

MEDIA RELEASE

ANCA and CSIRO developing novel 3D printing technology to manufacture cutting tools

Melbourne, 6 July 2022: Australian industry will soon have access to an innovative cutting tool manufacturing platform, thanks to a research collaboration between leading tool manufacturer ANCA and Australia's national science agency CSIRO.

The nine-month, \$928,000 project, which is supported by the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC), is developing a new additive manufacturing (3D printing) process for tungsten-carbide tools.

The additive manufacturing technology will enable affordable, high-performance tools to be manufactured using one platform, replacing the current production process of mould pressing, sintering, brazing and grinding.

Now in the advanced phase, the research is focused on refining the additive manufacturing technology ahead of ANCA taking the hybrid manufacturing platform to market.

Dean McBain, Research & Technology Manager at ANCA, said the project had the potential to transform the way tungsten-carbide brazed insert tools were made in Australia and across the world.

"ANCA's collaboration with IMCRC and CSIRO has accelerated the development of an innovative additive manufacturing technology which we believe has the potential to disrupt the \$2.2B global cutting tool market," he said.

"Successful completion of this project will allow ANCA to commercialise the new hybrid additive manufacturing machine platform, grow our workforce and revenue and fill a significant gap in the global tooling market."

Dr Kathie McGregor, Research Director for Advanced Materials and Processes at CSIRO, said the project would make metallic additive manufacturing technologies more accessible to Australian industry.

"In keeping with CSIRO's role of providing high-end research and development (R&D) support to the Australian industry using state-of-the-art equipment and world class know-how, we have collaborated with ANCA to further develop a unique technology," she said.

"We expect the outcomes may enable ANCA to diversify and grow its business and provide a boost to the local economy in terms of additional job opportunities and export income."

Dr Matthew Young, IMCRC's Manufacturing Innovation Manager, said IMCRC was pleased to be supporting ANCA's innovation, and in turn, contributing to the growth of Australia's advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

"As ANCA and CSIRO's R&D partnership demonstrates, additive manufacturing can generate significant benefits for Australian manufacturers, reducing costs and improving speed to market," he said.

"Once developed, this revolutionary technology can be applied to a range of cutting applications, creating significant global export opportunities and furthering ANCA's position as a market-leading manufacturer of cutting tools and equipment."

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About IMCRC

IMCRC is an independent and for-impact cooperative research centre with a successful, proven and scalable model for catalysing research and business partnerships that drives transformative commercial outcomes for participating Australian manufacturers. To date, IMCRC has successfully co-invested in more than 70 R&D projects, catalysing more than \$230 million in transformative manufacturing research. More information is available at www.imcrc.org.

IMCRC's activate program was introduced in 2020 to support shorter-term, industry-led research projects that help Australian manufacturers take action and gain a competitive edge in the post-COVID-19 world. www.imcrc.org

About ANCA

ANCA is a world leading manufacturer of computer numerical control (CNC) grinding machines, motion controls and sheet metal solutions. While the global headquarters remain located in Melbourne, Australia; due to the niche market we service, we export 99% of our products to customers in over 45 countries and have offices in the UK, Germany, China, Thailand, India, Japan, Brazil and the USA, as well as a comprehensive network of representatives and agents worldwide. <https://machines.anca.com>

About CSIRO

CSIRO is Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst. We solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. Our collaborative research turns science into solutions for food security and quality; clean energy and resources; health and wellbeing; resilient and valuable environments; innovative industries; and a secure Australia and region. www.csiro.au/en

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