

Media Release

For immediate release



Lindsay Evans - Speedpanel, Bod McArthur - Speedpanel & Matthias Weis - Deakin, meeting to discuss exciting updates to Speedpanel's production technology.

SPEEDPANEL® Embracing Industry 4.0

SPEEDPANEL® Embracing Industry 4.0 to streamline steel panel manufacturing process

The Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC) has granted cutting-edge fire rated and acoustic panel system manufacturer, Speedpanel, and Deakin University \$100,000 in funding to refine Speedpanel's steel panel manufacturing process.

During the 10-month research collaboration, the project team will use new steel forming and joining solutions to further enhance Speedpanel's production technology, with a focus on reducing waste and optimising and strengthening panel design. This research will also support Speedpanel's high-volume production output and enable the business to have a more refined platform for continued expansion locally and abroad.

Commenting on the project, Lindsay Evans, Speedpanel's Sales and Operations Manager, said the IMCRC activate funding would assist Speedpanel to further revolutionise the way it manufactures its fire rated and acoustic systems.

"By streamlining manufacturing processes with innovative joining solutions and advanced techniques for material monitoring and process control, we'll be able to evolve our product offering and bring a more environmentally friendly and sustainable panel system to market," he said.

“Tapping into Deakin’s expertise in material analysis and forming process control will enable us to assess and monitor material properties and key production parameters throughout the process to enhance process efficiency, enabling better quality control and reducing waste.”

(Left to right) Peng Zhang - Deakin, Lindsay Evans - Speedpanel, Matthias Weis - Deakin, Buddhika Abeyrathan - Deakin & Bod McArthur - Speedpanel

Matthias Weiss, Senior Research Fellow at Deakin University, highlighted the importance of connecting with the manufacturing industry on research and development (R&D) projects.

“Manufacturing large hollow sections of steel represents a major challenge for industry. With Speedpanel and IMCRC, Deakin University is helping to solve this problem by providing extensive support in material parameter monitoring and process control solution development,” he said.

“We’re also taking the findings from a previous Deakin University industry collaboration which has established a new and structurally optimised wall panel design and applying them to adapt Speedpanel’s cutting-edge system.”

Dr. Matthew Young, IMCRC’s Manufacturing Innovation Manager, said IMCRC was delighted to be co-funding the R&D required to advance Speedpanel’s manufacturing process to improve design, manufacturability, and performance characteristics of the wall system to help expand markets and profitability.

"Speedpanel has been a market leader in conventional panel manufacturing methods for the past 20 years. In only 10 months, this research collaboration has the potential to deliver transformational change to the business and pave the way for future product developments," he said.

“Supporting small to medium manufacturing enterprises like Speedpanel to embrace new technologies and the application of Industry 4.0 remains central to creating an Australian manufacturing sector that is thriving and globally relevant.”



(Left to right) Peng Zhang - Deakin, Lindsay Evans - Speedpanel, Matthias Weis - Deakin, Buddhika Abeyrathan - Deakin & Bob McArthur - Speedpanel

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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.

About Speedpanel

Speedpanel is an Australian owned and operated manufacturer of cutting-edge acoustic and fire rated wall systems. Developed by a team with many years of construction industry experience, the innovation behind SPEEDPANEL® systems addresses the practical, real-world challenges faced by builders, contractors, architects and engineers alike. Speedpanel's lightweight composition, ease of installation and superior acoustic properties has seen its wide uptake throughout the building industry.

About Deakin University

Deakin is one of Australia's leading tertiary education providers, offering a personalised experience enhanced by world-class programs and innovative digital engagement. Deakin takes a connected approach to solving global challenges, translating high-quality research into powerful solutions, policies and capabilities.

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