

AITOR ALKORTA, NEW PRESIDENT OF AFMEC



San Sebastián, 25 November 2020. The General Assembly of AFMEC, Spanish Association of Contract Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering, was held this morning by video conference. Elections were held among the more than 200 member companies of the association to renew the Board of Directors, resulting in the election of Aitor Alkorta, manager of the GOIMEK company as the new president, following Alberto Pérez from MEFABI, who passed him the torch.

On the new Board of Directors of AFMEC, Aitor Alkorta is accompanied by representatives of ALOT METAL, ARIZNABARRETA, OMICRON, FACTOR INGENIERÍA Y DECOLETAJE, FAED MECANIZADOS DE PRECISIÓN, FERROLOIU, IZADI MECANIZADOS, MECANIZADOS MANDRINADOS MANCISIDOR, MECANIZADOS TAR, TALLERES ARATZ and UMEC.

AFMEC was founded in 2016 at the initiative of AFM Cluster, with the intention of bringing together and representing companies from the metal-mechanical machining and transformation industry, to generate a strong image for the industry and encourage business cooperation and networking. In the four years since its foundation, AFMEC has grown its membership to 204 companies, for which it carries out activities for cooperation, internationalisation, training, technology and marketing. By forming part of AFM Cluster, AFMEC can address the challenges of the machining industry with greater guarantees of success and multiply its opportunities for collaboration with the more than 500 companies integrated in AFM Cluster.

In his first intervention as president, Aitor Alkorta highlighted the importance of collaboration, which he considers an essential feature in an associative environment. In the words of the new president of AFMEC: *“Despite the fact that the metal-mechanical transformation industry consists of small companies in their majority, it is through cooperation between companies that our small and medium sized companies will be able to address large projects. We are a strategic sector consisting of modern and well-equipped companies that are prepared to provide the best service. Our technical staff are more than qualified to draw up highly complex projects and cover the requirements of all the sectors of the industry so they can improve their manufacturing processes, reduce costs and do so in the most demanding conditions of precision and timely delivery”.*

Mr. Alkorta placed special emphasis on the fact that the sector brings together companies with many years of experience and that have been able to overcome previous complicated scenarios, such as the current one. He also made special mention of the importance of the support provided by AFMEC and its promoter AFM Cluster with regard to promoting an industrial reactivation plan to assist in recovering the sector’s inertia.

Mr. Alkorta underlined the various challenges he will address as president of the association with regard to digitalization, close relationships with the companies involved and attracting talent to the industry. The new president of AFMEC stated: *“Digitalization and Industry 4.0 generate opportunities that the sector must take advantage of. Technologies evolve constantly and it is essential for our companies to become aware of and adapt to them on a continuous basis. We also want to foster close relationships with all the companies comprising the association, regardless of their geographic location, and to attract the most qualified professionals so they can see first-hand what our sector can offer for their professional future”*.

For more information, please contact the Director of the Communications Department, María Ruiz-Lopetedi (maria.rlopetedi@afm.es), at 943 309 009 / 679 979 083.

PRESS RELEASE 06/2020

ABOUT AFM CLUSTER

AFM CLUSTER is the organisation that represents the interests of Advanced and Digital Manufacturing in Spain. Comprised of five industrial associations, it groups together more than 500 companies, which employ 16,500 people and bill more than 3.0 billion Euros. From its headquarters in San Sebastian, and its establishment in Tianjin (China), AFM CLUSTER works to promote internationalisation, industrial development, strategic positioning and employee training in its associated companies. AFM CLUSTER provides services to the following five associated and synergistic sectors:

- Machine-tools and advanced manufacturing technologies. AFM-Advanced Manufacturing Technologies is the original association that the CLUSTER is named after. Founded more than 70 years ago, it has 128 members that supply machine tools and other equipment to industry, to manufacture components, accessories and cutting tools.
- Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing. ADDIMAT groups together 93 companies that operate in this new sector. Destined to be a relevant part in many industrial sectors, such as aerospace, biomedics and the automotive industry.
- Manual Tools, Hardware and Industrial Supply. ESKUIN represents 22 companies that manufacture manual tools and hardware products in Spain, with the highest quality and safety standards.
- Machining and Metal-Mechanical Transformation. AFMEC includes the group of machining and metal mechanical transformation workshops. With more than 200 member companies, its aim is to give visibility and services to one of the most important industrial groups in Spain.
- Technology-based companies and startups. UPTTEK already comprises 101 technology-based companies and startups for advanced and digital manufacturing.

AFM CLUSTER also has 77 service companies for the industry as partners. All these companies form part of the large family of advanced and digital manufacturing in Spain. AFM CLUSTER is a member of various international associations, such as CECIMO, ECTA and CEO and organises international trade shows and events, such as BIEMH, ADDIT3D, INDUSTRY TOOLS, SUBCONTRATACIÓN, WORKINN, BEDIGITAL and the CMH – Congress of Advanced and Digital Manufacturing and Machine-Tools.