

Case 2 - ASSIST4SME (Austria) - test-before-invest service

[ASSIST4SME](#) (Austria) is a candidate EDIH part of PROFACTOR, an RTO, conducting applied production research in the field of industrial assistive systems and additive micro/nano manufacturing. Supporting more than [400 SMEs and large enterprises](#) on an annual basis, the hub provides solutions for the manufacturing industry setting standards in robotics, image processing, simulation, and functional surfaces and nanostructures.

Coordinated by the [AIT Austrian Institute of Technology](#), the hub has a strong network of local and international partners providing in-house a wide variety of [digitalization services](#) ranging from image processing, flexible robotics, simulation and data models for production, decorative and functional digital printing, and rapid prototyping and tooling to simulation and data models for production, micro/nano structures and technology consulting. In addition, the ASSIST4SME DIH offers access to [4 OpenLabs](#) which provide SMEs and large companies with the opportunity to experiment with digital technologies and drive developments forward. Indicatively, the [Cognitive Factory](#) lab develops and tests novel and assistive technologies for digital human-centered production engaging SMEs in the whole process. Similarly, [Cognitive Robotics and Factory](#) lab provide services and factory solutions in the field of robotics while [Mobile Open](#) lab equipped with six 3D printers of the latest generation (MakerBot, FormLAB and Ultimaker 2+), allows SMEs experience 3D printing in additive manufacturing which is the key to individualised and functional products.

Example of service provided to SME

ASSIST4SME DIH has recently supported Rupert Fertinger, a regional cooling system manufacturer who had no experience with cobots and could not estimate their technological properties and potential due to the lack of know-how. The SME was supported by [Profactor](#) technology in the evaluation of the application potential as well as in the definition, implementation and commissioning of the pilot installations. At the end of the project, 3 systems were ready for use and one system was in the phase CE Certification. Furthermore, 11 demo applications were examined and a technology evaluation center was set up by one of the hub's partners.