



Press Release

For Immediate Release

TINKER One Year Anniversary

The month of October marked the first anniversary of the Horizon 2020 funded TINKER project, which focuses on developing a new reliable, accurate, functional, cost- and resource efficient pathway for RADAR and LIDAR sensor package fabrication.

The project is coordinated by Leo Schranzhofer, a scientist at PROFACTOR GmbH with AMIRES' participation. The consortium comprises of top EU innovation performers from 8 European countries, who have been cooperating over the past year to defend the EU's leading position in miniaturization.

Autonomous driving and self-driving cars represent one prominent example for the use of microelectronics and sensors. As RADAR and LiDAR markets have the potential to double in the upcoming year, both public awareness and the automotive industry have been driving the ongoing efforts for further miniaturization of such sensor packages with the objective of integrating these devices into the car body.

Over the first year, the partners in the consortium have made a significant progress on the path to creating the proposed TINKER pilot line, that would offer a high degree of flexibility and reliability due to its modular character and the innovative techniques it aims to employ, especially inkjet printing and nanoimprint lithography.

Partners have been working on developing and perfecting designs, processes and materials required for the two selected use cases. They have been able to overcome the obstacles that the covid-19 pandemic posed and collaborated successfully on developing equipment and tools and shared samples, technologies, and processes.

Example of such fruitful collaborations are the completion of the pick-and-place equipment prototype; creation of the initial setup for improved inline monitoring and feedback and the infrastructure and tools set up for nanoimprint lithography.

The consortium has made a significant progress in equipment and tools development for the TINKER pilot line and a solid base for achieving the project's ambitious goals is now created. One year after the project's launch, it is well on track to reach its aim of widening the range of available miniaturization and microelectronic fabrication possibilities, and introducing novel approaches to assembly processes, directly in production. Both the project coordinator and AMIRES are anticipating the results of the upcoming years.

About TINKER

The TINKER consortium consists of 10 excellent industrial companies, 3 research specialists, one consultancy and a service association, all major players in the field of semiconductor and microelectronic manufacturing, as well as in the fields of material and process development and industrial fields of AM. All the partners have a track of nationally and internationally funded projects in their specialized research fields and as the best-in-class they defend the European leadership in miniaturization by gaining new know-how and skills for involved SMEs and R&D companies.

In addition, an External Advisory Board, consisting of experts in the field of microelectronics and automotive sectors supports activities of and within TINKER. Moreover, TINKER aims to exploit the results also via its Business Interest Group. Acting as an external body of the project, it consists of companies and network organizations are part of this group, such as European Photonics Industry Consortium, Organic and Printed Electronics Association or Virtual Vehicle Research GmbH.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Grant Agreement n° 958472 with an overall budget of € 10,241,526.25. The project is coordinated by scientist Leo Schranzhofer at PROFACTOR GmbH.

Additional information can be found on the project's website (www.project-tinker.eu) with news and updates also posted on [linkedin.com/in/tinker-eu](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tinker-eu) and twitter.com/project_tinker.

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