



Norwegian Centres of Expertise
NCE Raufoss

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More than one hundred years of experience with international industrial development forms the background for the Raufoss industrial cluster, an outgrowth of Raufoss ASA. The cluster's core area of activity is the manufacturing of products in lightweight materials by automated production. Today, the main markets are automotive and defence, and the goal is to develop a national resource centre for manufacturing.

Background

With expertise originating in Raufoss ASA, the Raufoss cluster serves an extensive, global network of customers. Several of the companies are owned by international interests. The brand Raufoss is well established within their market segments globally.

The industrial cluster at Raufoss consists of nearly 40 companies with more than 5,000 employees. The group's total turnover amounts to roughly NOK 6 billion, of which exports comprise some 85%. SINTEF Raufoss Manufacturing AS (SRM) heads NCE Raufoss. SRM is a joint R&D company, acting as a resource centre and development partner for companies in the group and Norwegian manufacturing industry. SRM will also play the role of integrator through its well-established networks both inside and outside the cluster.

Initiatives & Projects

The projects at Raufoss are grouped into five main areas of activity:

- Development of the cluster and its networks
- New business
- Technology and infrastructure
- Linking education and practice
- Commercialization of R&D findings

Strategy & Objective

The core areas of development in the cluster are lightweight materials and automated production. These also comprise the core areas of expertise for all the companies in the cluster, as well as the area in which the cluster is on the international cutting edge. NCE Raufoss seeks to become a national resource centre in these areas. One objective is for the cooperating companies to maintain and strengthen their current market positions. Specifically, this will involve the re-creation of 150 jobs annually in existing companies. In addition, new companies employing 250 persons with a total turnover

of NOK 1 billion will be established and developed during this period.

By collaborating in targeted R&D projects, the companies will maintain and strengthen their market positions. Cooperation with educational institutions and expert circles at the regional, national and international levels will be crucial. The group has signed agreements with Gjøvik University College and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) as well as international Universities.

During recent years there has been increased focus on R&D within composite materials, sustainability and lean production and development, with several new partners established in the network.