

The Testing and Experimentation Facility to validate new AI technologies in manufacturing context.

Validate your latest technology solution in AI and robotics with access to our facilities and real-world manufacturing data or learn how a new technology could be applied to address your interest – with potential financial aid.

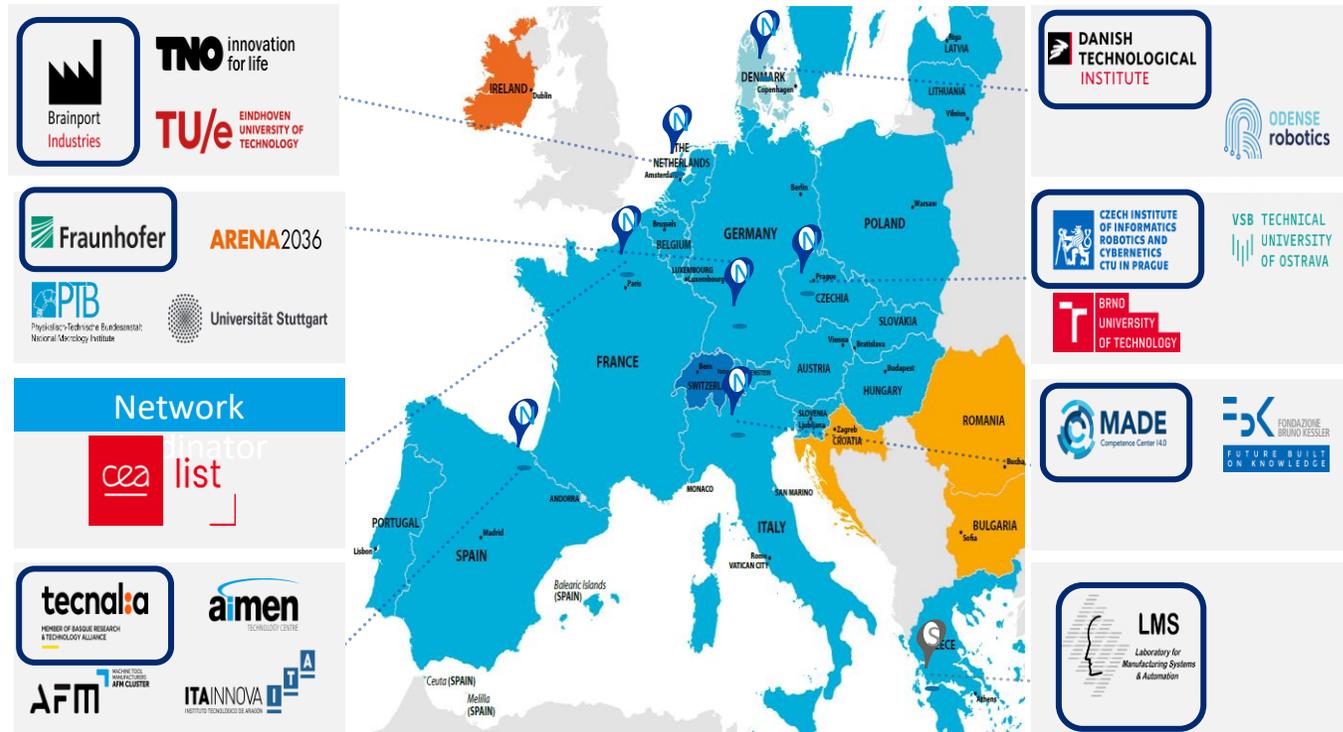
AI in ManufActuring TesTing and ExpeRimentation facilities for European SMEs

AI-MATTERS - The Manufacturing TEF



Co-Funded by the European Union, under grant agreement number 101100707. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

AI-Matters Network



8 Locations – 21 partners

60M€ (EU/Nat-reg-in-kind); Jan 23- Dec 27

Increase the resilience and flexibility of the European manufacturing sector through the deployment of the latest developments in AI and robotics, and intelligent, autonomous systems for flexible production, addressing all manufacturing sectors such as automotive, space and mobility, textile, recycling, etc.

We offer

Test and experimentation facilities and infrastructure to validate and demonstrate new concepts and technologies in a “real-world” manufacturing context.

Services where infrastructure, technology, knowledge, data are leveraged to address specific use case scenarios via collaborative experimentation.

For whom

For **technology companies** to test their AI-technology solution in a “real-world” manufacturing context and to mature / improve their solution based on the feedback.

For **manufacturing companies** to experiment with AI-technology solution and to evaluate suitability and potential impact of the AI-technology solution. Focus on start-ups, scale-ups and SME’s but large companies can be involved.



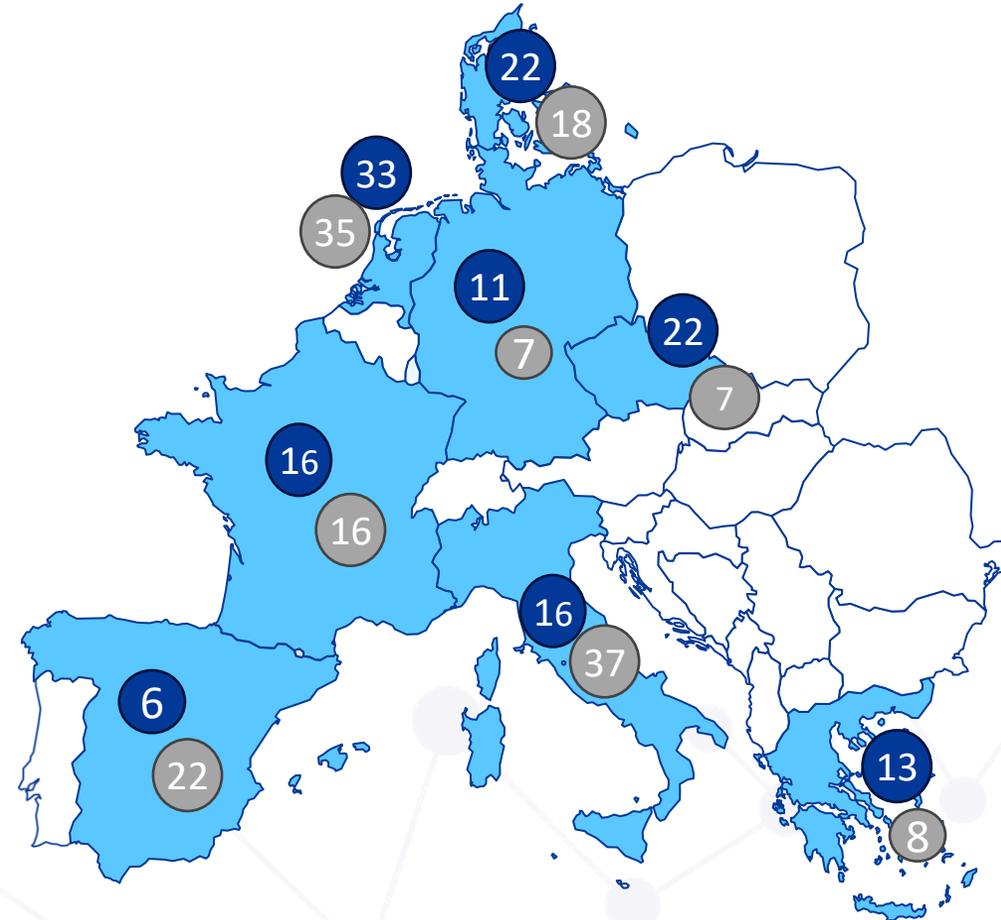
Early impact assessment

As of **December 2025**: 139 contracts signed

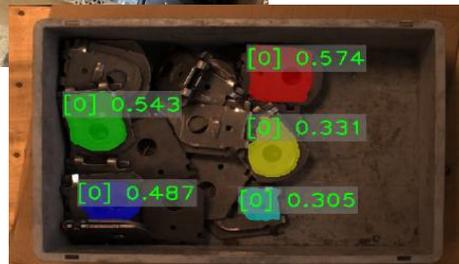
- Steady increase over the last 6 months
 - Most are under execution but 46 services already completed
 - 8 cross-border services
-
- **90% of SMEs** (but some Large companies are customers too)
 - **Diversity** of sectors : robotics, textile, aquaculture, and automotive
 - **Commitment and interest** since for some service nodes companies still need to pay 25% of service price
 - Average service costs is 42k€ with Average aid / discount is 31k€
 - Discount schemes vary yet often rely on de minimis state-aid regime

Dec 2025

- 139 Committed services
 - Execution started / soon to be
- 150 Potential future services
 - Under negotiation / investigation



Stepping into the Future: How NFB Coating is Embracing AI and Robotics with AI-MATTERS



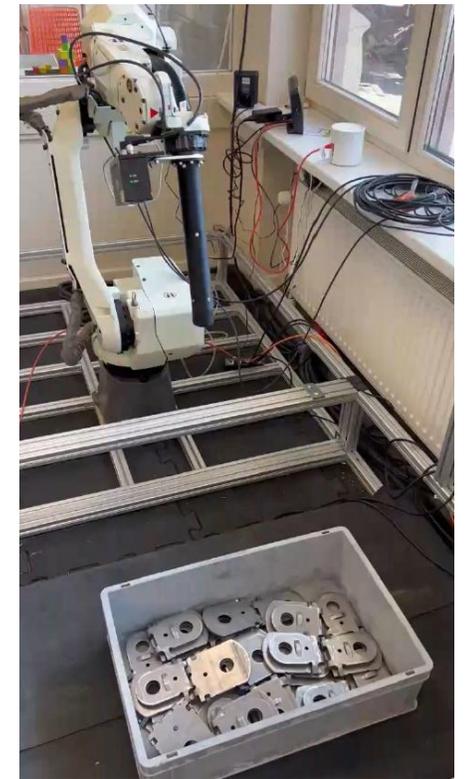
The Challenge

- Labour shortages and rising costs are putting pressure on manufacturers.
- For NFB Coating, manual work was becoming unsustainable.

"Advanced technology is no longer a luxury, but a necessity." -
Richard Kok, Managing Director, NFB Coating

The Opportunity:

- ✓ 🤝 In collaboration with Affix Engineering and Brainport Industries, NFB Coating joined the AI-MATTERS initiative.
- **Goal:** Explore AI-powered bin-picking to automate repetitive processes.
- **Focus:** Automatically pick and hang metal parts using robotics and computer vision.

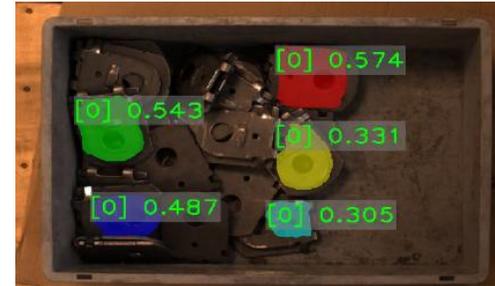


The Approach – Two Proofs of Concept

Use Case 1 - Small metal parts

- AI + 3D vision + deep learning
- Designed & tested grippers
- Smart hanging strategy using compact 3D camera

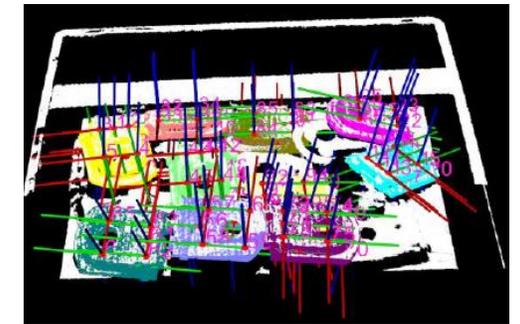
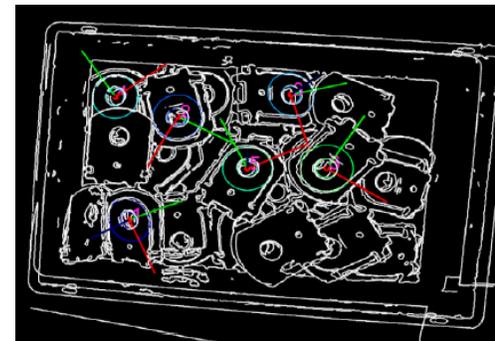
✓ Result: Technically feasible with high accuracy



Use Case 2 - Larger, heavier metal parts

- Point cloud-based object detection
- Custom gripper with 3D-printed fingers
- Reliable handling of heavy, tightly packed components

✓ Result: Safe, strong prototype demonstrated



The Results – Real Value Unlocked

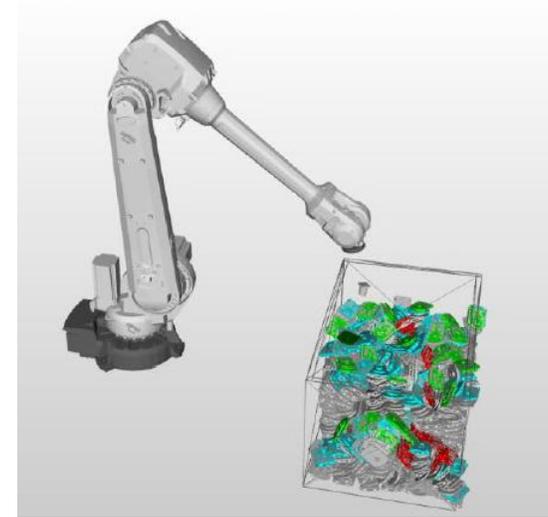
- Faster pick times → Significant time and cost savings
- Improved working conditions → Reduced physical strain
- Lower risk thanks to AI-MATTERS support

“We now have a solid foundation to build on.” - Richard Kok

Why AI-MATTERS Was Key

- Reduced risk and investment barrier
- Iterative development with real-time testing
- Concrete outcomes instead of theoretical models

“AI-MATTERS gave us the time and space to create a solution that actually works.”



Looking Ahead – The Factory of the Future

- NFB Coating is now positioned to scale its automation efforts.
- Confidence in AI is growing - backed by real results.

“We need to seize these opportunities to remain future-proof.” - Richard Kok

“This is how we bring AI into everyday manufacturing.” - Danny de Greef, Affix Engineering



Is Your Organisation Ready?

Discover how AI-MATTERS can help your business test, experiment, and implement AI.

Visit: <https://ai-matters.eu>

Contact us to start your own innovation journey.





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