-based research. Having assessed that the classification of the materials used to print in 3D is considered a fundamental asset when approaching AM technology, the SAM pilot course focused on introducing the most used materials, metals, and alloys.

Did you miss it? Do not worry! **Our team is already working to provide you with several AM FREE courses in 2021. Check out our latest [training offers](#) and register now. Registration is free but places are limited.**

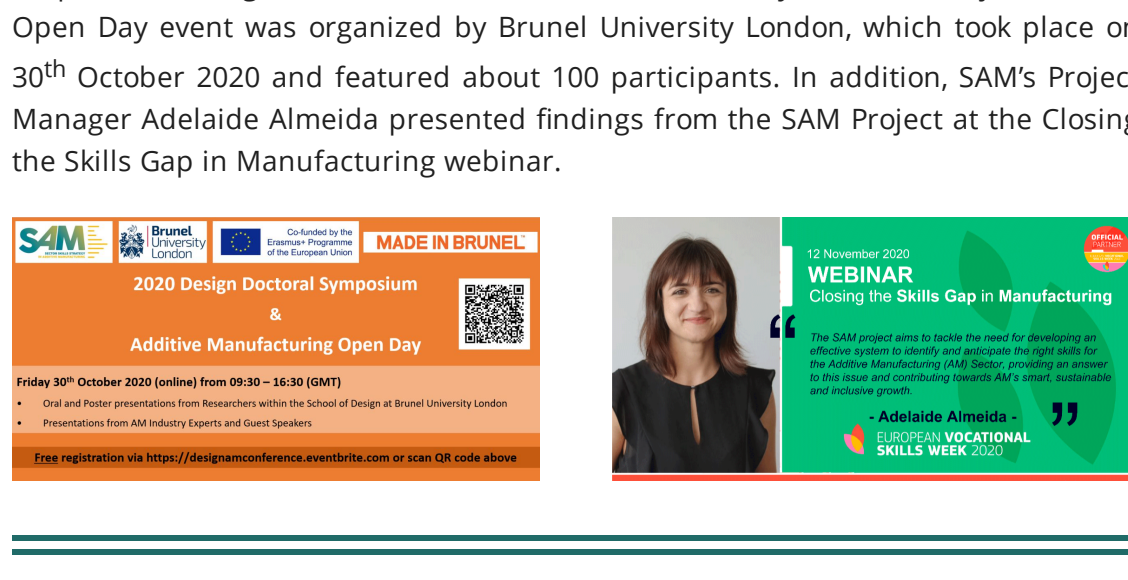
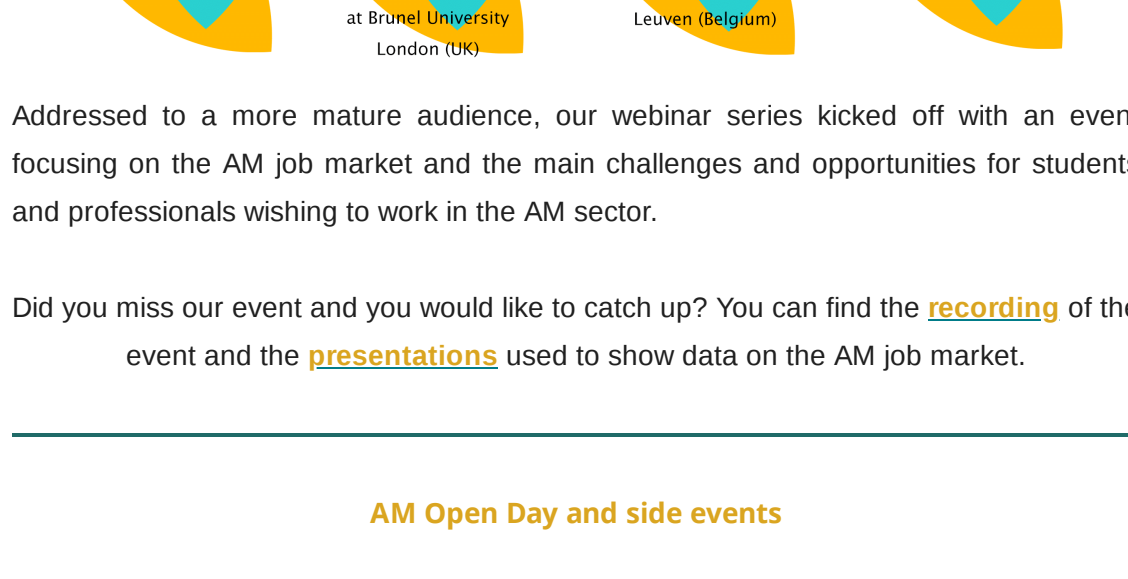
4. Events

SAM adapted to the circumstances and went fully digital with its events! This was also an opportunity to present our project in several webinars targeting a wide range of audience.

Check out what we have done this year and prepare yourself for more engaging activities in 2021!

First SAM Tech4Kids webinar was a blast!

In our effort to raise awareness on the potential of AM, the SAM project performed its first webinar dedicated to kids. Our partners from Brunel University London conducted an engaging event on 3D printing and how it can be used with a tailored content adapted to the youngest audience and to catch their interest.

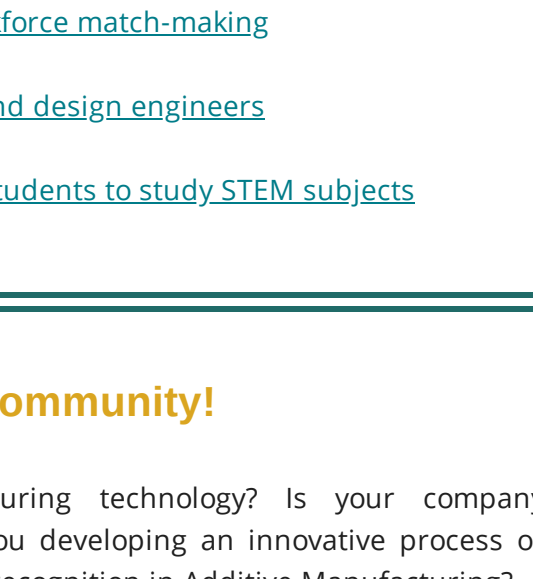
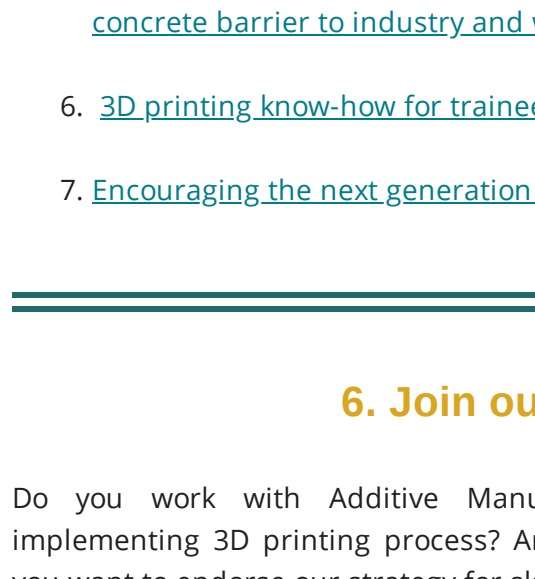


Addressed to a more mature audience, our webinar series kicked off with an event focusing on the AM job market and the main challenges and opportunities for students and professionals wishing to work in the AM sector.

Did you miss our event and you would like to catch up? You can find the [recording](#) of the event and the [presentations](#) used to show data on the AM job market.

AM Open Day and side events

As part of raising awareness and outreach activities by the SAM Project, an AM Open Day event was organized by Brunel University London, which took place on 30th October 2020 and featured about 100 participants. In addition, SAM's Project Manager Adelaide Almeida presented findings from the SAM Project at the Closing the Skills Gap in Manufacturing webinar.



5. Project articles

Read our latest publications:

1. [SAM: The solution to Additive Manufacturing skills shortage in Europe](#)
2. [The impact of the project objectives on the Industrial ecosystem](#)
3. [SAM An opportunity to enhance AM educational programs through training centers and universities](#)
4. [SAM surveys identify the current and future skill-gaps in the 3D printing industry's workforce](#)
5. [Lack of awareness on Additive Manufacturing among young people: a concrete barrier to industry and workforce match-making](#)
6. [3D printing know-how for trainees and design engineers](#)
7. [Encouraging the next generation of students to study STEM subjects](#)

6. Join our community!

Do you work with Additive Manufacturing technology? Is your company implementing 3D printing processes? Are you developing an innovative process or you want to endorse our strategy for skills recognition in Additive Manufacturing?

Good news! There are several ways to be involved in the SAM project with your expertise or endorsement, or both.

Endorse the European AM Skills Strategy



The European Commission has entrusted us with the blueprint for Additive Manufacturing, and we are delivering a comprehensive [Sector Skills Strategy Roadmap for Additive Manufacturing](#). The strategy for 2021 has been presented during the European Vocational Skills Week and has already received the endorsement from major stakeholders: training centers, industrial associations, RTOs among others have already shown their support to the strategy.

And you, what are you waiting for? For more information on how to endorse the strategy and become part of the SAM community, [contact us](#).

Become a SAM Associated Partner

If you would like to be more actively involved in the development of SAM objectives and be directly involved in the project, you can send your request to become a **SAM Associated Partner**. You will have entire access to our internal material and you will contribute to the creation of a new European strategy for Skills in Additive Manufacturing, and ultimately support the growth, innovation, and competitiveness of the sector.

[Contact us](#) to receive all the information needed to become an Associated Partner.

Expertise wanted

We are looking for different AM expert profiles to join our Working Groups! We are currently looking for experts in polymers-based processes for the **Polymers Working Group** tentatively starting its function in January 2021.

If you would like to be a member of the Working Group, contact the [leading expert Paula Queipó](#), directly at paula.queipo@idonial.com.

We are also looking for members to appoint in the **Qualification and Industrial Councils** that will be responsible for supervising the work of the Working Groups and validating their outcomes.

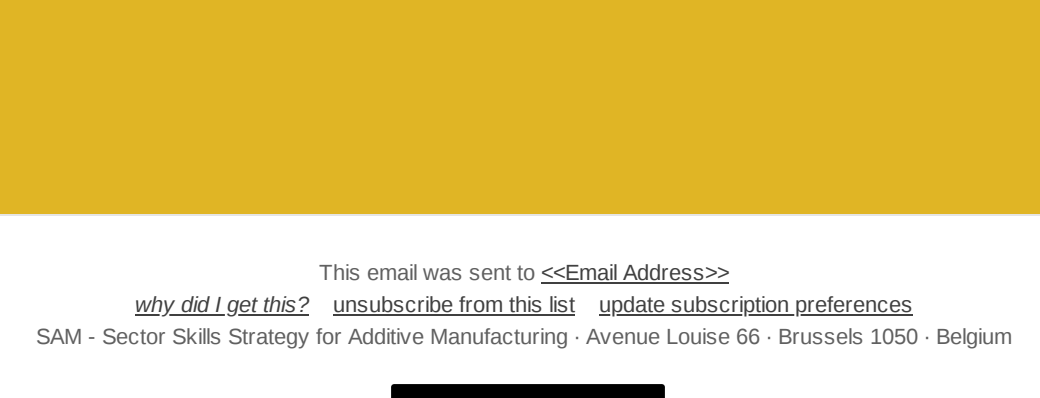
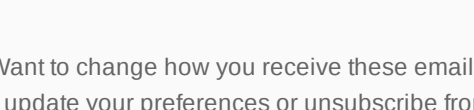
For more information on the Councils and their function, please visit our [website](#).

7. More to come in 2021

If 2020 has been full of news and events, 2021 will be even better!

The SAM project consortium is already planning the activities for next year. We have in the pipeline free pilot courses, a new podcast series on Additive Manufacturing, a comic series with our mascot SAM the beaver, and more webinars from our SAM Webinar Series.

Follow us on our social media channels to know more, or subscribe to our newsletter to receive exclusive event invitations!



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