

With more than 270 industrial and academic entities involved in joint mechanical engineering projects, the **MecaTech Cluster is generating unprecedented dynamism in Wallonia,**

- **by creating business and jobs in Wallonia** through the preparation and the realisation of internationally driven projects, relying on networks
- and by being **a driving force** for the whole Walloon mechanical engineering sector.

Mechanical engineering relies on an ever more diverse base of scientific and technological knowledge and know-how: traditional mechanics, new nanomaterials, functionalization of surfaces, mechatronics, simulation methods, organic materials, biomimicry, ... These developments have led to the **hybridization of technologies** and to **groundbreaking innovations** which are essential in present innovation processes.

In those fields, it is critical to **be present on the finished product markets**, generating higher added value, allowing for less reliance on important ordering parties and to better endure crisis. **The growth rate of MecaTech Cluster** companies positioned on finished products is higher than the cluster companies' average and higher than the sector's.

**The MecaTech Cluster projects revolve around 4 technological domains**

- New materials (including nanomaterials) and functionalization of surfaces
- Some shaping technologies (e.g. additive manufacturing)
- Micro technologies and mechatronics engineering
- Intelligent production and maintenance

<http://www.polemecatech.be>

## Wallonia Export - Investment Agency, your gateway to Europe

AWEX (Wallonia Export-Investment Agency) is your one-stop shop and partner for your European development. AWEX will help you make the best decision based on the right information covering all regulatory aspects (legal, fiscal, permits, government support, ...) and links to the business and economic life through an extensive and efficient academic, scientific and industrial network.



**The MecaTech Cluster joins Wallonia Export-Investment Agency to create a team of specialists dedicated to your project. CONTACT US !**

### MECATECH CLUSTER

Jacques GERMAY - Managing Director  
(T) +32 81 20 68 50 - [jacques.germay@polemecatech.be](mailto:jacques.germay@polemecatech.be)  
[www.polemecatech.be](http://www.polemecatech.be)

### WALLONIA EXPORT-INVESTMENT AGENCY

Tanguy HUYBRECHS  
Mechanical Engineering & Advanced Materials Expert  
(T) +32 81 33 28 77 | [thuybrechs@investinwallonia.be](mailto:thuybrechs@investinwallonia.be)  
[www.investinwallonia.be](http://www.investinwallonia.be) - [www.awex.be](http://www.awex.be)

# Feel inspired



## Invest in Wallonia

**THE MECATECH CLUSTER,**  
a driver of innovation  
in mechanical engineering

## Invest in Wallonia

The place to be for your business in mechanical engineering

The MecaTech Competitive Cluster's international dimension is reflected in different ways: the international dimension of its projects (international partners at different steps of the value-added chain), the international recognition of the business network (number and quality of international partners, participation of international experts, access to international funding, etc.) and its ability to attract foreign entities looking to invest in Wallonia.

The international dimension of a project is contingent on setting an appropriate marketing strategy. Knowledge of the markets and their competitive structures must make it possible:

- to refine the product or process's specific characteristics in the R&D and industrialization phases and thus to improve its position on the market;
- to improve the quality and speed of the product or process's roll-out;
- to strengthen its competitive position;
- to identify potential international partners; and
- to develop new projects.

The Cluster thus supports market studies, sales strategy analyses, and scouting for partners abroad.

Key reasons to locate in Wallonia:

- Existing networks of companies and universities/research centres at the cutting edge of technology
- Major industry players and world leaders in the mechanical engineering domain: Alstom, ArcelorMittal, AGC Glass Europe, Thales Alenia Space, Siemens, IBA, Nanocyl, Amos, Umicore, ...
- Attractive public incentives for innovation and foreign investments
- Qualified workforce and training centre nearby
- Favourable tax environment and R&D incentives
- Favourable return on investment



**3,100** MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES generate  
€ 14.3 bn in annual turnover

**20,000**  
DIRECT JOBS

**46** PATENTS  
issued

€ 2 bn  
ADDED VALUE  
in 2014

The MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
sector accounts for +/- 40% of  
WALLOON MANUFACTURING JOBS

**100** NEW  
PRODUCTS  
& SERVICES CREATED

**58,000** jobs  
in the MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING sector

**93** RESEARCH,  
TRAINING &  
INVESTMENT PROJECTS

**3** INNOVATION  
PLATFORMS

**MORE THAN 70%**  
of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
GDP generated by EXPORTS

“There is no doubt that the innovation created by MecaTech and the Innovation Clusters has been instrumental in convincing our Japanese shareholders to increase their investments in R&D and innovation in Wallonia.”

**Marc VANDEN NESTE**

Vice-President CTO, AGC GLASS EUROPE

“The MecaTech Cluster’s unifying role as a catalyst of energies has allowed the collaboration of different partners, who might not have met otherwise. Moreover, the Cluster stays by our side providing us with the tools we need to develop ourselves more rapidly than if we had to rely only on ourselves.”

**Frédéric VASSORT**

CEO, AMPACIMON

“The MecaTech Cluster has been really helpful in creating the partnerships at the origins of the project. They also helped us greatly by structuring the project and providing us with effective monitoring all through the process.”

**Olivier FONTAINE**

Project Manager, LASEA

“The MecaTech Cluster has had a key role in the project’s development: it has allowed us to challenge our vision for the project and to choose the right people to carry it out.”

**Michel MASSON**

Maintenance and Technical Development Manager,  
SEGAL, TATA STEEL

“Working with the MecaTech Cluster is a true asset, at each step of the research project. MecaTech also assists its industrial partners by allowing them to participate in economic missions, and facilitating B2B connections at the local and international level.”

**Damien BERTRAND**

Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, IBA

“The MecaTech Cluster has first of all replied very pro-actively to the pre-project proposal that we had submitted. They allowed us to identify complementary partners who entered the project consortium and, with their experience and their network, improved the quality of the project preparation.”

**Luc PRIEELS**

General Manager, AIRRIA

“The MecaTech Cluster has been the keystone of our project: without it, the project simply wouldn’t have been possible. Our collaboration with the MecaTech Cluster has been of a very high level and has allowed us to go forward effectively with the implementation of said project.”

**Luciano DAPRA**

Managing Director,  
SAINT-ROCH, ENERTECH GROUP