

## The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, 14/04/2015 – Precious partners dive head first into adventurous demonstrator pieces!

As the Precious project approaches the end of its sixth quarter, partner JIIC hosted a meeting at the Birmingham School of Jewellery to discuss progress and what lies ahead. The project aims to demonstrate the viability of precious metal additive manufacturing within the UK jewellery industry; a goal that Precious is on track to meet with gusto!

Project Chairman, Chris Lewis Jones of Delcam, opened the meeting saying that ‘the exciting bit is yet to come’ with the focus now on producing the final demonstrator pieces. With all partners being exceptionally proactive and both mentally and financially invested in the project, more pieces than expected look set to be delivered. These range from highly customised pieces with a large amount of customer input into the final design, to pieces with more personalisation and individualisation elements within an existing design. This range ensures that the demonstrators are representative of potential offerings that additive manufacturing of precious metals jewellery can be within the UK jewellery industry. For example, one of the demonstrator pieces has been designed to incorporate heirlooms with the design being ‘grown’ around them. This means that the build will need to be stopped three times in order to place the heirlooms onto the structure. Creating the design and the support structures to accommodate the heirlooms is going to be a complex puzzle but as Lionel T. Dean of Future Factories said ‘It will be worth it!’ Other demonstrators with personalisation elements will require the customer to decide not only where stones are placed within the design but also the size and quantity of stones used.



*Partners meet at JIIC to discuss project progress*



*One of the demonstration pieces*

Several of the demonstrators have been produced so far and now partners will concentrate on ensuring that they are beautiful, wearable and saleable commercial design pieces. With this, thoughts turned to the dissemination event taking place on the 20th August at the School of Jewellery where all the finished pieces will be on display with key information about the design, build and finishing with Frank Cooper of the JIIC describing the aim of the event as ‘educating and informing the AM industry as a whole and more specifically the jewellery industry in general’.

Work will continue on finalising the pieces and testing different variations in the mechanical finishing/polishing process, such as how the piece is held within the machines and at what angle in order to ensure maximum automation without damaging the pieces. Further software developments and enhancements will be made to the AM software which is being used to orientate pieces as well as design support structures essential to successfully building the demonstration.



*Another demonstration piece*

### **Acknowledgements**

*As the UK's innovation agency, one of the main roles of Innovate UK is to achieve business and economic growth for the UK. One way the organisation supports this is through funding innovative Collaborative Research and Development (CR&D) projects. Collaborative research and development (R&D) encourages businesses and researchers to work together on innovative projects in strategically important areas of science, engineering and emerge, contributing to business and economic growth. Find out more about the CR&D programme here: <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/collaborative-r-d>*

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