

Brokering Additive Manufacturing (BAM)

Background

[Brokering Additive Manufacturing \(BAM\)](#) is an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) research project developing and realising the potential of agent-based manufacture to support nation's responsive, flexible, and resilient manufacturing capability. In particular, we are interested in meeting Big Demand scenarios, such as COVID-19 that has led to sweeping changes in product demand.

To be able to develop and model real-world applicable agent-based manufacturing, it is essential that we capture the current state of AM in terms of its usage, demand, and the challenges and opportunities in implementing agent-based solutions. This questionnaire is fundamental in achieving this goal and your input will be valuable.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate as a key informant who can provide commentary and information on the AM sector. You may work in industry, either developing or using AM. You may also work in a policy role that is relevant to AM.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is voluntary.

Can I withdraw at any time?

Yes, you can withdraw at any time during the survey/interview without giving a reason. You can withdraw your data until 30/03/2022, at which point research based on the data will have been published. To do so, please contact Dr Jennifer Johns at jennifer.johns@bristol.ac.uk or Dr Kautsar Ramli at kautsar.ramli@bristol.ac.uk.

What do I have to do?

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to fill in. If you opt to be interviewed, you will be interviewed for approximately one hour via an online video conferencing platform or in-person (based on your own preference). The research team can travel to you. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed. All responses will be kept confidential within the research team and anonymised for outputs.

How will the findings be used?

Both the survey responses and interview transcriptions will be anonymised and analysed immediately in the first half of 2022. Findings will be presented in academic papers, conferences, presentations, and blog. The intended audiences for the outputs are the AM sector, users of AM, policy makers and academia.

What are the possible advantages of taking part?

Your participation in the project will help inform research to guide local and national policymakers on the optimum forms of support required by the AM sector to thrive in and beyond

the current health and economic crisis and how best to respond to big demand. It will also inform the AM sector of current strengths and capabilities as well as give insight the challenges the need to be overcome.

Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?

Interview data will be encrypted and stored on OneDrive that is protected and owned by the University of Bristol, which shall be secured using a password encryption. All data will be anonymised, with pseudonyms given to participants and the organisations they represent. Participants will not be identified as a named individual in any report/publication. More information: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/>

What will happen to the data collected?

Long-term storage of the data will be on the University of Bristol Research Data Storage Facility (RDSF). This provides secure, long-term storage for research data as required by the EPSRC-funding guidelines. Project data will be preserved for a minimum of 20 years.

Who has reviewed the study?

The University of Bristol School of Management Research Ethics Committee: management-ethicscommittee@bristol.ac.uk

Link to the project website [here](#).