

# InnoLAE Industry Day

An example of how the EPSRC Centre works to engage with industry and acts as a national centre for large-area electronics, is the innoLAE industry Day which brought together the UK's leaders in research, technology innovation and manufacturing of printed, flexible and large-area electronics. 90 delegates from 65 organisations attended this event the day before the main innoLAE conference to provide an opportunity for UK companies active in large-area electronics to network and discuss the formation of a new UK industry body for the sector.

The event featured a panel discussion on end-user needs for printed and large-area electronics with contributions from Jaguar Land Rover, Costain, GlaxoSmithKline and Savortex, covering applications in automotive, built environment, pharmaceuticals, packaging and the internet of things. This was followed by a presentation on future funding opportunities from Innovate UK, 29 quick fire company pitches in 40 minutes, and finally a networking drinks reception.

The objective for industry day was to consult attendees about the formation of a new community for the UK large-area electronics industry, called eMergent. The vision is to accelerate the growth of the UK electronics industry by bringing together companies that are pioneering the development of new ways to make and apply electronics and to:

- Provide a voice for UK companies in this sector, many are SMEs that would benefit from a collective approach.
- Represent and promote our sector in communications with key stakeholders: government and other public and industrial organisations.

- Provide a mechanism to support companies seeking to fill supply chain gaps using the unique experience of its sponsoring members (CPI, CIMLAE and the KTN).
- Facilitate access to funding and investment.

Industry Day attracted companies from across the LAE supply chain, with the majority of delegates from SMEs, reflecting the current status of this emerging industry. Delegate feedback on the event was very positive with over 95% agreeing that their attendance was worthwhile and the networking opportunity was judged the most useful aspect of the day.

The event was followed up through questionnaires and an online survey which found strong support (>80%) for the creation of eMergent with possibilities for networking and information sharing being particularly valued. However, responses divided on whether industry would be prepared to pay to support this organisation and discussions are continuing with CPI on how such an organisation could be most effectively supported.

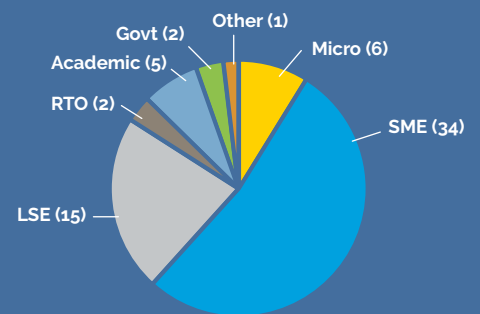
**"We expected to meet some development partners and we were VERY successful"**

**– industry day delegate**

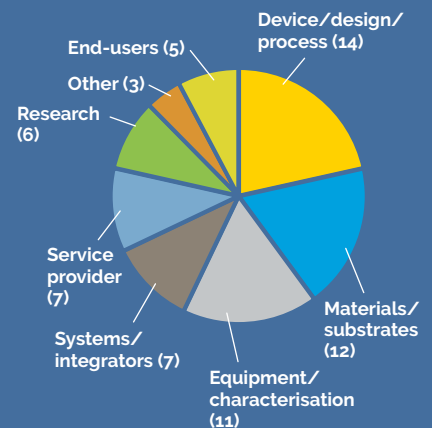
**"Good to see what needs are being expressed by industry"**

**– industry day delegate**

**Industry Day company type**



**Industry Day supply chain**



**"Very interesting for an Original Equipment Manufacturer like us. I look forward to learning more about the LAE industry"**

**– industry day delegate**