

Cluster for Sustainable Cities partners with global engineering consultancy firm



Research is increasingly driven by the spirit of collaboration and the ability to form strategic alliances. “The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the **Cluster for Sustainable Cities** in the Faculty of Creative & Cultural Industries (CCI) with global consulting firm **AECOM** offers great opportunities for exciting collaborations and joint applied research projects, especially in the area of sustainable city development, high-performance buildings and urban resilience research”, says Professor Steffen Lehmann, Director of the Cluster.

AECOM is the world's No. 1-ranked engineering design firm*, with over 30 offices in the UK and over 90,000 employees in over 150 countries. Matthew Timms, Director of AECOM Southampton office pointed out that “AECOM has been transforming communities, improving urban living and powering green growth by designing, building and operating built environment assets and infrastructure around the world for many years. We are excited to have teamed up with the Faculty for Creative & Cultural Industries at the University of Portsmouth to share innovation driven ideas for a better future. For AECOM this is a strategic partnership with a strong research organisation.”

Professor Lehmann noted that “Cities have never been more important than today, nor has the competition between them been more intense. The technical knowledge, local connections and broad market experience in the design and construction sector available through this collaboration will allow us to share and deliver relevant research for specialised solutions across the entire project life cycle.” It is planned that initial projects will focus on practical research in modular prefabricated homes, sustainable urbanisation and aiming to develop architectural solutions to sea-level rise for UK's coastal cities.

*According to *Engineering News-Record* 2015 rankings.