



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING  
INNOVATION  
CENTRE

# AMIC CONNECT

## DECEMBER 2025 EDITION

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



# 2025 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT FOR AMIC

In September, AMIC returned as lead sponsor of the **Northern Ireland Manufacturing Conference and Supply Chain Expo**, with our team taking part in talks and panel sessions that allowed us to connect with companies and demonstrate how we support their advanced manufacturing ambitions.



In July we were proud to welcome **Minister for Finance John O' Dowd** and **Minister for the Economy Caoimhe Archibald** to join with **ANBC Mayor Leah Kirkpatrick** for an update of construction progress our new Factory of the Future site.

# CHARITABLE ENDEAVOURS

This year **NI Hospice** was AMICs chosen charity. We raised a total of **£898.07** from our fundraising campaign for the Belfast City Marathon Relay and collections throughout the year.



## PARIS AIR SHOW



In June of 2025, AMIC showcased Northern Ireland's aerospace innovation on a global stage at the **Paris Air Show**, reinforcing its role in advanced manufacturing.

## AMIC AT NEC BIRMINGHAM

**Graeme Ralph**, Head of Digital Factory at Advanced Engineering (NEC Birmingham) 30th October. Presented on our Virtual factory progress and how that develops into Design driven manufacturing throughout supply chains utilising new standards driven digital architectures and novel approaches to connectivity.



# SKILLS FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING INDUSTRY



AMIC reinforced its commitment to building a **future-ready workforce** through industry-led training, skills pipeline development, and strategic collaboration. We delivered advanced training programmes and refined our **Learning and Development roadmap**.

Our efforts supported **apprenticeships, internships, studentships and KTPs**. Through cluster engagement, foresighting studies, and outreach to schools and careers fairs, we shaped skills for emerging technologies and **inspired the next generation**. 2026 will build on these strong foundations.

## DELIVERING IMPACT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



More than **80 projects** delivered with our industry partners ranging from technical analysis to collaborative R+D

**10 KTPs** (Knowledge Transfer Partnerships) undertaken with local industry this year- translating research into practice

THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN DELIVERING A RANGE OF **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH** AND **INNOVATION PROJECTS** WITH OUR PARTNERS. AMIC HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN SECURING THE FUNDING AND IS NOW **EXECUTING PROJECT ACTIVITY** IN THE FOLLOWING LIVE PROGRAMMES:



#### **4WARD – Advancing Welding Automation with Industry 4.0**

A £9.5M project, with £4.8M funding from Invest NI, focused on **welding automation**. Partnering with industry leaders like Hyster-Yale, Terex, and Nugent Trailers, we're enhancing efficiency and precision in materials handling, helping manufacturers stay competitive in a fast-evolving market. This landmark project brings together companies of different scales and across **multiple sectors** - Materials Handling, Automotive, Agricultural Machinery, Construction and Aerospace



#### **COSMIC – Strengthening Cybersecurity for Manufacturing**

A £1.8M Invest NI-funded project focused on advancing **cybersecurity** for the manufacturing sector. In collaboration with Angoka Ltd, we're enhancing operational security, helping manufacturers safeguard their systems against growing cyber threats.



#### **DATUM - Digital Manufacturing Transformation**

A €8.2M PeacePlus initiative, led by AMIC in collaboration with Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR), focused on advancing digital manufacturing solutions. This project aims to enhance industry productivity by accelerating **digital transformation** and improving readiness across Northern Ireland's manufacturing sector.



#### **PRISM – Powering Research & Innovation for Sustainable Manufacturing**

A €7.6M PeacePlus initiative, led by South-West College in partnership with AMIC, driving the transformation of manufacturing through **sustainability and the circular economy**. This project advances cutting-edge research and innovation, delivering practical solutions that enhance the environmental performance of Northern Ireland's manufacturing sector.

# THE FACTORY OF THE FUTURE IS ON THE HORIZON

From early 2026, our new Factory of the Future will enable industry partners to **try new approaches**, validate technologies, and **de-risk innovation investments**—supporting faster, more confident decision-making in manufacturing.



## BUILDING OUR TALENT PIPELINE



In October we took on two apprentice IT Technicians, **Joseph** (R) and **Josh** (L). They will be with us for two years and we hope to take on more apprentices in the near future.

# AMIC ENTERS 2026 **STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED** AND MORE **AMBITIOUS** THAN EVER.

The momentum built this year reflects the scale and maturity of our project delivery, with AMIC's technical teams working alongside industry to tackle **real manufacturing challenges**. With the Factory of the Future opening in **early 2026** and a strong pipeline of industry-led projects in development, AMIC is well positioned to help **businesses adopt, test, and scale** advanced manufacturing technologies. We look forward to continuing to work with industry to deliver practical, high-impact outcomes.



**MORE STORIES, MORE IMPACT, AND  
MORE INNOVATION COMING YOUR WAY  
IN 2026- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



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