



areola

AREOLA PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES, ACHIEVING MILESTONES IN DIGITAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

[Porto Salvo, Lisboa]– The AREOLA project, an ambitious initiative aimed at revolutionizing vocational education and training (VET) in Additive Manufacturing (AM) for the aerospace sector, through the utilization of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies, proudly announces the successful completion of its objectives and results.

Throughout its implementation, the **AREOLA project** partners worked together to achieve the following outcomes identified at the project's call:

- Analysis of VET and AM industry needs for VR and AR training. <https://areola-am.eu/assets/docs/results/PR1/AREOLA%20PR1%20Report%20on%20Validation%20Needs%20Analysis.pdf>
- Development of online theoretical training tailored for Powder Bed Fusion – Laser Beam (PBF-LB) Operators in the aerospace sector. <https://areola-am.eu/results.html>
- Creation of VR training tools with practical scenarios for PBF-LB Operators. <https://areola-am.eu/results.html>
- Evaluation of the applicability of blended and on-site training strategies. <https://areola-am.eu/results.html>
- Establishment of blended learning guidelines for PBF-LB training. <https://areola-am.eu/assets/docs/results/PR5/Blended%20learning%20guideline%20for%20implementation.pdf>

Through collaborative efforts and dedication, the AREOLA project has significantly advanced vocational training in AM, particularly within the aerospace sector. By driving digital technologies and innovative training methodologies, AREOLA has successfully addressed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and prepared for a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable future for the AM industry.

The success of the AREOLA project is recognized by the collective expertise and commitment of its **consortium partners**: [FAN3D](#), [European Federation for Welding Joining and Cutting \(EWF\)](#), [LZH Laser Akademie GmbH](#), [Fundacion IDONIAL](#), [The Manufacturing Technology Centre Limited](#), [Make Real Ltd](#) and [EOS GmbH Electro Optical Systems](#).

Together, partners have demonstrated collaboration in driving innovation and advancing vocational training on a European scale.

Impact and Legacy:

The impact of the AREOLA project extends beyond its consortium, reaching stakeholders across Europe and beyond. Through dissemination activities, pilot learning activities, multiplier events such as the virtual roundtables and the National Conferences AREOLA has engaged with AM professionals, VET providers, national qualification agencies, and European institutions, fostering dialogue and promoting the adoption of digital training tools and methodologies.

In the last trimester of the project implementation, the AREOLA outcomes were presented to an audience of people coming from around Europe. In addition, this multiplier event was registered and performed under the umbrella of the European Year of Skills 2023, an initiative from the European Commission to raise awareness for skills adjustment. to raise awareness for skills adjustment.

At the European Conference, the participants who attended the AREOLA project rated this initiative with 8 out of 10 regarding overall satisfaction and assessment. The participants that attended the conference were representing Training centres, EWF's members and networks, higher education organizations and other industrial stakeholders.

During the event, they were able to get to know the AREOLA VR training tools and reflect upon the relevance of digital training materials and the importance of blended learning, to support the overcoming of skills gap and labour market needs.

Furthermore, AREOLA's outcomes are set to be integrated into the International Additive Manufacturing Qualification System managed by EWF, ensuring the sustainability and scalability of its solutions beyond the project's duration. By embedding AREOLA's results into qualification supporting documents and tools widely used across the European AM network of VET providers, the project's legacy will remain, contributing to the continuous improvement of vocational training in AM.

The successful conclusion of the AREOLA project marks a significant milestone in the advancement of vocational training for the AM industry. As the AREOLA project celebrates its achievements, we invite stakeholders from the AM industry, the vocational training sector, and European institutions to join us in reflecting on the impact of AREOLA and determining the future of digital vocational training.

Partners



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Project Number: 2021-1-PT01-KA220-VET-000034876.