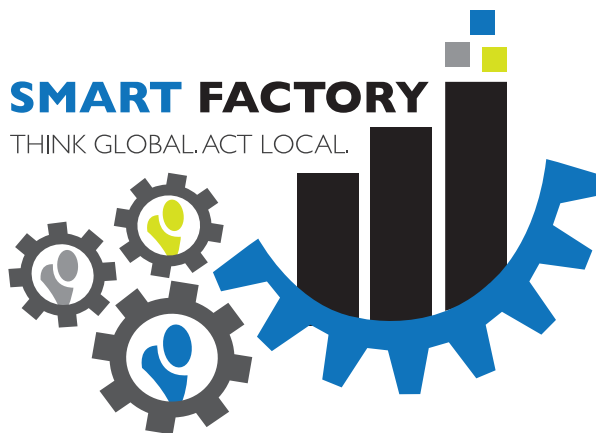


# INNOVATION and GROWTH IN SMEs





# SMART FACTORY

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## WHY did we launch this project?

There are many SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) in the region of Southern Denmark, which struggle with pressure from global companies to be more flexible, agile and productive as subcontractors, while maintaining low price and high quality. That is why, in order to increase the competitiveness of regional SMEs, and ensure satisfaction of their customers' needs; they are encouraged to form more strategic alliances. This is where The Smart Factory could be a great asset. Closer cooperation between regional companies, joint projects and product development will help in dealing with the high expectations of customers as well as handling dynamic markets. The project is launched in collaboration with

Southern Denmark, sponsored by Industriens Fond.

The inspiration for The Smart Factory concept comes from several visions of the manufacturing of the future, where various devices in cooperation create a very special environment, which allows the Factory to operate more efficiently. However, these visions focus on the development of big companies, which would be able not only to develop this system, but also maintain it in the long run. In our view this concept could be extended to SMEs, where we would consider not only the automation, but also the collaborative dimension (between different industrial and nonindustrial partners), where the 'smartness' comes from forming a dynamic and adaptive organization.

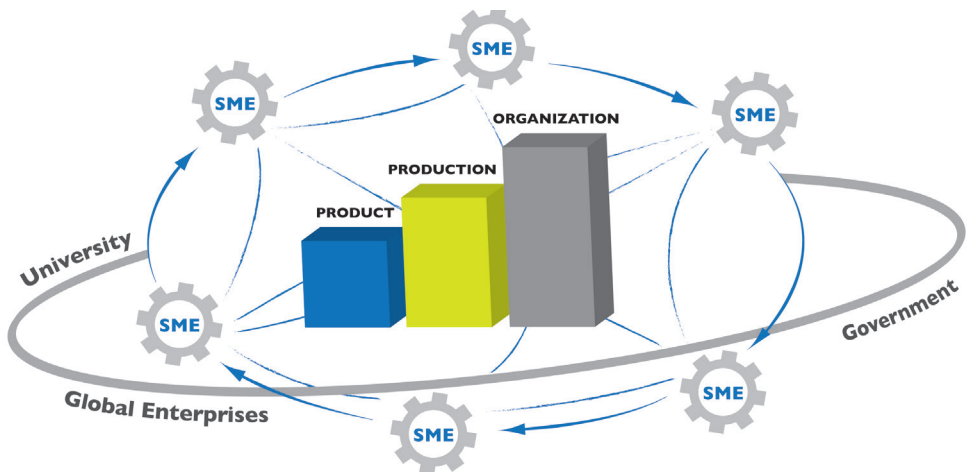
# WHAT are we planning to do?

The Smart Factory project was established in order to build a platform for cooperation across local organizations, including companies and academic institutes. Our aim is to stimulate growth of local companies and thus help to develop the Region of Southern Denmark. Based on knowledge sharing in an open innovation environment, we would like to both investigate and initiate different collaborative opportunities for SMEs.

During the project, it is aimed to identify the most valuable resources of the companies, together with the main challenges they face. Based on this preparatory work we will investigate new forms of possible organization, product development as well as production and supply chains.

The research will consider both technical solutions and operational and business-related value chain elements.

## SMART FACTORY ECOSYSTEM



## HOW do we want to do this?

The Smart Factory is meant to act as an umbrella-organization for projects aiming at developing local SMEs. Its role would be to initiate collaboration, assist in developing ideas for new and innovative products, processes and services as well as stimulate synergy and knowledge sharing in an open innovation environment.

The continuity of various activities should be assured by creating a network of regional companies, which could be potential partners in a variety of future initiatives also supported by the university. We would like to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, especially those which could not be handled only by a single company.



## RELATED Initiatives

Denmark has a strong tradition of cooperation, which among other things, has its origin in the Danish Cooperative Movement (Andelsbevægelsen). What is more, the Region of Southern Denmark has, more recent examples of local activities initiated between SMEs in order to be able to achieve more as a

group than as a single stakeholder. Additionally, there are other good practices in Europe of how innovative business ecosystems drive the development of regions; a good example is the Brainport area in the region of Eindhoven, Holland.

## CURRENT Initiatives

The AutoSyd project sponsored by Syddansk Vækstforum was established under the Smart Factory umbrella in order to support manufacturing SMEs in investigating, implementing and evaluating new automation solutions in their manufacturing facilities. Therefore, the project includes three main focus areas of the Smart Factory research, which are: organization – represented by a consortium

together with its supporting partners; product development – which will be an integral part of the project; as well as production – specially automation of the manufacturing facilities, which is addressed in the theme of the AutoSyd project.



Project in collaboration with:



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