

07.07.26

**WELDING, JOINING & MANUFACTURING
EXHIBITION - 2026**



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LECTURE ROOM 1

Innovation Lecture Room The Impact of Good Research

The Innovation Lecture Room at the expo is dedicated to exploring "the Impact of Good Research" as its central theme. Distinguished external speakers from IOM3, Make UK, and leading industry partners provide a broad perspective on how high-quality research drives innovation, supports industry transformation, and delivers tangible benefits for society and the economy.

Key topics addressed in the session include:

- **Technology Roadmap:** An overview of TWI's strategic investment and development plan, highlighting cross-cutting themes such as automation, robotics, data science, and quality management. The roadmap sets out how TWI and its partners are prioritizing capabilities to meet industry needs over the next decade, with a focus on sustainability, safety, and accelerating the adoption of new technologies.
- **The Future of Welding and Joining:** Insights into emerging techniques such as friction stir welding, advanced additive manufacturing, and novel joining methods for challenging applications (e.g., hydrogen storage, offshore wind structures). The session explores how these innovations are shaping the future of manufacturing and enabling net zero ambitions.
- **TWI's Greatest Innovations – What's Next:** A deep dive into TWI's most impactful research and development successes, including case studies from the Core Research Programme and collaborative projects. Presenters discuss how these innovations are being translated into industrial practice and what the next steps are for continued impact.
- Opportunities for interactive discussion, networking, and one-to-one innovation clinics, ensuring attendees can engage directly with experts for collaboration opportunities.

LECTURE ROOM 2

Innovation Centre Showcase Visibility, Alignment, and Strategic Context

The **Innovation Centre Showcase** provides a structured introduction to TWI's Innovation Centre network and its role in driving industry-led, collaborative innovation.

A moderated panel discussion brings Centre leads together to explore cross-cutting themes (e.g. digitalisation, net zero, materials, manufacturing, sustainability), opportunities for joint working between Centres, and how industry and SMEs can engage – either as project partners, challenge owners, or adopters of innovation: Brunel University London, University of Leicester, Anglia Ruskin University, University of Huddersfield, University of Arts London, Innovate UK

The **Brokerage Session** is a highly interactive, project-focused forum designed to turn shared interests into fundable collaborations. This session creates structured opportunities for matchmaking between organisations, ideas, and funding routes. The session begins with an external speaker, such as an Innovate UK National Contact Point (NCP), who provides an overview of the current collaborative funding landscape (both UK and EU – specific focus on Horizon Europe). This is followed by a series of short project pitches, typically 3–5 minutes each, delivered by IC/VICs, TWI (project leads) or other partners. Pitches focus on clearly defined challenge areas or project concepts, outlining:

- The concept definition
- The targeted funding call
- The type of expertise or partners sought



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