



Stuttgart, 26. November 2008

Dear *ManuFuture* HLG member,

We are glad to inform you about the latest developments in the work of *ManuFuture*. As you all know we all worked diligently to implement a strategy that refocuses industrial and public attention back towards manufacturing and its processes.

Underlying is the conviction that a sustainable society has to be based on real value and that one can develop such a model into the future if manufacturing and its processes are understood as scientific challenges that can be met only by a concentration on goals and values as for instance described in our vision paper (*ManuFuture* Vision 2020) or our SRA (Strategic Research Agenda). Many of you have contributed to this effort; many industrial partners have provided insight into their respective roadmaps. And research as well as industry throughout Europe participated very actively in workshops for shaping and fine tuning our understanding of this road ahead.

Today we are glad to inform you that we reached a major milestone as the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso issued “**A European Economic Recovery Plan**” that documents that our efforts of the past now will be channelled into a JTI called “factories of the future” initiative which pursues and implements the *ManuFuture* Strategies. This will lead to a change in paradigm in manufacturing as the focus will be on sustainability, on adding value instead of cost cutting and in understanding the necessity of a midterm perspective in any industrial strategy if this industry wants to succeed in global competition. The ongoing economic crisis underlies the importance of the real economy rather dramatically.

By forwarding this information to you as member of the *ManuFuture* Platform I would like to thank you for your efforts, to ask for your support in making very clear to your environment that this new development of European policy is a clear result of *ManuFuture* work - ongoing now for several years - and to reassure you that we will increase our efforts to safeguard our work towards a JTI with which we want to provide the European Community with methods, tools and light house projects for proving the value we all have discussed and described.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

Heinrich Flegel
Chairman *ManuFuture* HLG