

14/07/2015 – Full speed ahead towards the dissemination event

The Precious Project held its penultimate and seventh quarterly review meeting at the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter this week. Host Cooksongold and other project partners met with two focal points for the meeting: the closing of the project in September, as well as the dissemination event taking place on the 20th August at the School of Jewellery where all the finished demonstration pieces will be on display with key information about the design, preparation, build and finishing.

Partners are ramping up both the production of their many demonstration pieces as well as their media campaign for the final dissemination event. Project Chairman, Chris Lewis Jones of Delcam, opened the meeting by reminding partners that the project is coming to an end quickly, stating: "It is time to get the pieces on the table."

To date, more than 15 pieces have been produced with each demonstrating the capabilities and potential for additive manufacturing in the jewellery industry. These pieces each address an aspect of the broader theme of customisation, personalisation and individualisation; themes which are at the heart of the Precious Project and its consortium.

As the project focuses on using new hardware and software techniques to produce AM jewellery pieces, the partners are resolved to highlighting not only the original designs, but also the production steps and ultimately the final pieces, which will be on display in the atrium of the School of Jewellery on Thursday 20th August.

Monitoring officer, Helen Lucas of Innovate UK (IUK), is happy with the approach the partners have taken in both producing and exhibiting the numerous demonstration pieces. Commenting on the project, Helen said: "It is good to see so many tangible results in Precious", and noted that it is refreshing to have an opportunity to look at the beautiful pieces in detail.

On the technical side, the consortium has been focused on tackling some of the problems associated with support structure generation, such as adequate heat transfer. The as-built surface quality of the pieces has been significantly improved, along with the flow of media through difficult to reach areas of the pieces during smoothing and polishing.

The meeting ended with partners discussing and reflecting on the impact that the project has had or will have on their individual businesses as they each reviewed their plans for exploitation of the results. It was clear that there are exciting opportunities ahead, not only for the partners, but most importantly for the UK jewellery industry.

In the afternoon, following the close of the official meeting, partners catalogued all the demonstration pieces to identify where in the production process each piece was and assess the remaining effort required to bring each piece to showcase quality.



Demonstration piece: Orbis ring

Information about the August 20th symposium and exhibition “Future Technologies”

On the 20th August, the Birmingham School of Jewellery, are hosting a symposium and exhibition called Future Technologies as part of their 125th anniversary (<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/jewellery125>), where key technological developments within the jewellery industry are to be showcased. A special highlight of this event is that the latest findings in the Precious project will be presented by each partner involved in investigating the viability of additive manufacturing in the jewellery industry.

Location: Exhibition Hall, Atrium and Lecture Theatre, School of Jewellery, Vittoria Street, Birmingham B3 3PA

A prominent figure from IUK (Robin Wilson, Lead Technologist for High Value Manufacturing) is expected to give a keynote speech about how IUK is supporting additive manufacturing projects like the Precious project. 20 exhibitors with strong ties to the UK jewellery industry have already confirmed their presence at the event.

Keep an eye on the project’s website (<http://www.precious-project.co.uk/>) and our twitter page (@ProjectPrecious) for further details about this free event and its guest speakers.

Acknowledgements

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