

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

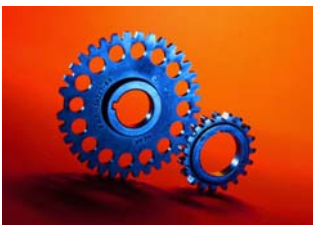
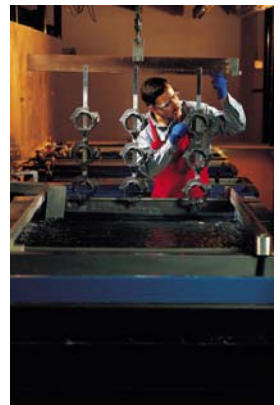
## Locating Innovative Networks

Dr Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Australian Expert Group in Industry Studies (AEGIS), together with Liverpool City Council, were awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to identify manufacturing industry concentrations with high innovation potential in the Liverpool and South-West Sydney area.

'These 'clusters' of manufacturing firms usually pursue collaborative opportunities with each other in order to get a competitive edge' says Dr Martinez-Fernandez. 'Once operating, clusters attract to their region other companies with similar profiles and firms providing the services they need such as IT, HR management and marketing services. In this way, clusters are a mechanism of growth.'

The researchers will analyse how knowledge flows among the cluster companies, identifying new growth opportunities as well as infrastructure that would sustain that growth. The research will be used to inform other firms of the potential of 'clustering' and the importance of innovation as well as contribute to a regional development policy.

A website will be established that will showcase the intensity of innovation in Liverpool manufacturing firms and will also be an interactive communication tool for the cluster firms, enhancing their network relationships.



**Project Title: *IMAN- Innovative Manufacturing Networks: Potential Industry Clusters in South West Sydney?***

**Funding has been set at \$50,000.**

Contact Details  
Dr Cristina Martinez-Fernandez  
c.martinez@uws.edu.au

Collaborating Partner:  
Liverpool City Council <http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au>

August 2005