

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROWTH CENTRE

MEMBER PROFILE



Connect. Inform. Grow.

AMTIL was established in 1999, and is a not-for-profit group linking the country's manufacturing technology suppliers and users. The industry body represents the interest of 250 companies and 7,000 associate members involved in advanced manufacturing and precision engineering.

"Our membership is horizontally integrated within many well established and well-known sectors, such as aerospace, mining, medical, automotive, defence and oil and gas," explains Greg Chalker, AMTIL's Corporate Services Manager.

"By this I mean our members will typically do work for a number of those pillars and generally not sit within only one or supply only one."

This membership list ranges from sole traders producing widgets for their neighbourhood, all the way through to multi-billion dollar companies producing medical devices for the world. AMTIL offers four types of membership for manufacturing technology suppliers, technology users, industry supporters, and associates.

Among AMTIL's services are the biennial Austech expo, representation for members to government, networking events, a directory listing, government-backed programs, and the industry-leading publication, AMT magazine.

Chalker says that products and services all come under the motto of 'connect, inform, grow' This involves linking organisations and people, informing members about opportunities, and hopefully seeding growth as a result.

“Everything we do is in some way performing one or all of those things,” adds Chalker.

Part of AMTIL's mission is advocating for Australian industry to adopt new technologies to stay competitive.

Asked about the major trends affecting members in recent years, Chalker says "without a doubt these include the Internet of Things and additive manufacturing."

The trend of connectivity and data transparency throughout a manufacturer's operations is the subject of a collaborative project led by AMTIL and supported by AMGC. This affordably introduces 12 SMEs to Industry 4.0 methods through a capability audit and a customised pilot project.

Additive manufacturing adoption is something AMTIL promotes through Additive Manufacturing Hub, also aiming to position Victoria as the centre of AM in the country.

Additive manufacturing or 3D printing is a concept that has been in existence for three decades, but has only gained traction more recently. Austech hosted the first metal-based AM unit in Australia in 2007. The years after have been spent "chipping away" at public awareness, though it has been a hard slog.

“The world got off the block faster than we did; we were too slow to recognise the opportunity and we had a chance and didn't see it as a viable emerging manufacturing technology,” says Chalker.

"It is now our role to get as many early adopters as possible in the short time we have left before the wave turns into a mature everyday curiosity."

As with other much-discussed manufacturing tools, there is curiosity, but many are sitting back and watching. Chalker says it comes down to leaders and followers, with a five per cent to 95 per cent breakdown.

"Yes, everybody knows something about them," says Chalker of current technological trends.

“But just how is it going to help them and what do they need to do is still the unknown for many:

‘Where does it fit? What can I do with it?’ It is a long climb up the uptake hill and the sooner for as many as possible the better.”

He adds that AMTIL's and AMGC's goals overlap with both concerned with advancing the country's manufacturers. Joining AMGC was a natural fit for Chalker's group.

“Our mission is to encourage the uptake of leading edge technologies, methodologies and techniques (TMTs),” he says.

“AMGC's role is to support the development of a world-leading advanced manufacturing sector in Australia. AMTIL believe they go hand-in-hand and hence the relationship.”





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