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**LEADING ENTERPRISES CONSOLIDATE EFFORTS TO CHAMPION SUSTAINABLE
MANUFACTURING IN SINGAPORE**

Launch of Sustainable Manufacturing Programme converges the efforts of SMA, SPRING, SEC and SIMTech to help Singapore manufacturers adopt sustainable manufacturing processes.

30 April 2009 - With industrial development rapidly expanding to support our burgeoning global population, SMA envisioned that the development of a conducive environment for the adoption of environmentally-friendly processes is crucial in ensuring sustainability of manufacturing in Singapore.

In pursuant of a clear goal towards sustainable manufacturing, SMA signed separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with two prominent partners – SEC and SIMTech; leveraging on their fields of expertise and professional skills and technology to identify, develop and promote the adoption of sustainable manufacturing practices among local manufacturers. This MOU ceremony was witnessed by Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education, Mr S. Iswaran, as well as SPRING Singapore's Deputy Chief Executive Mr Ted Tan at the Intercontinental Hotel.

It also marked the first-ever collaboration among three organisations to consolidate their efforts in conceptualising and developing customised sustainable practices suitable for manufacturers in Singapore. A slew of initiatives and methodologies are expected to be developed with particular focus on sustainable manufacturing. Some of the notable benefits include:

- Improves process flow efficiency

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- Reduces of energy use
- Improves productivity and profit margins by converting by-product waste into higher value-end products
- Achieves sustainable growth

“This unique collaboration between our specialised partners is the right step forward especially in this downturn where we can help our manufacturers cut on non-wage cost for business sustainability,” said Mr Renny Yeo, SMa President, “I believe through this Programme, they can enhance their competitiveness in preparation for the upswing of the economy.”

Commented Dr Lim Ser Yong, Executive Director of SIMTech, “We are delighted to be part of this partnership. It is also aligned with our vision to transform and upgrade our manufacturers’ capabilities through the development of technologies. SIMTech, to-date, has assisted local enterprises to break new ground and secure global markets using sustainable manufacturing technologies. Through this Programme, we aim to multiply these beneficial outcomes to the food industry for a start.”

The Sustainable Manufacturing Programme was initiated with a shared vision to transform and upgrade local manufacturers’ capabilities to meet future challenges. This new programme aims to increase manufacturers’ energy efficiency by reducing waste and carbon footprint through eco-efficient improvements to their manufacturing systems.

The Sustainable Manufacturing Programme will draw in SIMTech to review manufacturers’ operations so as to trim energy usage, thereby reducing operating costs. At the same time, the programme will focus on re-using and value-adding waste produced by factories. SEC will provide endorsement of the Green Effort through recognition of the green manufacturing practices or green products produced.

Besides being environmentally responsible, this programme will also enable manufacturers to attain additional revenue from converting waste from their products into higher value-end products. Through the reduction of energy usage and the improvised flow of energy

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efficiency, manufacturers are expected to achieve a return of investment (ROI) of up to 20 per cent.

The pilot project will involve a consortium of Food manufacturers from SMA. This project will improve their internal manufacturing processes, packaging usage and recycling of waste by-products such as used cooking oil or food waste that will be collected for conversion into animal feed or bio-fuel.

Interestingly, the participating companies noted three main benefits:

1. Reduction of operating costs such as utility cost through increased efficiency and recycling. As a comparison, the savings in utility costs may far exceed that of retrenchments.
2. Development of environmental technologies act as a showcase and reference site for exports to overseas markets and other sectors such as electronics and lifestyle.
3. Reduction in carbon emissions for Singapore.

Companies taking part in the programme will be able to tap on SPRING Singapore's EnviroTech Capability Development Programme for suitable sustainable manufacturing projects. The support level is up to 70% of the qualifying costs for SMEs and industry projects.

Commenting on the potential benefits of the programme, Mr Ted Tan, SPRING's Deputy Chief Executive said, "The Sustainable Manufacturing Programme will allow our SMEs in the environmental engineering sector to showcase sustainable environmental technologies that will open new global market opportunities for them. For the manufacturers, they can tap on these solutions to enjoy measurable energy savings, reduce their carbon footprints and improve their green branding for increased competitiveness in exports. This is a win-win business model that can be adopted across industries."

Following the successful implementation of the Sustainable Manufacturing Programme with the food manufacturing sector, the various partners are also exploring similar executions with other sectors including electronics, precision engineering, chemicals and logistics.

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Interested companies are encouraged to contact the official centre, EDC@SMa, at Tel: (65) 6826 3020 for more information.

About the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa)

Established since 1932, SMa's mission is to represent the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community and to drive its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs.

SMa is led by a Council that comprises of industry leaders from the manufacturing sector for an elected two-year term. Current membership is more than 2,600 corporate ranging from MNCs to SMEs, and SMa carries out a myriad of activities to enhance the competitive edge of our members.

Spearheading this collaborative initiative is the Health, Safety, Security & Environment (HSSE) Function Committee of SMa that takes care of cross industry issues and matters relating to health, safety, security and environment in the manufacturing sector. This includes the promotion of good corporate social responsibility.

For more information, please visit <http://www.smafederation.org.sg>

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About the Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech)

The Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech) is a research institute of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

SIMTech develops high value manufacturing technology and human capital to contribute to the competitiveness of the Singapore industry. It collaborates with multinational and local companies in the precision engineering, electronics, semiconductor, medical technology, aerospace, automotive, marine, logistics and other sectors.

For more information, please visit <http://www.SIMTech.a-star.edu.sg>

About the Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

The Singapore Environment Council evolved from the National Council on the Environment (NCE) which was formed in November 1990. The NCE was restructured to form a nationally oriented, independently managed body, to nurture, facilitate and co-ordinate environmental causes and groups in Singapore.

The Singapore Environment Council is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd November 1995. It is a non-profit organisation with the status of an institution of public character and it is an approved charity which therefore offers tax exemption for donors.

For more information, please visit <http://www.sec.org.sg>

About SPRING Singapore

SPRING Singapore is the enterprise development agency for growing innovative companies and fostering a competitive SME sector. We work with partners to help enterprises in financing, capabilities and management development, technology and innovation, and access to markets. As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING also develops and promotes internationally-recognised standards and quality assurance to enhance competitiveness and facilitate trade.

For more information, please visit www.spring.gov.sg.

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