PMG Conference 2016 - Mind Blowing

Ronan Lawlor

Manufacturing Workshop Supervisor

Well what can I say!

Having worked in the aerospace Industry for 25 ½ years with Pratt & Whitney.

What was I part of?

Pratt & Whitney develops game-changing technologies for the future, such as the PurePower® PW1000G engine, with patented Geared Turbofan engine technology. The company's worldwide large commercial engine maintenance, repair and overhaul network provides innovative services that add value and delight customers around the globe. Pratt & Whitney's large commercial engines power more than 25 percent of the world's mainline passenger fleet. The company continues to develop new engines and work with its partners in International Aero Engines and the Engine Alliance to meet airline customers' future needs.

Well that ended in 2015 when I became redundant! You still with me?

What next?

An opportunity arose to work in SeatTech, Enable Ireland as the Manufacturing Workshop Supervisor.

What do SeatTech do?

***“SeatTech develop and deliver quality systems of posture management and wheelchair service provision”***

Trying to adjust to this Posture Management business isn’t easy when starting out but then Mr. T (my manager) asked me to attend PMG.What on earth is that? Well having looked at the PMG website I knew I had to get there to witness this event first hand! And my experience there was absolutely brilliant in every aspect.

The Jamaican food & water was lovely on Monday night and I met some fantastic people there to which made me relax a lot more and enjoy the evening sharing stories, issues etc. on those work related scenarios (networking).

Well Tuesday was upon us and what a way to kick start the main event with Ade Adepitan’s opening speech & short film.An aspiration to all for the way he motivates with his vibrant energy, well done Ade!

My main interest after this was the 3D Printing and its application to posture & mobility by Sam Esson.

What is 3D Printing in brief?

3D printing or additive manufacturing is a process of making three dimensional solid objects from a digital file. The creation of a 3D printed object is achieved using additive processes. In an additive process an object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the entire object is created.

How can this benefit the specialised seating required for service users?

BMW have 3D printed wheelchair Seats!

3D printing provided a new solution for the British Paralympic basketball team as they rolled to the court in brand new wheelchairs with a hi-tech foam seat, designed by BMW engineers. The seat utilizes a technology previously used in Formula 1 cars providing the chair with the most aerodynamic cycling position possible.The new moulded foam seat is customized for each player using the latest 3D scanning and 3D printing technology. It reduces the chair’s weight and enables the athlete to move faster and to adapt better in the chair.The athletes are 3D scanned in a seated position. A 3D CAD model is then created from this data, which is then 3D printed using an EOS system — the EOSINT P 395 in this case — producing the customized chairs for the athletes. The process takes only two days.According to one of the players, Ade Orogbemi,

“*The new seat has improved my game enormously. The stability gives me the ability to turn quickly both going right and left, which I was unable to do before. The extra speed it gives me around the court makes it easier to defend against the best attacking sides in the world to give us that unique advantage. I believe it is allowing me to play my best ever basketball.”*

3D printed Wheelchairs are not the only hi-tech application used by Paralympians. Prosthetic body parts and other cutting-edge technology support devices have been applied for the athletes in order to create custom fit solutions.I can’t wait to delve into this more to help us to uncover better solutions to aid our service users.

Apologies for not mentioning all the other speakers that I had seen over my time at PMG.In time I will understand all the topics discussed more but one step at a time for me.

Thanks to all the suppliers and networking people I’ve met and hopefully I will see you’s all soon again.

Special thanks to PMG for inviting me to this wonderful well run event and no doubt PMG will thrive for a long time to come with great people at the helm.

Hope to see you all next time!

I’m sure someone would like to sponsor me next time ☺

***slán leat agus go raibh míle maith agat***

Ronan

SeatTech, Enable Ireland