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Newsletter - NetCastPL4.0

Project in motion

Welcome to the October 2026 edition of our newsletter. In this issue, we summarize the NetCastPL4.0 project activities from May to October 2026 – a period marked by intensive international cooperation, dynamic network growth, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and strong engagement with industry and society.



Project Partners Meeting at Aalto University

A key event during this period was the Project Partners Meeting, held on 25–27 May 2026 at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland. Representatives of all project partners met to review project progress, discuss ongoing secondments and mobility activities, and coordinate plans for upcoming research, training, and dissemination activities.

The meeting also included training sessions on Open Science, technology transfer, commercialization, and equality, diversity, and inclusion, providing participants with valuable knowledge supporting both scientific excellence and innovation capacity building.



NetCastPL4.0 School on Perspective & Business

On 25–26 June 2026, the Faculty of Foundry Engineering at AGH University of Krakow hosted the second edition of the School on Perspective & Business. The event brought together researchers, students, and industrial representatives from across Europe.

The programme covered topics related to innovation management, entrepreneurship, technology transfer, artificial intelligence applications, and future development pathways for modern foundries. The School provided an excellent opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and establish new collaborations between academia and industry.



Knowledge sharing through seminars and training activities

In May 2026, the NetCastPL4.0 Seminar Series featured the webinar “Building a Career in R&D: From PhD to Professional Pathways”, delivered by Monica Favaro from CNR-ICMATE. The seminar focused on career development opportunities within research and innovation ecosystems, attracting participants from multiple institutions.

In July 2026, a scientific seminar was organized at CNR-ICMATE in Milan, where researchers presented recent advances in cast iron materials, microstructural characterization, and innovative casting technologies. The event further strengthened scientific cooperation among project partners.

At the end of September 2026, the NetCastPL4.0 Seminar Series featured “Fostering Ethical, Inclusive and Responsible Research Environments – Institutional Experiences and Perspectives from Across Europe”, delivered by Cristina-Elena Ciomaga from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași and Rosaria Anna Puglisi from CNR-IMM. The seminar focused on research ethics, academic integrity, gender equality and inclusion, promoting the exchange of institutional experiences and good practices across European research organisations.

On 27 October 2026, Zanardi Fonderie, in partnership with NetCastPL4.0, will organise a technical webinar entitled “From Material to Application: Austempered Materials for Advanced Engineering Applications”. Featuring technical sessions delivered by NetCastPL4.0 experts, the webinar will explore the metallurgy, mechanical properties and industrial applications of advanced cast irons, including ADI, AGI and IDI.

Promoting project results at scientific and industrial events

Project outcomes continued to be disseminated through active participation in national and international conferences.

NetCastPL4.0 was represented at the Non-Ferrous Metals Conference “Science and Technology”, where research on environmentally friendly moulding materials and lightweight castings was presented.

NetCastPL4.0 was also represented at the international Materials Science & Technology (MS&T26) conference in Pittsburgh, USA, where three presentations highlighted research conducted in collaboration with NetCastPL4.0 Network Partners, focusing on advanced cast irons, metal matrix composites and abrasion resistance.

Project was also strongly represented at the 76th World Foundry Congress in Istanbul, Türkiye, with six scientific presentations covering advanced ductile irons, innovative carbide-reinforced castings, surface modification technologies and environmentally friendly foundry processes aimed at reducing emissions.

NetCastPL4.0 was also represented at the Smart Materials and Surfaces Conference, organized by SETCOR in Seville, where research on “The role of casting skin and section

thickness in zinc coating formation on cast iron with added Ni".



The project's participation in Open Days and other events

NetCastPL4.0 actively promoted science among audiences of all ages through participation in the 13th Science Festival in Starachowice and Małopolska Researchers' Night 2026, hosted by the AGH Faculty of Foundry Engineering.

The project also served as a patron of the Metallurgy, Foundry Engineering and Recycling section of the 63rd AGH Student Scientific Clubs Conference and the Faculty's 75th Anniversary celebrations, engaging students, academic and research communities, and industry representatives.

In addition, NetCastPL4.0 participated in the 26th International Fair of Technologies for Foundry METAL in Kielce.



Strengthening cooperation with industry

Cooperation with industrial stakeholders remained a priority throughout the reporting period.

In July 2026, representatives of AGH University of Krakow, Aalto University, and CNR-ICMATE visited Zanardi Fonderie S.p.A. in Italy. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss future collaboration initiatives, exchange experiences, and explore industrial applications of advanced cast iron materials. Such interactions play a vital role in strengthening links between scientific research and industrial practice.

Growing NetCastPL4.0 Network

The NetCastPL4.0 Network continued its steady growth during the reporting period. Two new members joined the Network: the Department of Lightweight Elements Engineering, Foundry and Automation (K54) at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, which contributes expertise in lightweight structures, foundry engineering, and manufacturing technologies, and Hüttenes-Albertus Polska, a subsidiary of Hüttenes-Albertus Chemische Werke GmbH, one of the world's & leading suppliers of chemical materials and process solutions for the foundry industry.

These additions further strengthened the Network's scientific and industrial potential, enhancing opportunities for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and collaboration across the European foundry sector.

The Network currently consists of:

- 11 scientific institutions,
- 14 SMEs,
- 12 large enterprises,
- 3 industry organizations and clusters.

As a result, the NetCastPL4.0 Network has grown to 40 members representing universities, research organizations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises, and sectoral organizations from across Europe.

This balanced ecosystem creates excellent conditions for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, industrial implementation, and long-term cooperation in lightweight and sustainable casting technologies.



Looking ahead

Roundtable

The NetCastPL4.0 Project and the Polish Foundrymen's Technical Association will host the Round Table of Foundry Associations and National Organizations in Kraków on December 10, 2026. The meeting will bring together industry associations, universities, research institutions, and industrial organizations to exchange knowledge, strengthen cooperation, and develop joint initiatives for the foundry sector.

Workshop on Castings Foundry of the Future

The next major project event will be the Workshop on Castings Foundry of the Future, planned for 22 January 2027 at Teksid Iron Poland Company.

The workshop will bring together researchers, industry representatives, and policymakers. It will be an important opportunity to strengthen cooperation within the NetCastPL4.0 Network and foster dialogue between science, industry, and decision-makers.

Explore the NetCastPL4.0 E-Library



The project continues to generate a growing number of scientific publications, reports, conference papers, and dissemination materials.

All project outputs are available through the NetCastPL4.0 E-Library.

We encourage all readers to explore the available resources and publications. The E-Library provides open access to project deliverables, scientific articles, newsletters, conference materials, and other outcomes developed within the project, serving as a valuable source of knowledge for researchers, students, and industry professionals interested in Foundry 4.0 and sustainable manufacturing technologies.

Stay connected

Thank you for following the progress of NetCastPL4.0. We look forward to sharing further achievements, collaborative initiatives, and research results in our next newsletter.

Together, we continue building a stronger European community for sustainable and innovative castings.

Discover more and Get involved!

About Project



Schools & Workshops



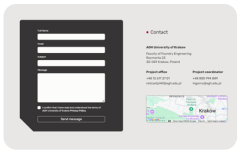
Events



E-Library



News



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