

## New EIT Digital Activity will open the world of “predictive maintenance” to small and medium-sized enterprises

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ALMeS (ALM-enabled Smart Maintenance) is a new Innovation Activity which has been launched by EIT Digital’s [Digital Industry Action Line](#). The work will develop a **cost-effective solution based on the collection and analysis of real-time data from machines**. Italian company [Reply](#) will act as the Activity’s business champion. **Market launch is scheduled by the end of this year.**

Maintenance of factory machinery is performed today mainly at fixed intervals, or on a run-to-failure basis. Real-time data from machines, that could help predict when it’s time for a check-up, is not usually available, as heavy sensorisation of the equipment is too expensive for most companies.

This is especially true in countries where the average company size is very small. In Italy, for instance, almost 95% of companies have less than ten employees and reduced capital expenditure capability.

Other participants in the Activity include [Polytechnic of Milan](#), [FBK](#), [ST Microelectronics](#), [Cohaerentia](#), [Konux](#), and [Crowdee](#) as technology providers.

Its Add-on, Low cost, Multi-purpose (ALM) modules for measuring real-time parameters such as vibrations, energy consumption and temperature will allow factory managers to quickly and simply optimise machinery performance and reduce costs, switching from established patterns to the more effective method of predictive maintenance.

This change won’t require huge investment: ALMeS innovative sensors are based on standard fibre optics, low-cost microcontrollers and machine-learning software. By introducing predictive maintenance methods in their plants, manufacturers could slash maintenance costs by 25%-35%, eliminate more than 70% of breakdowns and boost a 25% increase in productivity.

Communications lead Digital Industry Action Line:

Federico Guerrini

T: +39 393 4747231

E: [federico.guerrini@eitdigital.eu](mailto:federico.guerrini@eitdigital.eu)

Customers of the new solution, which is scheduled for market launch by the end of this year, will be able to recoup the one-time fee for system implementation, plus the yearly evolutionary maintenance fee to be paid to ALMeS partners, with the savings made during the first year of usage.

Thanks to this semi-commoditised technology, the project is expected to have a significant impact in many industrial sectors with medium to high levels of automation.

Initial target sectors for the solution are likely to include the automotive industry and precision mechanics manufacturing. In a later phase, focus is likely to turn to markets which are more difficult to penetrate like the oil and gas and energy sectors, where maintenance requirements are more stringent and downtimes can heavily impact the operational costs.

### **About EIT Digital**

EIT Digital is a leading European open innovation organisation. Our mission is to foster digital technology innovation and entrepreneurial talent for economic growth and quality of life in Europe. We bring together entrepreneurs from a partnership of over 130 top European corporations, SMEs, start-ups, universities and research institutes.

EIT Digital invests in strategic areas to accelerate the market uptake of research-based digital technologies and to bring entrepreneurial talent and leadership to Europe. Our innovation and education activities are organised in and around our co-location centres, where students, researchers, engineers, business developers and entrepreneurs come together to drive the digitalisation of society.

EIT Digital is a Knowledge and Innovation Community of the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT). Since 2010, EIT Digital has consistently mobilised talent, ideas, technologies, investments and business across Europe and beyond to stimulate disruptive digital innovation. EIT Digital headquarters are in Brussels with co-location centres in Berlin, Budapest, Eindhoven, Helsinki, London, Madrid, Paris, Stockholm, Trento and a hub in Silicon Valley.

### **More about EIT Digital**

Further information: <http://www.eitdigital.eu/>

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**T:** + 39 393 4747231

**E:** [federico.guerrini@eitdigital.eu](mailto:federico.guerrini@eitdigital.eu)