



# Neotech AMT

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies for 3D Printed Electronics

## **3D Printed Electronics – Agile Manufacture of Mechatronic Systems**

*Dr. Martin Hedges – Managing Director*

*22.1.2019 – 3D Printing Electronics Conference*

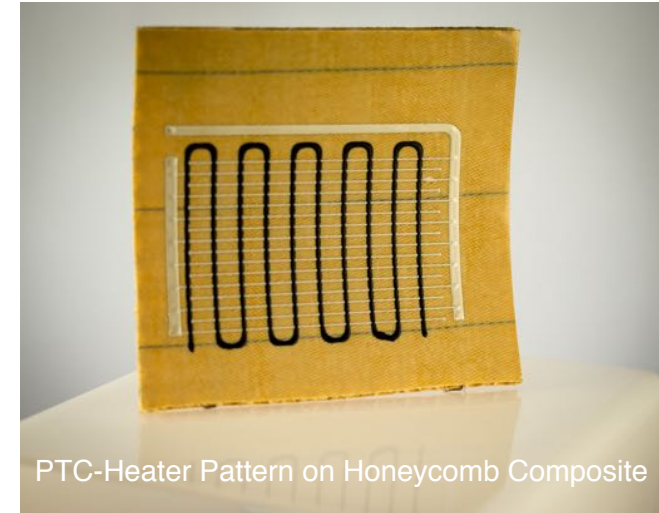


# Agenda

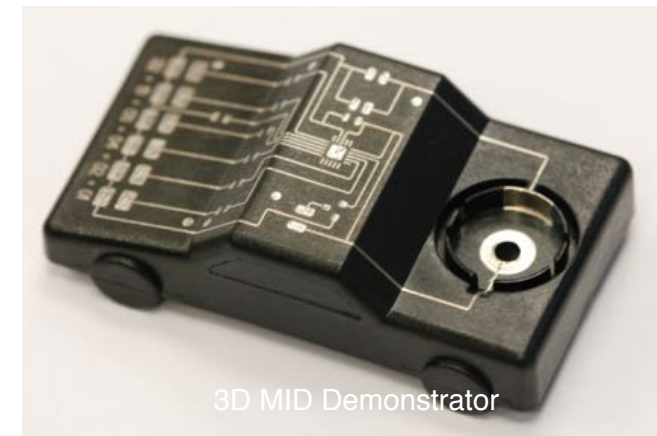
- 1. Company Overview*
- 2. Designing a 3D Printed Electronics Process*
- 3. Application Examples*
- 4. Beyond Simple Circuits*
- 5. 3D Print Systems*

# Neotech AMT GmbH

- Neotech manufactures system for 3D Printed Electronics.
- Pioneering 3D PE development since 2009.
- First 3D capable system installed in 2010.
- First mass-production capable system of type 45X built 2012. EU/US/CN patent granted 2015.
- 1<sup>st</sup> commercial sale & install of mass production system in Q3 2013.
- 1<sup>st</sup> commercial mass production started on Neotech systems in Q3 2015.



PTC-Heater Pattern on Honeycomb Composite



3D MID Demonstrator

# Market Need for 3D Printed Electronics

## Design Flexibility

Integration of Mechanics-  
Electronics-Optics

Flexibility of Shape

Minaturisation

New Functionality

## Economics

Reduced Part Count

Shorter Process Chains

Reduced Materials Use

Increased Reliability

## Environmental

Reduced Materials Mix

Simplified Recycling &  
Disposal

Reduced Material Quantity

Reduced Parts Tourism



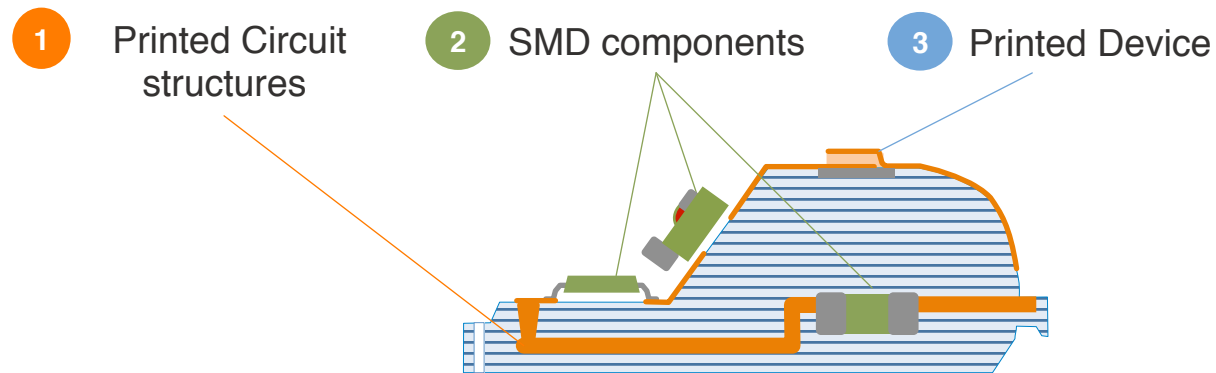
Multi-station Printing  
at LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG



Tank Filling Sensor  
Automotive

# Methods for 3D Printed Electronics (3D PE)

How to add electronic functionality to 3D shaped parts?

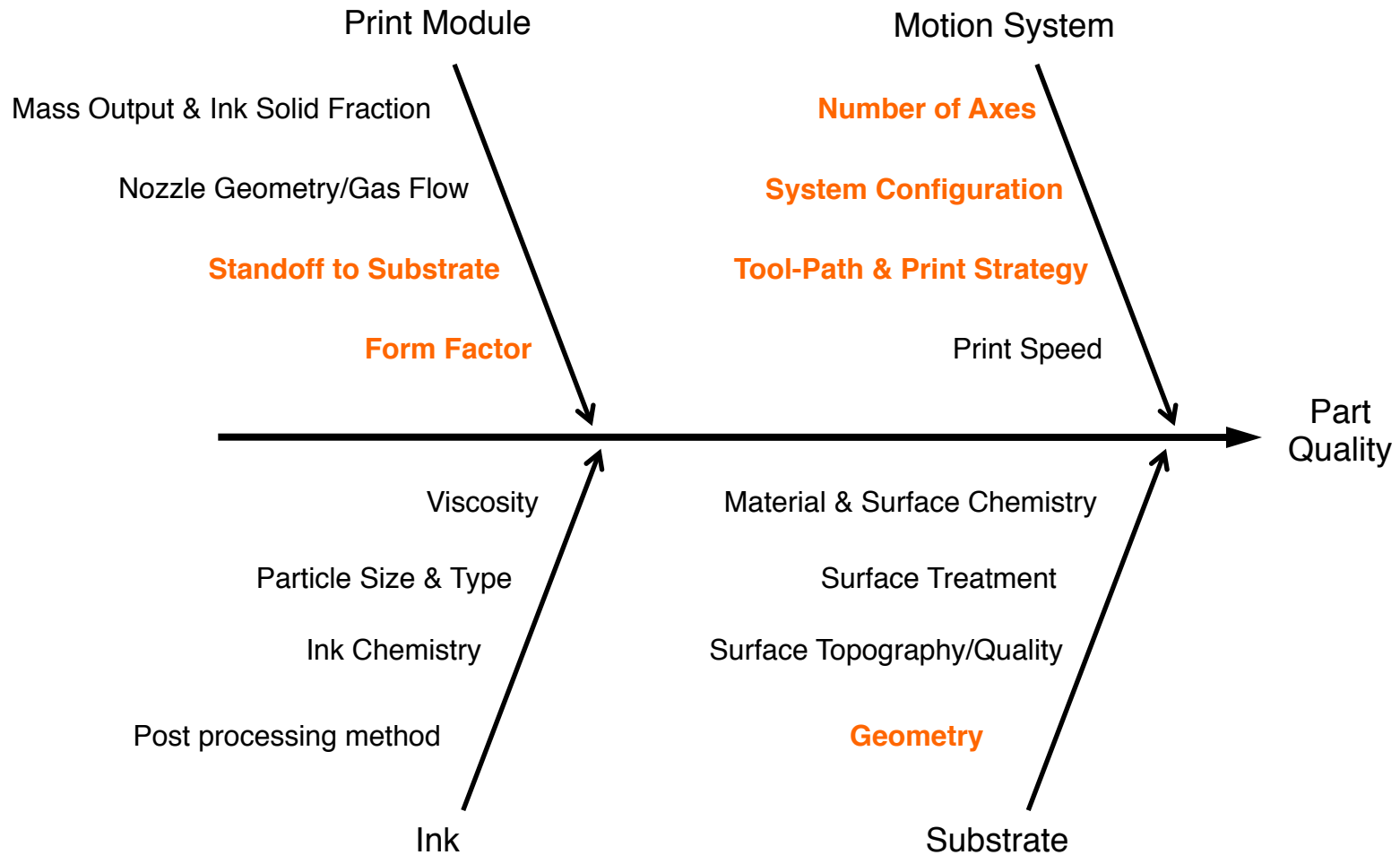


*Method 1:* Print on conventionally manufactured 3D parts: moulded, machined, composite  
*Development started 2010*

*Method 2:* Print on/in part manufactured layer-by-layer process: FDM, SLS, SLA, etc:  
*Development started 2016*

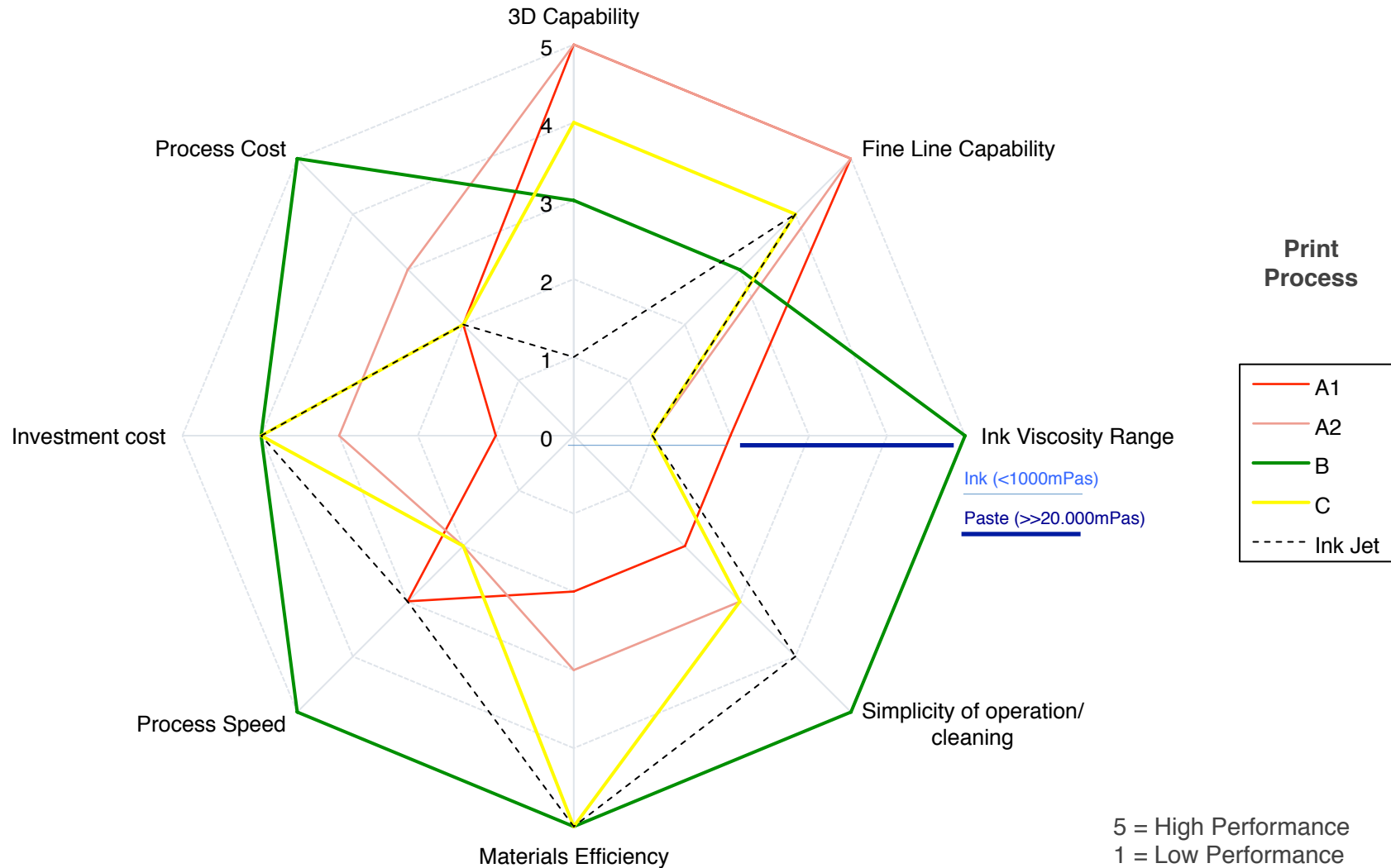
# Enabling a 3D Printing Process

## Key Process Variables



# Print Head Selection

Each print process has a unique combination of characteristics  
Process selection driven by application requirements:



# Dealing with complex geometries

## Motion 3D CAD/CAM Tool-path Generation Software

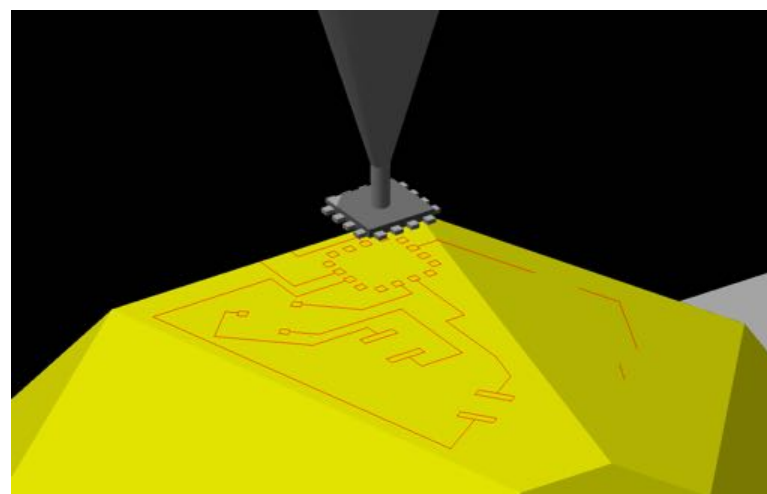
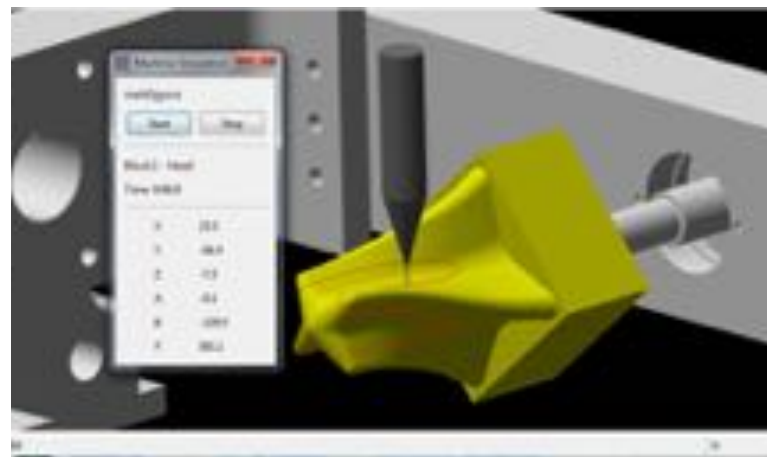
Simple process flow for 3+2 indexed to 5 axis simultaneous printing

All process steps (3D Print, 3D Circuit Print, SMD Pick & Place, Pre-/Post-processing) in single machine code

Optimised cycle times via free definition of the print sequence

Printing path & machine motion simulation including collision detection

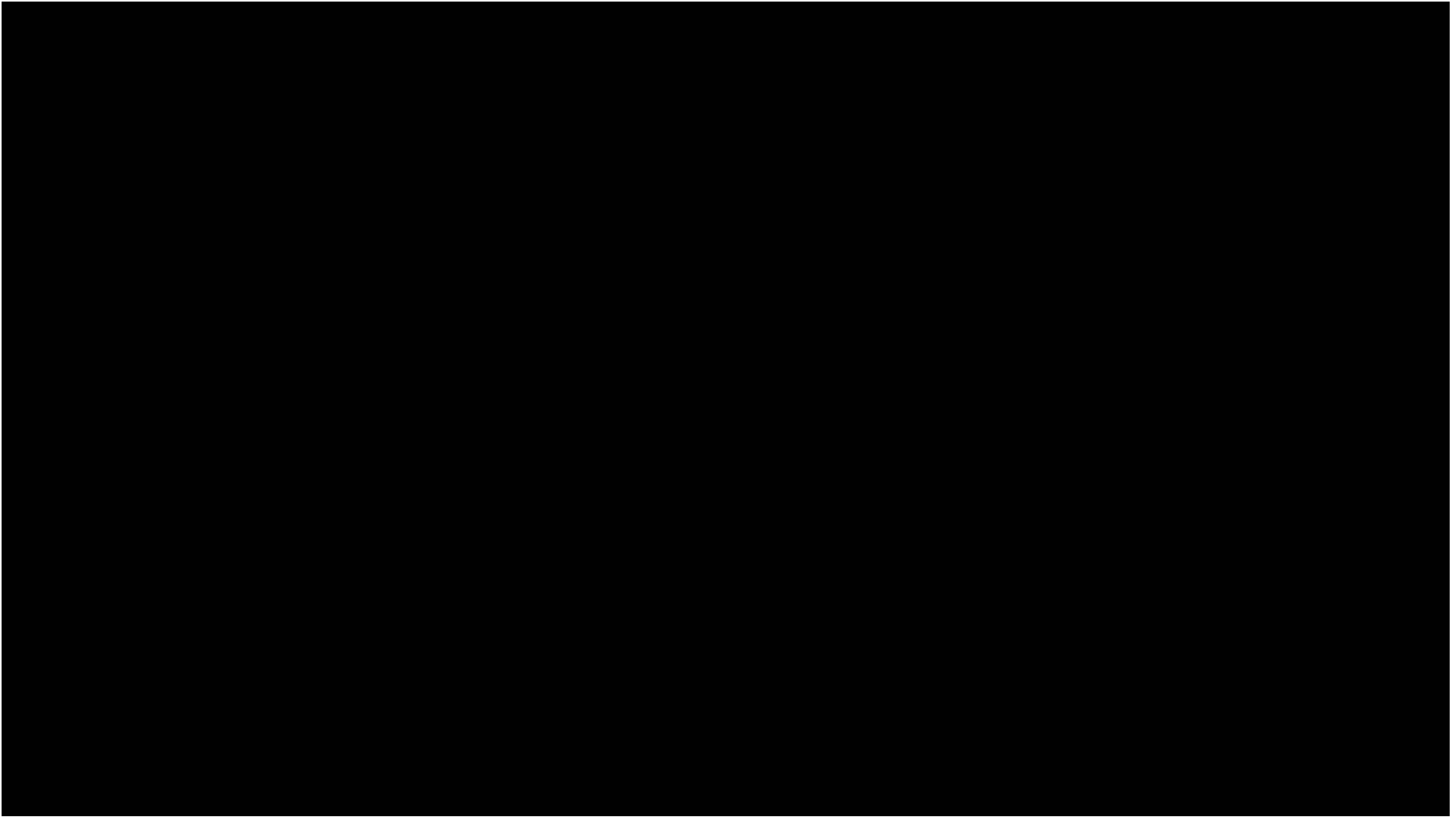
CAM Check Function – check programmed tool-path vs. machine process limits (point to point time, acceleration and axis speed)







## 5 Axis Print Demonstration



## Example of Dual Print Technologies



### **NanoJet**

Fine Line (ca. 60um)  
Ag Nano-particle Ink  
Viscosity: 20mPas

### **PiezoJet**

Medium Line (300um)  
Ag Ink with particles D90 ca. 6um  
Viscosity ca. 70.000mPas



# Current Applications

# Printed Antenna/Circuits

1. Current Process Route: Printing Ag inks on filled PA resins and oven sinter
2. RF Performance: matches industry standard
3. Low temperature inks for PC/ABS
4. Production Costs: specific antenna designs show cost reduction of compared to current manufacturing techniques



Demonstration Antenna  
Courtesy: LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG



Multi-station Printing.  
Courtesy: LITE-ON Mobile Mechanical SBG

# Switch Paddle Circuit

## Automotive

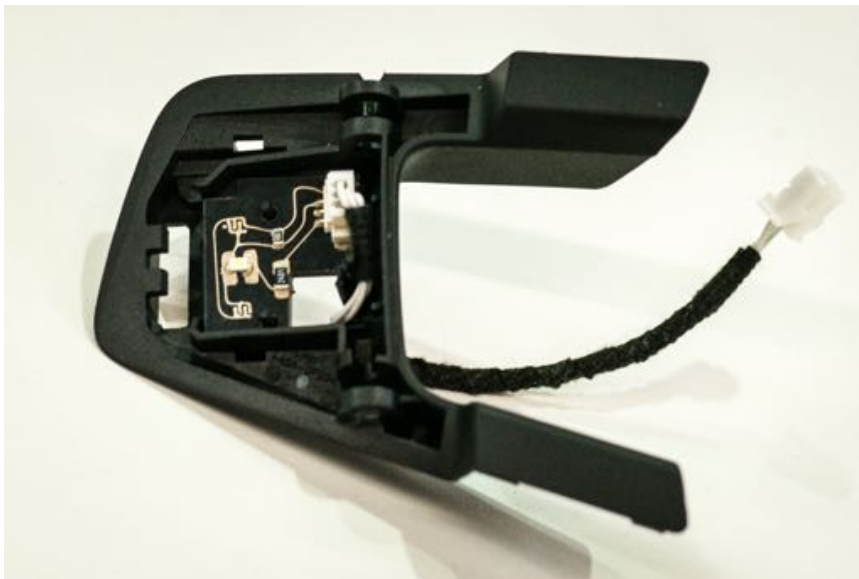
Proof of Concept study

Target higher level of integration & cost saving

Circuit printed directly on switch paddle body – remove PCB

Next step replace connector cable with printed circuit/interconnect – cost saving

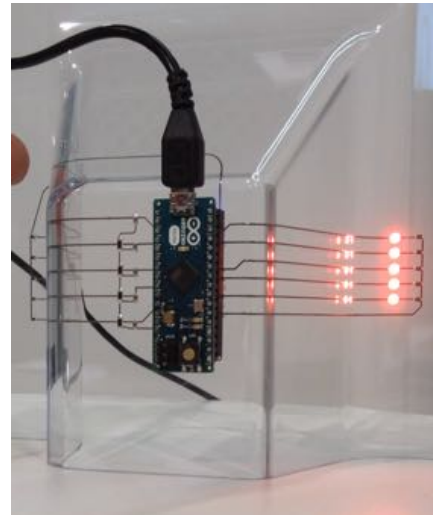
Courtesy:



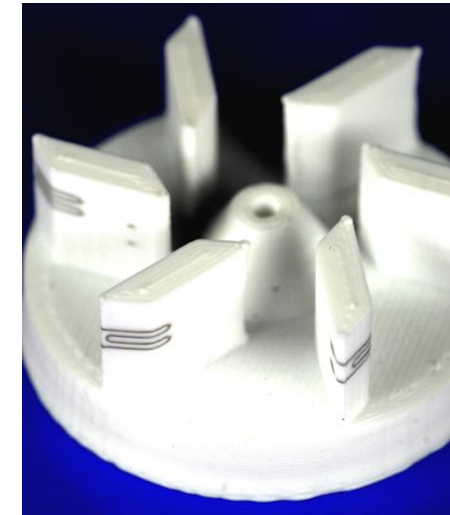
# 3D Printed Sensors



Tank Filling Sensor  
(Capacitive)



Touch Sensor on  
moulded PC  
(Capacitive)



Strain Gauge on 3D  
Printed PLA  
(Fraunhofer IFAM)

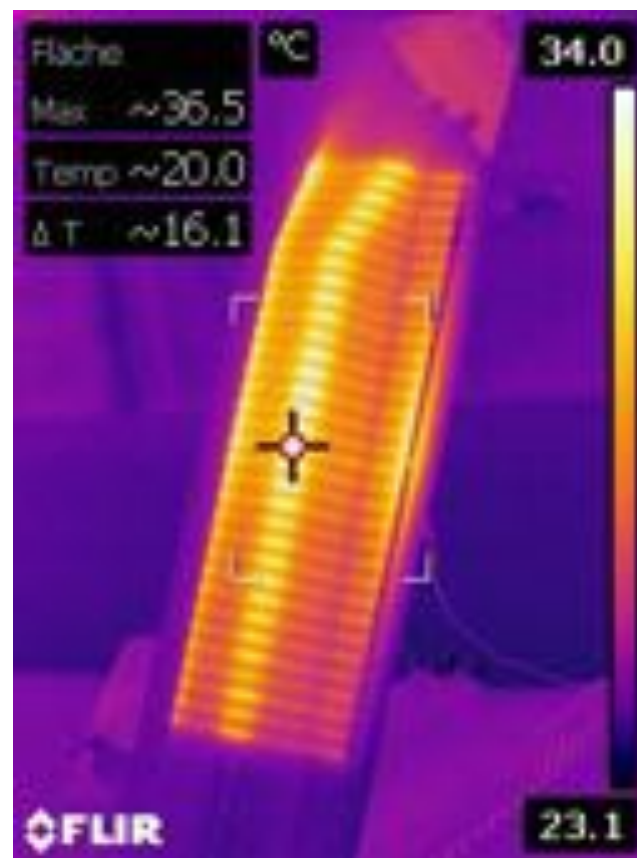
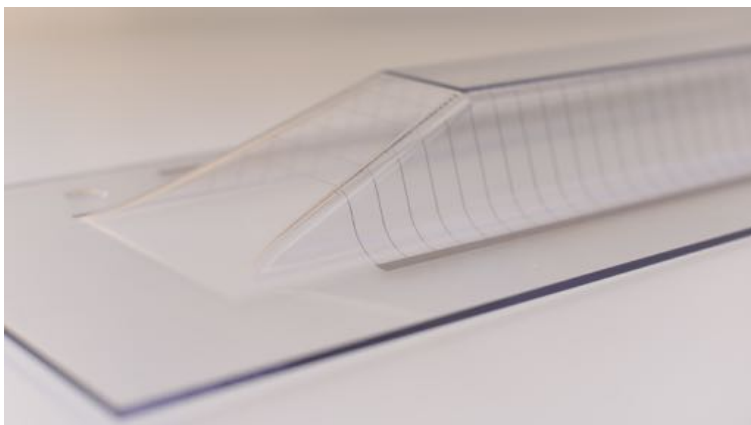
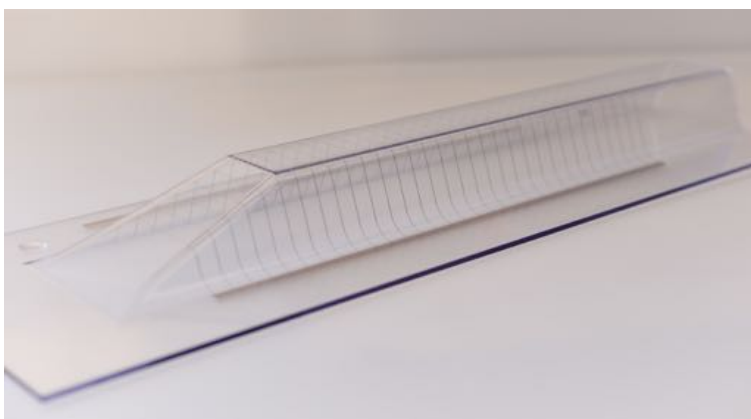
# 3D Heater Patterns on PC

## Automotive Glazing

Ag heater circuits printed on large PC part: 750 x 250 x 170mm (x-y-z)

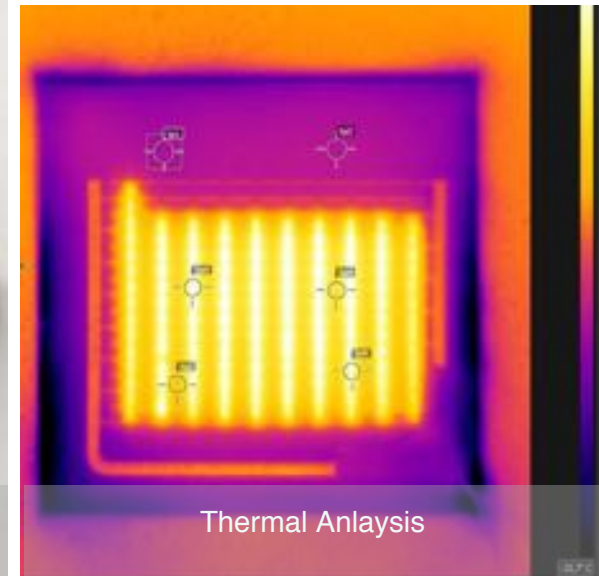
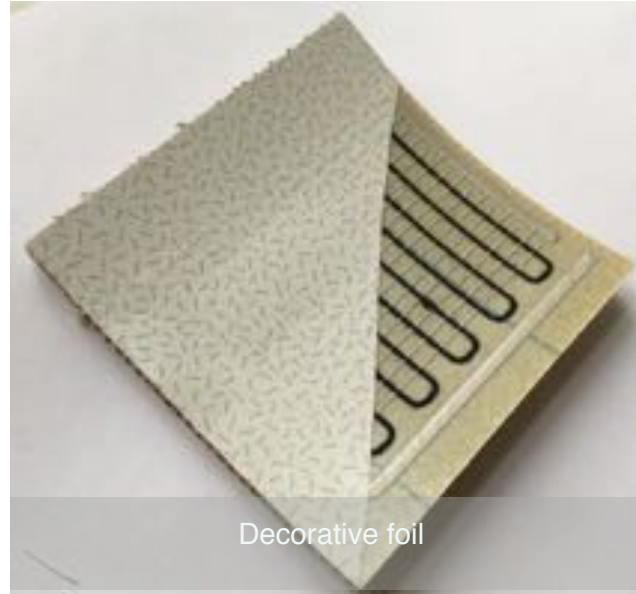
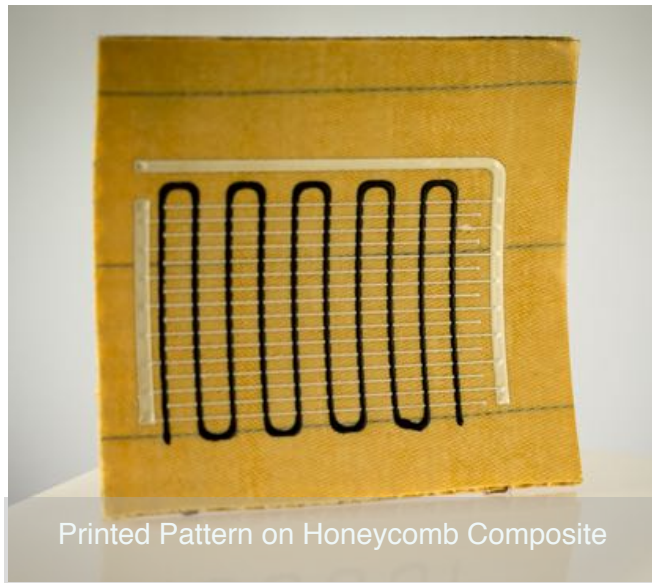
Heating 18W (3A/9V) – tune print process to increase heating capacity

Parts to be coated with protective anti-scratch/anti-UV layer



# 3D Heater Patterns on Honeycomb Composite

## Aerospace – Cabin Interior



Ag circuit with PTC resistive heater: light weight, safe & integrated into cabin side wall.

Rear side cooled to under  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$

Heater at  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$





# Beyond Simple Circuits?

Is it possible to add extra functionality to produce more sophisticated 3D Printed Electronics?

<i>Component</i>	<i>Function</i>
Conductors	Carry Current
Antenna	Broadcast/Receive
Sensors	Input
Heater	Heat Part
Resistors	Control Current Flow
Capacitors	Filter, Charge Storage
Inductors	Filter, Transform/Transfer
Diodes	Valve
Transistors	Amplify, Switch
Memory	Information Storage
Emitters	Display Output
Power Source	Energise Circuit

# Additional Functionality for 3D Printed Electronics

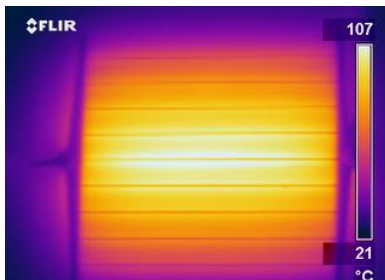
## 3D Today



Circuits & Sensors

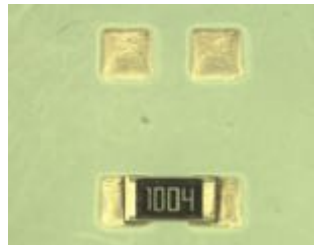


Antenna

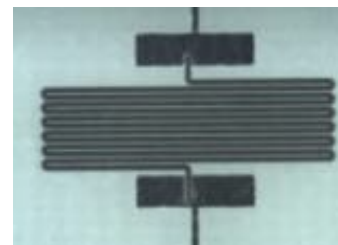


Heater Patterns

## Printed in 2 to 2½D Today - 3D Future?



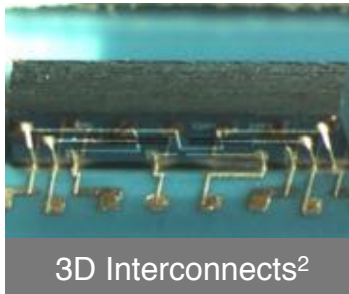
Chip Bonding<sup>1</sup>



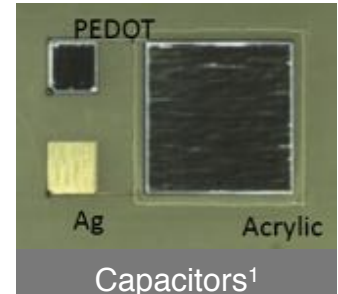
Resistors<sup>1</sup>



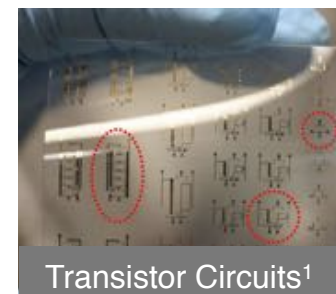
Multilayer Circuits<sup>1</sup>



3D Interconnects<sup>2</sup>



Capacitors<sup>1</sup>

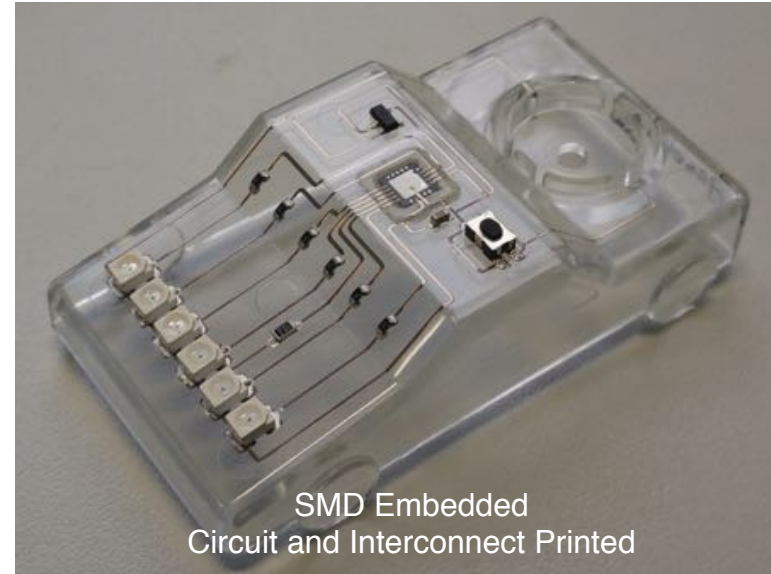
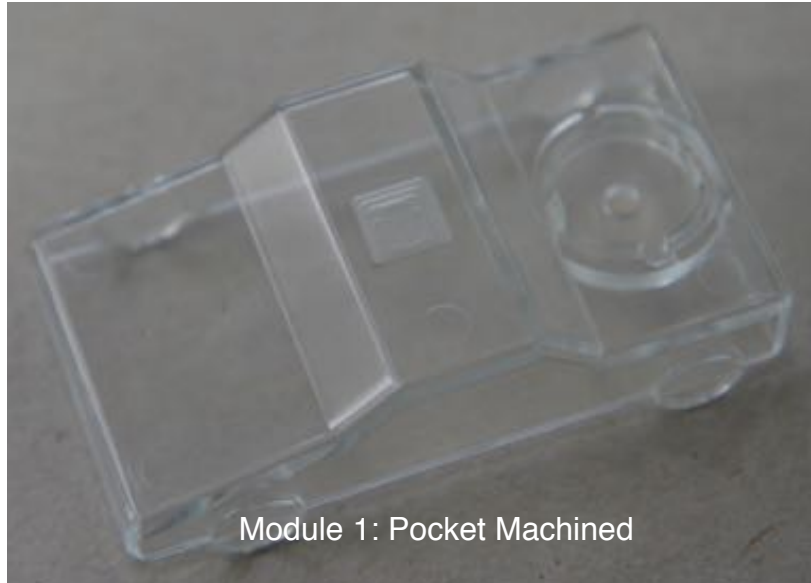


Transistor Circuits<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy Optomec Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy Fraunhofer IKTS

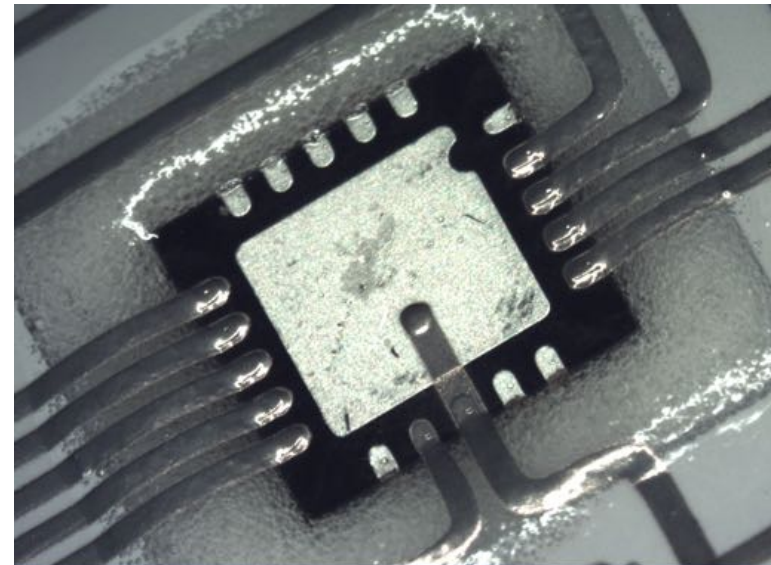
# Embedding SMDs



QFN (Quad Flat No-lead) Microcontroller

Contact Pads  $230\mu\text{m}$

Fixed with 2 Component Epoxy

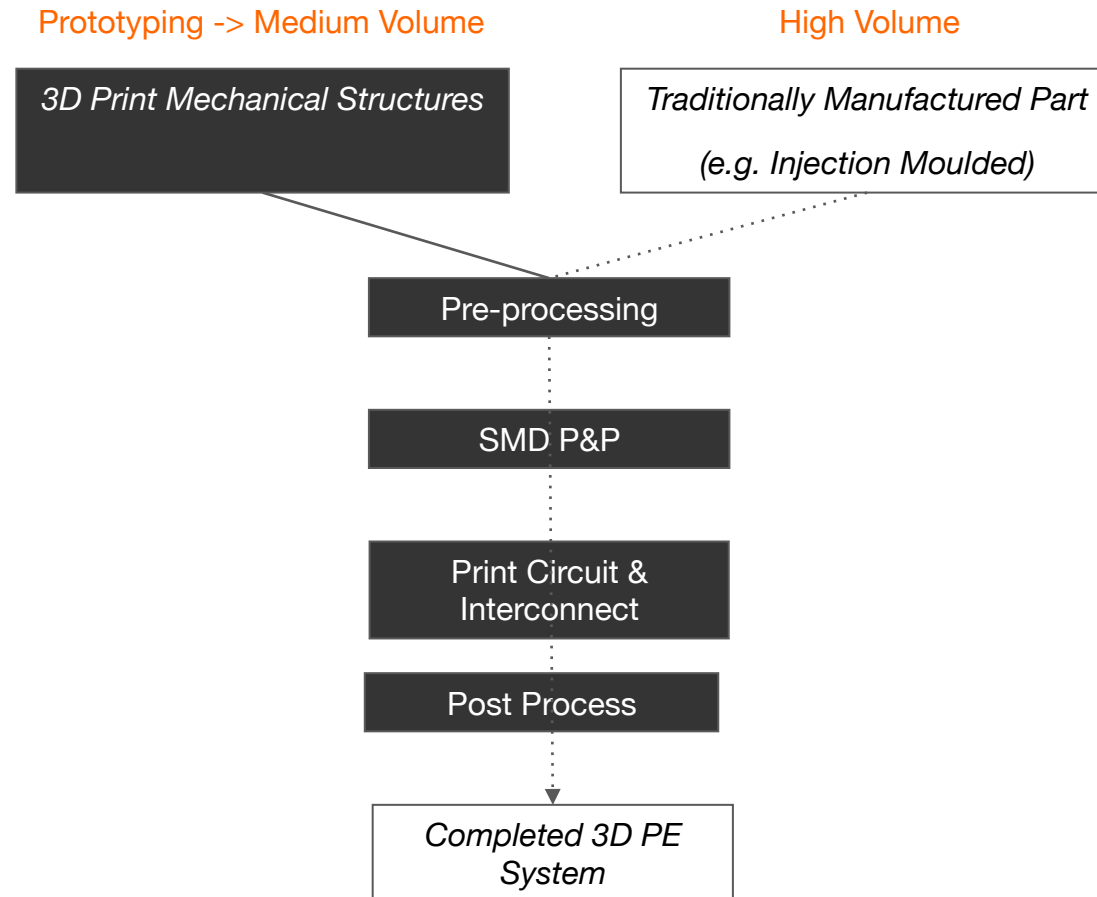


Project in cooperation with:



# Technology Goal

To provide complete 3D Digital Manufacturing Process Chains spanning all production levels



# “Fully Additive” 3D Printed Electronics

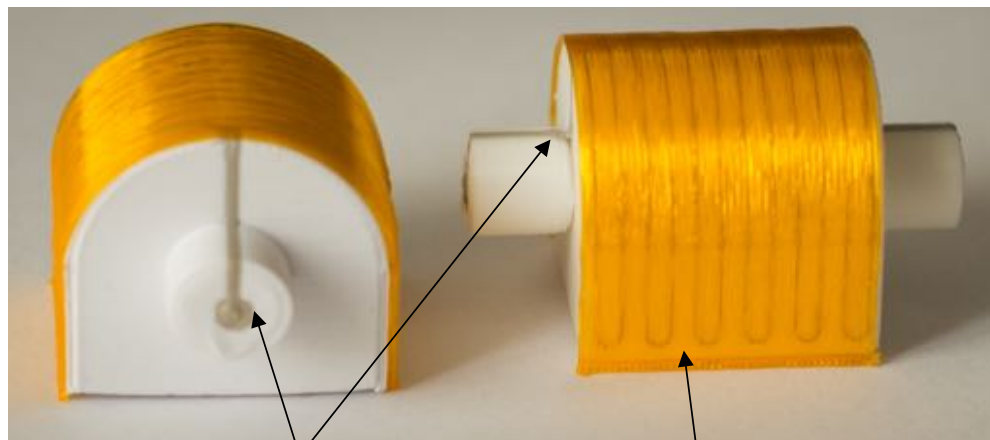
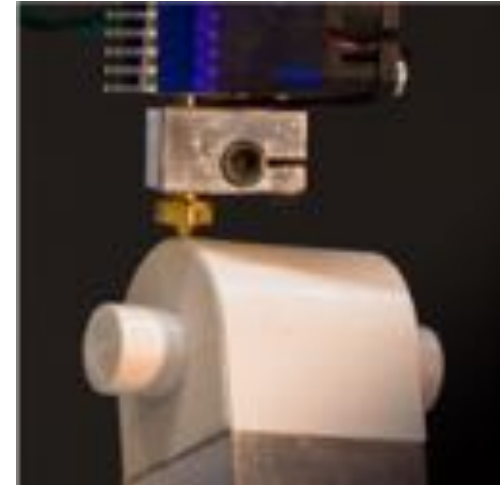
Combine electronics build of structural elements:  
Fused Deposition Modelling (thermoplastics) & Dispensing (resins)

Single CAD/CAM interface for all processes in 5 axis:

1. Structural build
2. SMD pick & place
3. Circuit Printing and interconnecting SMDs
4. Pre- & Post-processing

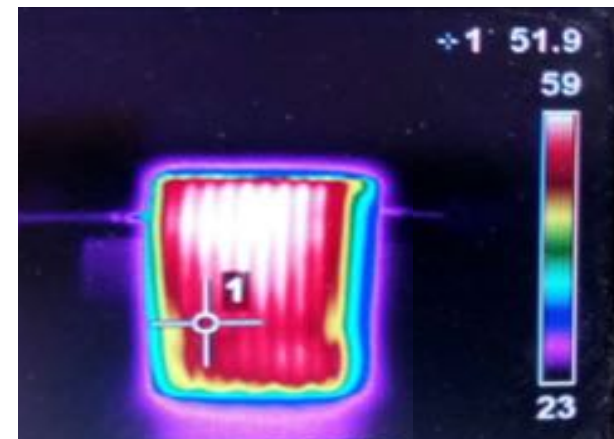
5 Axis build enables novel geometries without support structures & improved mechanical properties compared to classical anisotropic 3D builds

Combination with 4 station print system for higher throughput



Ag bus bars

Ag heater pattern

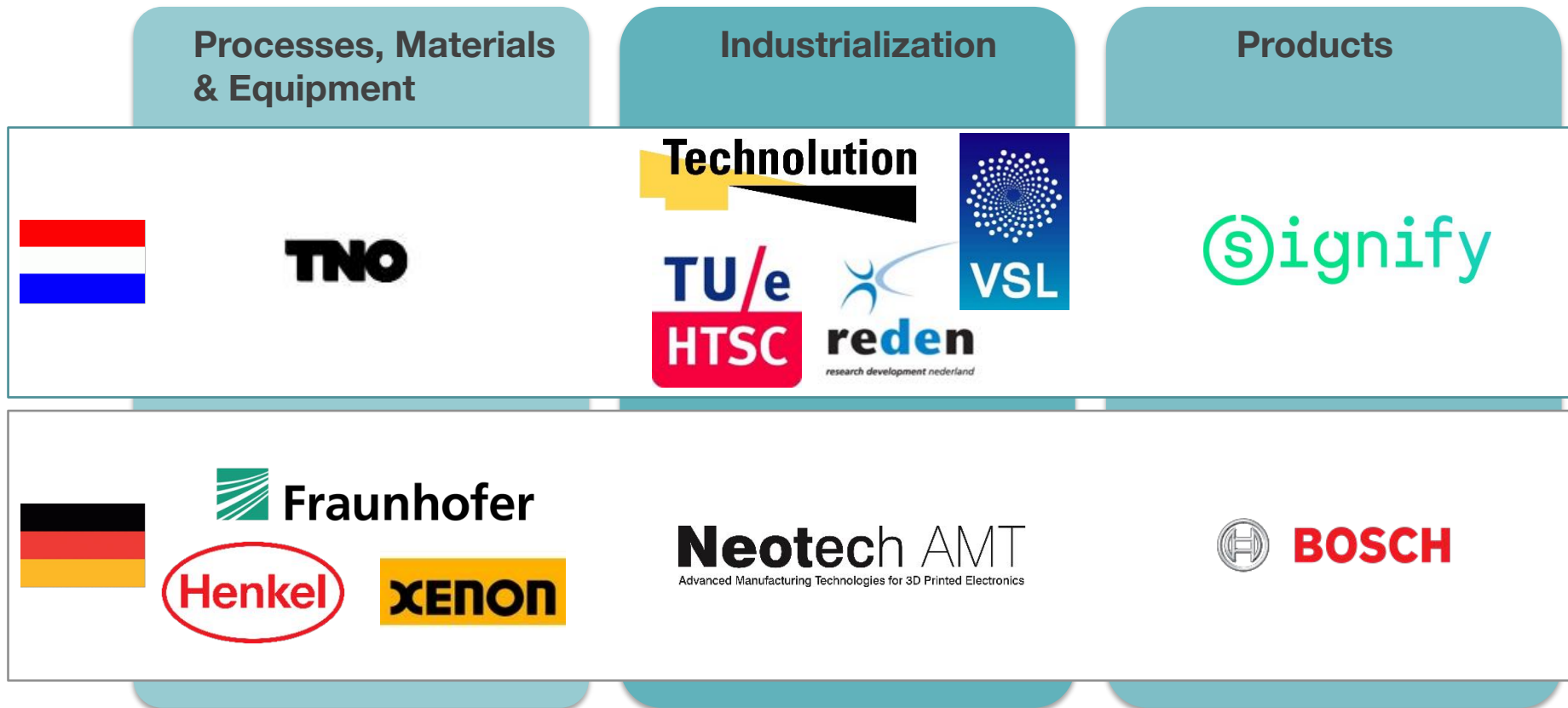


Thermal Image at 60°C

# EU PENTA Project: Hyb-Man

## Hybrid 3D Manufacturing of Smart Systems

1. Develop hybrid 3D manufacturing methods to enable flexible first time right production of smart systems
2. Exploit 3D Printing of polymers in combination with 3D Printed Electronics as core production technologies
3. In-line testing and quality monitoring processes will be integrated as part of the complete process chain
4. Outcome: improved Additive Manufacturing processes, a hybrid manufacturing production cell and prototypes of integrated electrical products (LED luminaires, automotive adaptive sensors)



Project Timeframe: 1.4.17-31.3.21

# EU PENTA Project: Hyb-Man

## First Product Demonstrator: LED Box

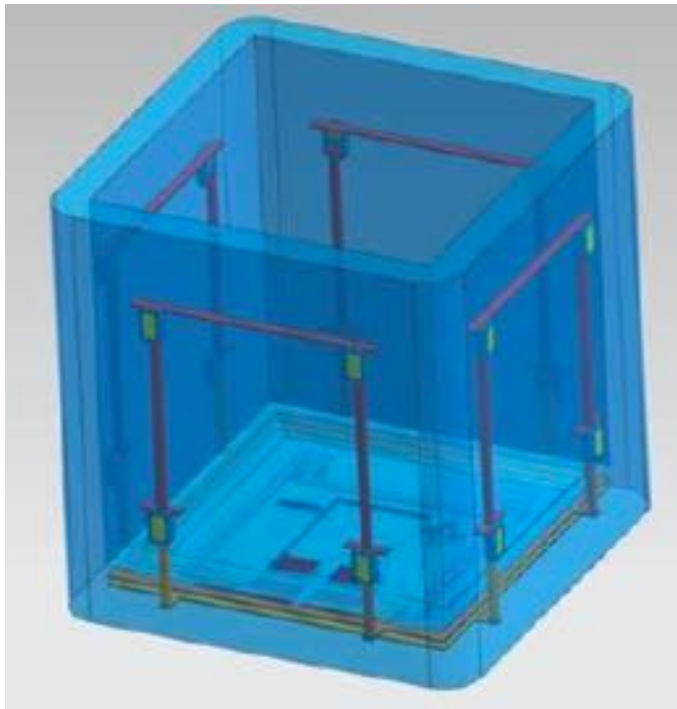
Main box body printed in PLA, next transfer to PC/ABS then PA

20 LEDs added (5 sets of 4):

4 in base added and then circuit printed to directly contact.

16 LEDs in walls mounted with conductive adhesive.

Side wall circuits use 5 axis motion



# EU Manunet Project: AMPECS



1. Will develop fully Additive Manufacturing process for 3D Printing Electronics with Ceramic Substrates
2. The German-Spanish consortium will develop 3D printable ceramic materials for creating the structural body and integrate printed electronics into and onto this component.
3. End use applications will cover areas where harsh environments exists such as automotive and aerospace as well as in mobile communications.

**Project Timeframe:**1.6.17-31.5.20



Francesco Alberto S.A.U



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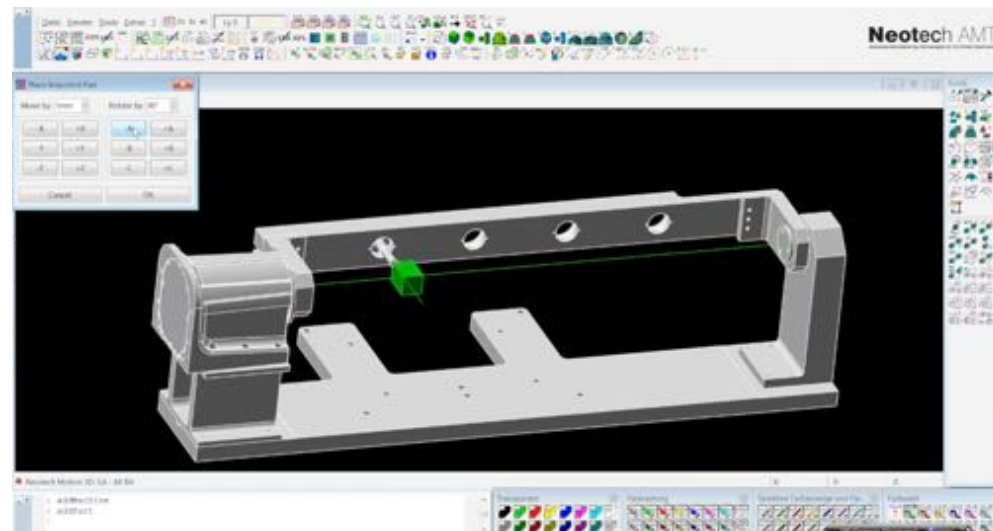


# System Offerings

# Neotech Products

Consist of 5 axis machine tools containing a variety of 3D capable print, pre- and post-processing tools with integrated software, training & service:

Print Platforms	Print/Functionalising Tools	Pre/Post-Processing
45X – Volume Manufacture	Piezo Jetting	CNC Machining
15X – R&D/Product Development	Aerosol Based	Plasma Cleaning
Custom Platforms	Ink Jetting	Sintering (Light/Laser)
CAD/CAM	Dispensing	UV Curing
Motion 3D	FDM	Adaptive Tool Path Vision System
	SMD Pick & Place	





# Summary

1. Designing 3D Printed Electronics process
2. Current Application Examples
3. Scalable & Agile Process Routes
4. Modular Systems



# Neotech AMT

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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