

# Energy Conservation through Metal Additive Manufacturing & What SEAM can offer for Irish industries in Metal AM

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Ireland's EU Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014 - 2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



ENTERPRISE  
IRELAND

where innovation means business



**TECHNOLOGY GATEWAYS**  
delivering solutions for industry  
SEAM - Engineered Material Technologies  
an Enterprise Ireland network

# Presentation Outline

- SEAM- Brief Introduction
- Energy conservation through Additive Manufacturing –Introduction
- What is Additive Manufacturing? Concept & Principles
- Why Additive Manufacturing?
- Benefits & Classical Examples of Energy conservation through Metal AM
- What SEAM can offer in Metal AM?

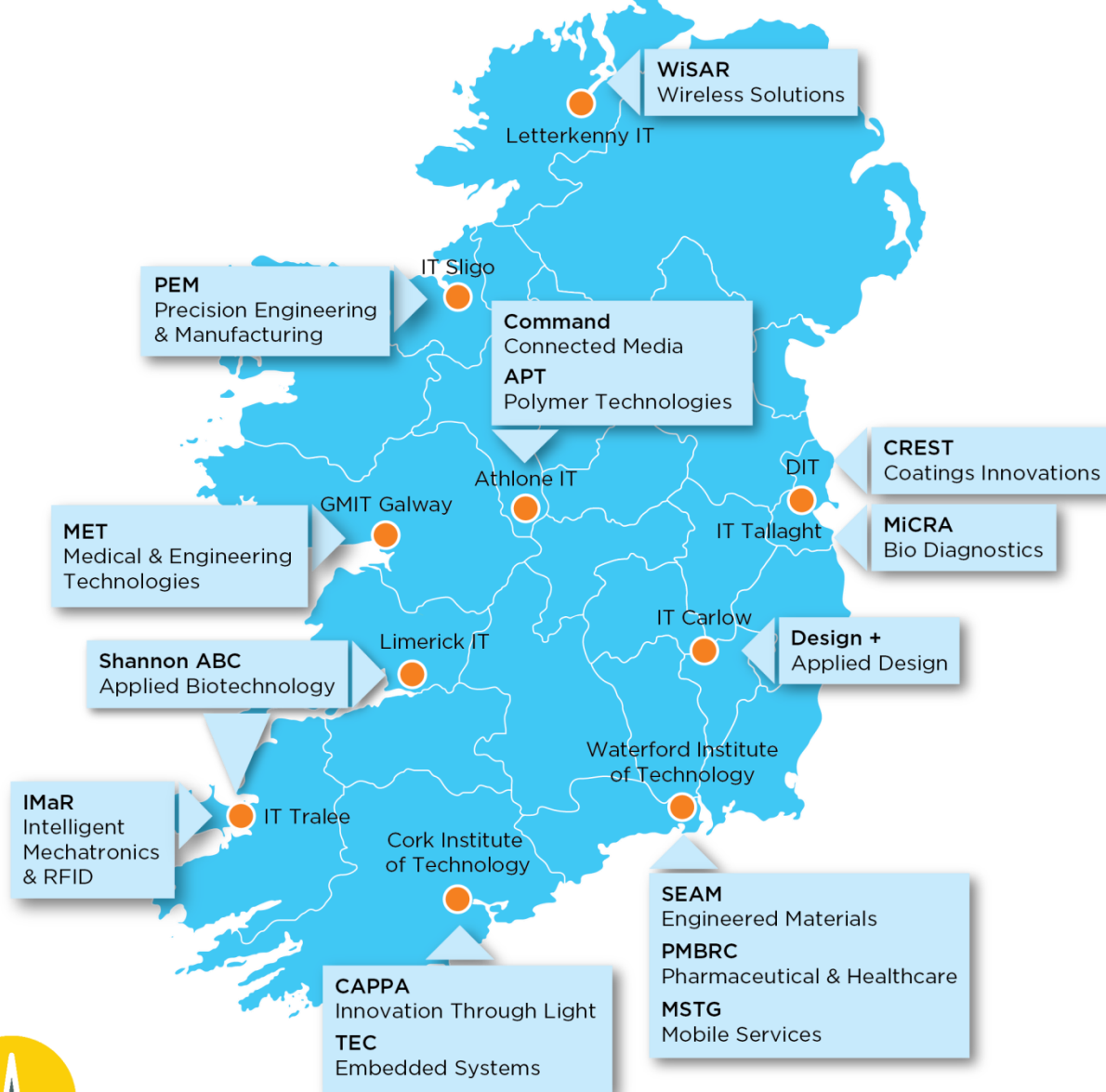
# SEAM – A Brief Introduction

- **SEAM is a Materials Science and Engineering Research Centre within School of Engineering, WIT**
- **Formally launched in Feb. 2009**
- **SEAM currently is part of EI Technology Gateway Network, a nationwide resource for industry based in the IoTs delivering solutions on near to market problems for industrial partners**



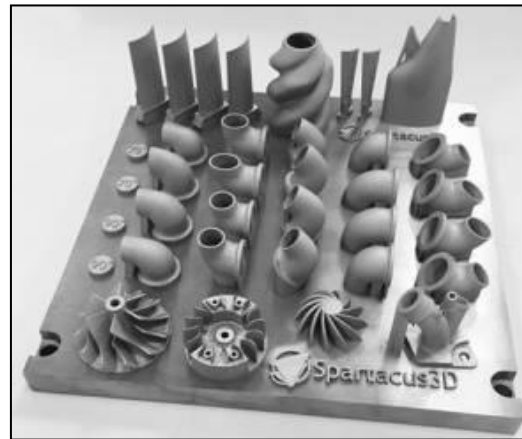
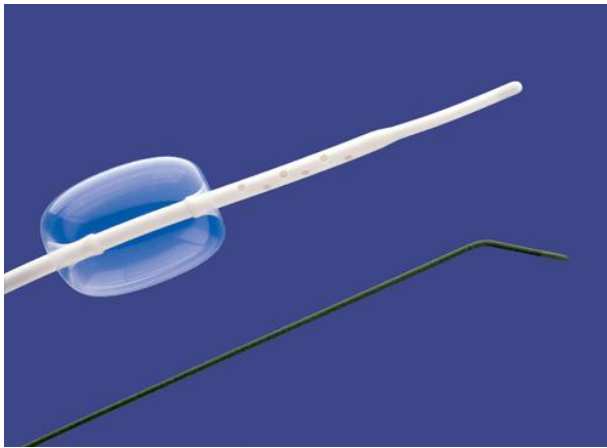
# Technology Gateway Centre Locations in Ireland

[www.technologygateway.ie](http://www.technologygateway.ie)



# What does SEAM do ?

- Provide unique world class professional services in terms of delivering innovative Engineered Material solutions
- Resolves day to day bread and butter issue of industries using the latest technologies to deliver real solutions for real problems



**B: Static Structural**

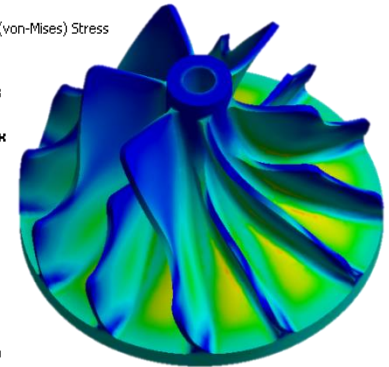
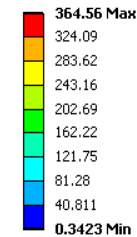
Equivalent Stress

Type: Equivalent (von-Mises) Stress

Unit: MPa

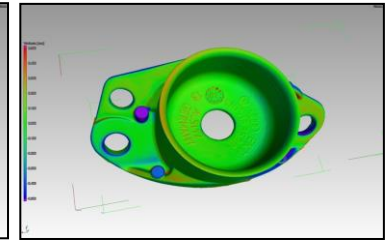
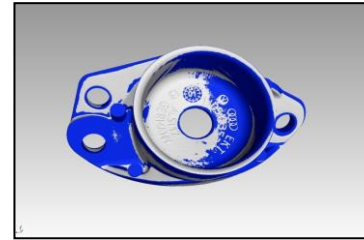
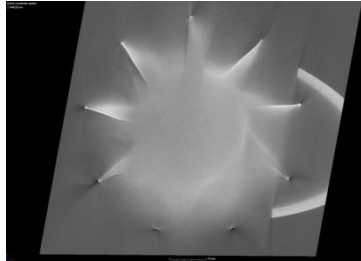
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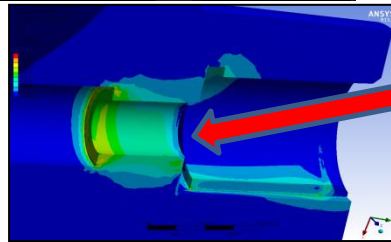
## (Core capabilities)

**Centre of Excellence in X-ray Tomography (CT) Applications**



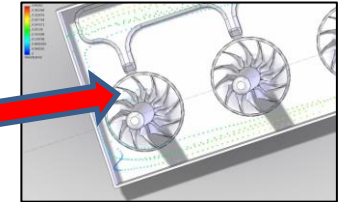
Actual and 3D Component overlaid

**Expertise in Finite Element Analysis & Computational Fluid Dynamics**



Stress analysis

Fluid Dynamics

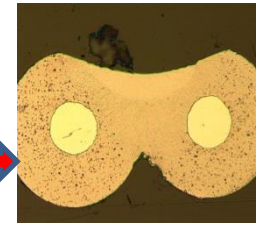


**Expertise in Failure Analysis & Mitigation strategies**



Inspect

X-section Analysis



Key solutions  
 One stop shop

## Metal AM: Offering Full Design to Prototyping Service

### Design & Optimise

- Concept Development
- 3D CAD Modeling
- FEA & 3D Scanning

### Build

- AM Metal Prototyping
  - Heat Treatment
  - Surface Finishing

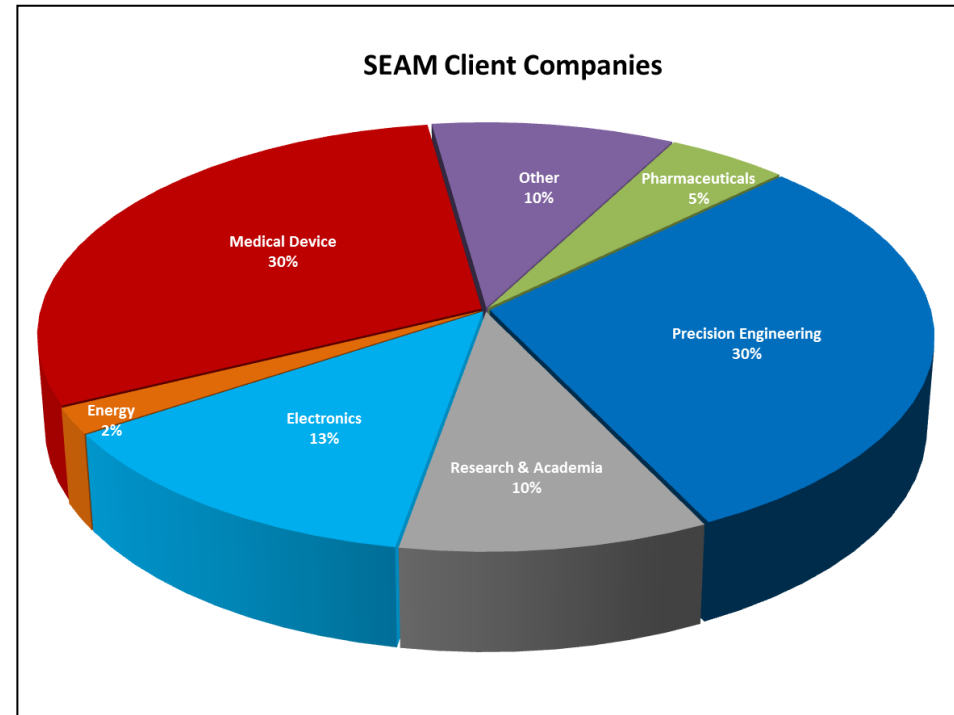
### Verification

- Destructive & Non-Destructive Testing
- Metrology
- Validation Testing
- Finished Part

# SEAM's Key Accomplishments

## 1. Impeccable Industry Collaborative Record

- Established collaborations with over 130 Irish Based Industries / RPO
- Executed over 975 direct funded Industrial projects since 2009
- Now one of the leading Technology Gateway Centres in the country



# 2. SEAM Client base grown from zero to >130 in 7

years

**BAUSCH+LOMB**  
See better. Live better.

**Boston Scientific**  
Advancing science for life™

**stryker**

**measurement SPECIALTIES**

**Abbott**  
A Promise for Life

**ESB International**  
ESBI Energy Innovation

**TEVA**

**Nypro**  
Where success takes shape

**SCHIVO GROUP**  
PRECISION ENGINEERING - AEROSPACE - MEDICAL DEVICE  
FABRICATION - COMPOSITES - CARBON FIBRE

**genzyme**  
A SANOFI COMPANY

**Medtronic**

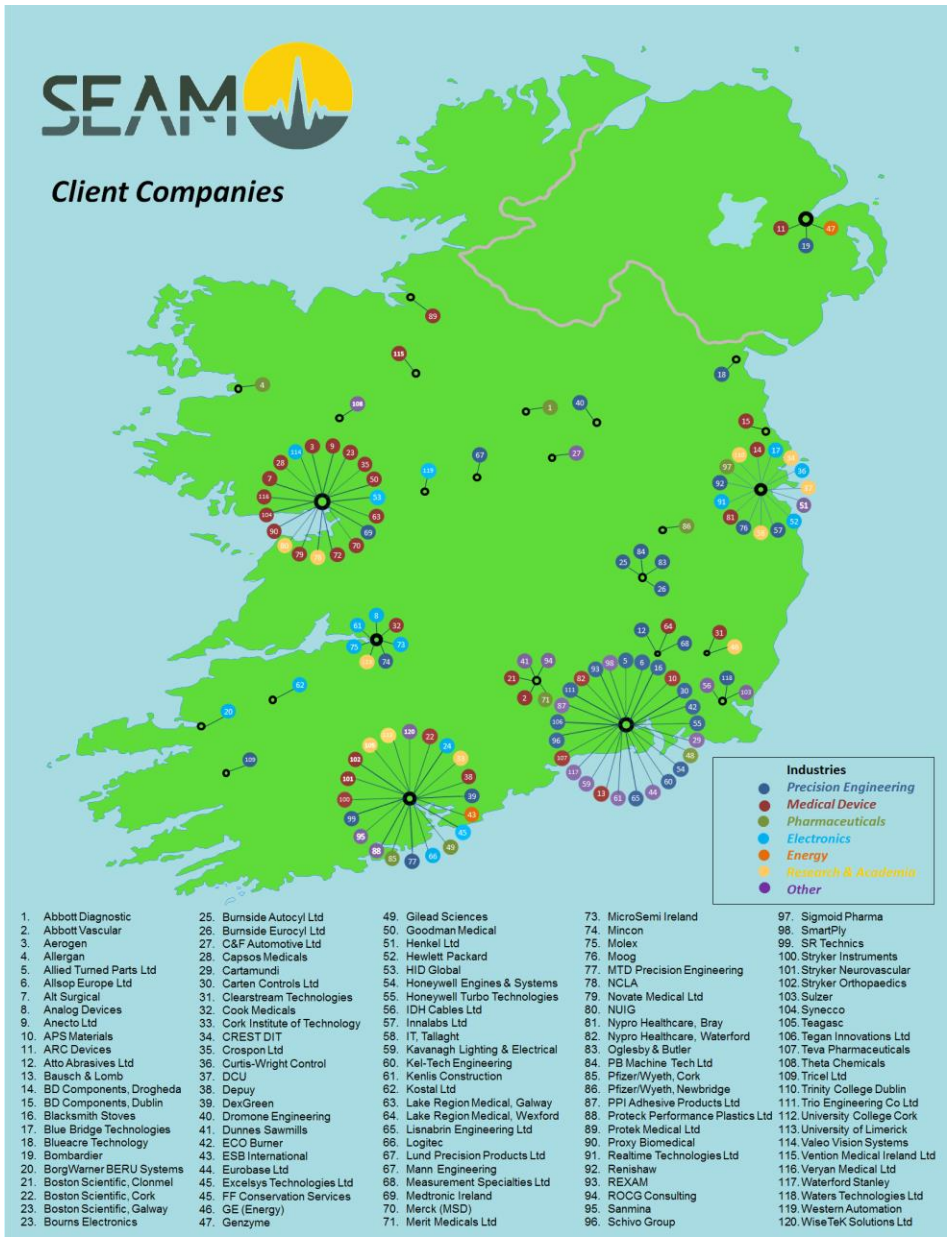
**THETA**

**Lake Region Medical™**

**Mincon**

**Pfizer**

**SEAM currently assists over 130 companies in Ireland**





### 3. Awards

- For our services to Industries, Won **Knowledge Transfer Ireland** Award 2015 (Like Oscars for research centres !!) under Industrial Consultancy Impact category



- Shortlisted for Research to Business KTI Collaborative Award 2016

# Energy Conservation through Additive Manufacturing (AM)

## Introduction

- Climate change reports and policies (Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement 2015 etc) relating to energy are causing manufacturers to examine the viability of Digital Manufacturing operations closely.
- Several reports (Eg.Wohlers) have pushed the economic and environmental benefits of AM and claims:

AM holds the potential to reduce carbon footprint and energy emissions through design optimization and the reduction in the material waste stream.

Advanced AM techniques shown to reduce energy consumption up to 35% of the energy required to manufacture the parts using traditional manufacturing processes.

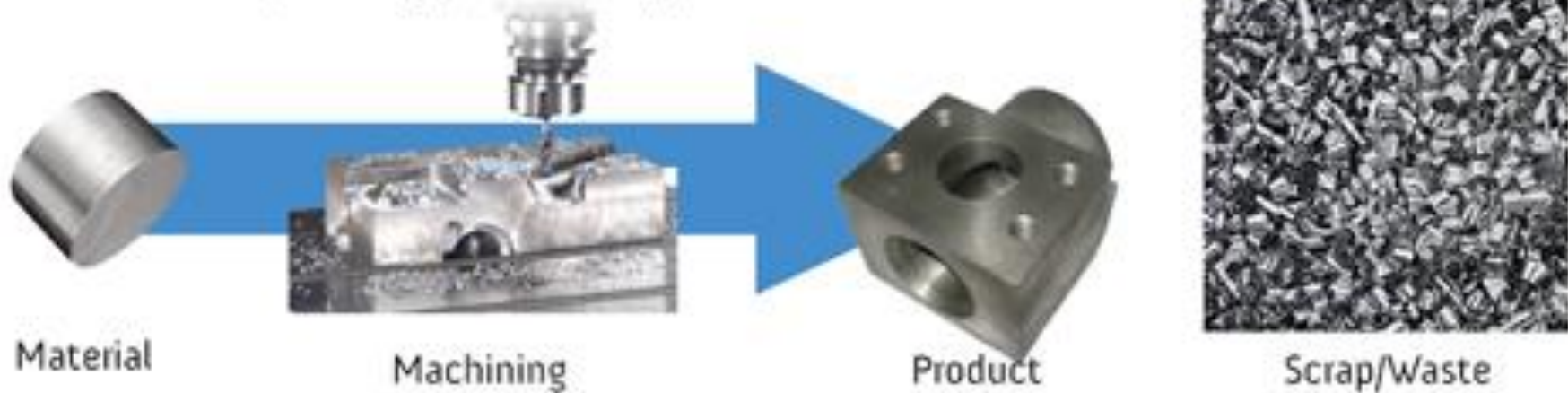


# What is Additive Manufacturing?

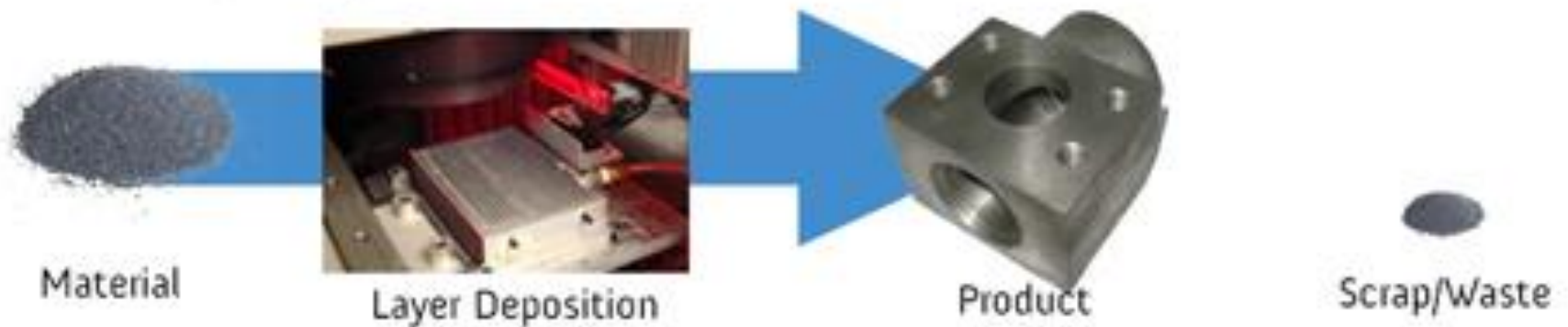
- **Additive Manufacturing** refers to a process by which digital 3D design data is used to build up a component in layers by depositing material.
- The term "3D printing" is increasingly used as a synonym for **Additive Manufacturing**.

# AM Manufacturing Process Vs Conventional









## ● Conventional Manufacturing (subtractive) process



## ● Additive Manufacturing Process

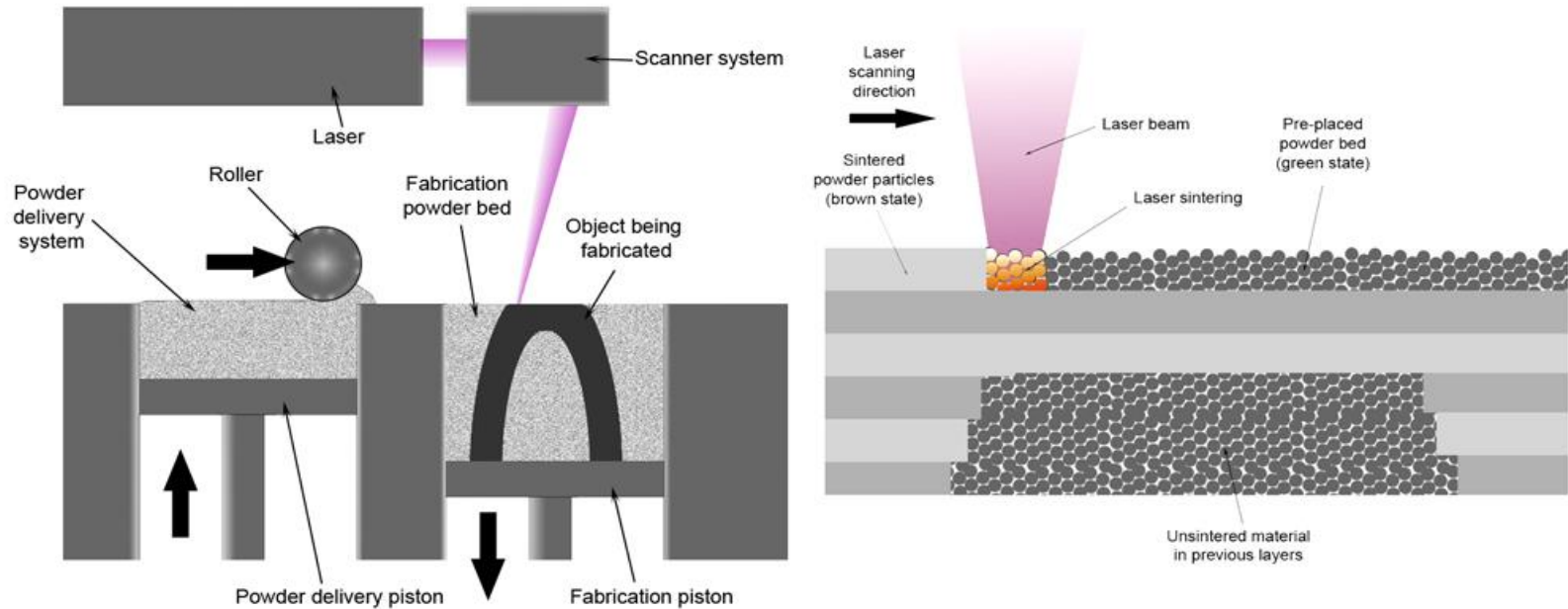


# Overview of Key 3D Printing Technologies

Materials	Technologies		
	Parts built through polymerization	Parts built through bonding agent	Parts built through melting
Ceramic		 BJ	 LM
Metal			 EBM
Sand			
Plastic	 SL  PJ		 FDM  LS
Wax			 MJ*
	<p>Lower Durability Higher</p> <p>Smoother Surface finish Rougher</p> <p>Higher Detail Lower</p> <p>Prototypes   Indirect processes Application Functional parts</p>		

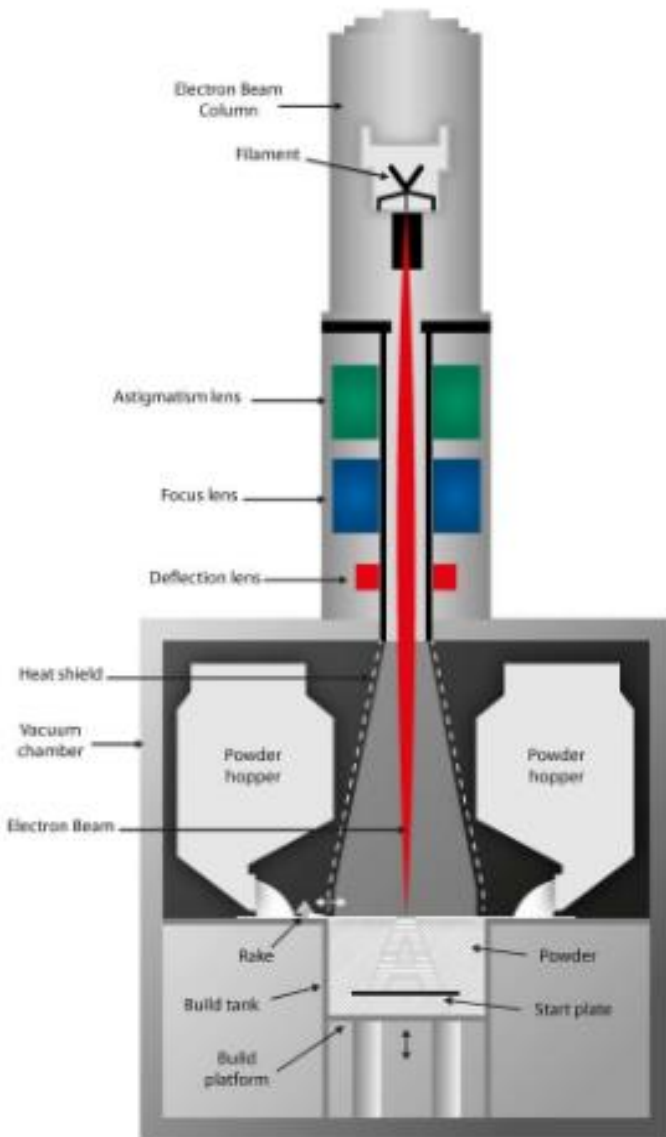
## 3D Metal Printing (SEAM has EOS M280)

# Principles of Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS)



- DMLS uses laser to selectively fuse metal powder by scanning cross-sections generated from 3-D CAD data on a powder bed surface.
- After each cross-section is scanned, the powder bed is lowered by one layer thickness, a new layer of material is applied on top, and the process is repeated until the part is completed.
- Characteristics: Build envelope: 250x250x300mm; Min. Feature size: 0.1-0.2mm; Min Layer thickness: 0.03mm; Typical surface finish-4-10 $\mu$ m; Density-99.9%

# Electron Beam Melting



ARCAM-Q20 EBM

Electron beam melting is similar to laser melting, but working with an electron beam instead of a laser. The machine distributes a layer of metal powder onto a build platform, which is melted by the electron beam.

## General Characteristics

1. Build Envelope:  
350x350x380mm
2. Min Feature Size: 0.1mm
3. Typical tolerance:  $\pm 0.2$ mm
4. Min Layer thickness- 0.05mm
5. Typical surface finish = 20-25  $\mu$ m (can be improved through post processing)
6. Density= 99.9%

# Why Additive Manufacturing?

- 1. Lowers energy consumption:** By eliminating production steps, using substantially less material and producing lighter products.
- 2. Less Waste:** Building objects up layer by layer reduces material needs and costs by up to 90%. AM also reduce the 'cradle-to-gate'- environmental foot prints of component manufacturing through avoidance of the tools, dies, and materials scrap associated with CM processes.
- 3. Reduced time to market:** Items can be fabricated as soon as the 3-D digital description of the part has been created, eliminating the need for expensive and time-consuming part tooling and prototype fabrication.
- 4. Innovation:** AM enables designs with novel geometries (that would be difficult or impossible to achieve using CM processes) that can lead to performance and environmental benefits in a component's product application



## Why AM contd...

- 4. Part Consolidation:** Ability to design products with fewer, more complex parts is the most important of these benefits. Reducing the number of parts in an assembly immediately
- (a) cuts the overhead associated with documentation and production planning and control.
  - (b) Fewer parts mean less time and labor required for assembling the product resulting lower manuf.costs.
  - © Foot print of the assembly may also become smaller further cutting costs

## 5. Lightweighting

**6. Agility to manufacturing operations:** AM enables enable rapid response to markets and create new production options outside of factories. Spare parts can be produced on demand, reducing or eliminating the need for stockpiles and complex supply chains

# Classic AM Examples that result in Energy conservations

# Example 1: GE Leap Engine Fuel Nozzle (Co-Cr part produced using DMLS)



## Key Advantages:

1. Combining 20 piece parts into one.
2. 5× more durable due to greater design freedom
3. 25% less weight
4. Further cost reductions arising from design optimization for AM process.

Note: (a) Leap is GE Aviation's best selling engine in history.  
(b) GE's new \$50m plant in Auburn (Germany) is a dedicated AM facility built to meet demand.

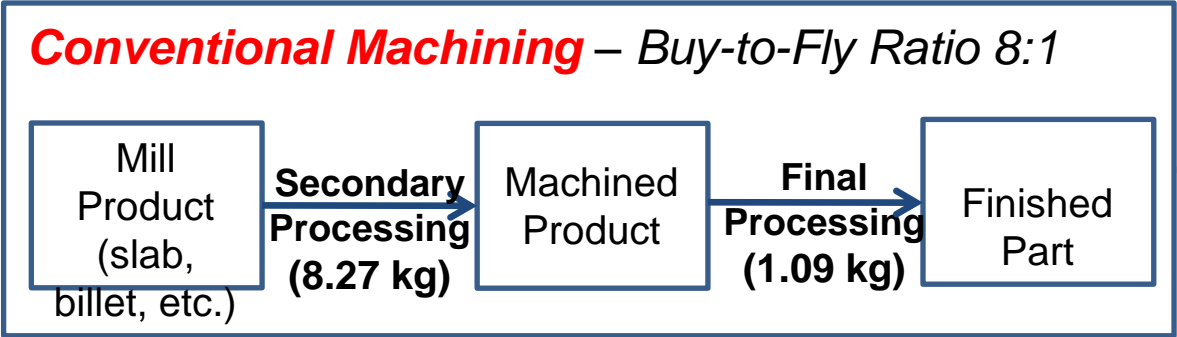
Source: Worlds first plant to print jet engine nozzles in mass production, July 15, 2014.  
(<http://www.gereports.com/post/91763815095/worlds-first-plant-to-print-jet-engine-nozzles-in>).

# Example 2: Manufacturing of Aircraft Bracket

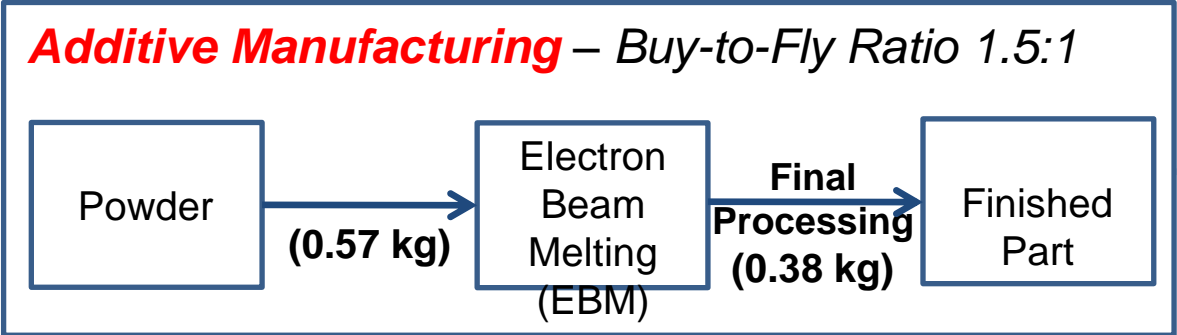
Primary Processing  
(15.9 MJ/Kg)

Ingots (918 MJ/kg embodied energy)

Atomization  
(14.8 MJ/Kg)



1.09 kg





0.38 kg

## Aircraft Bracket Manufacturing contd...

Process	Final Part (kg)	Ingot consumed (kg)	Raw Material (MJ)	Manufacturing (MJ)	Transport (MJ)	Use Phase (MJ)	Total Energy per Bracket (MJ)
<b>Conventional Machining</b>	1.09	8.72	8,00	952	41	217,95	<b>226,945</b>
<b>Additive Manufacture</b>	0.38	0.57	525	115	14	76,28	<b>76,937</b>

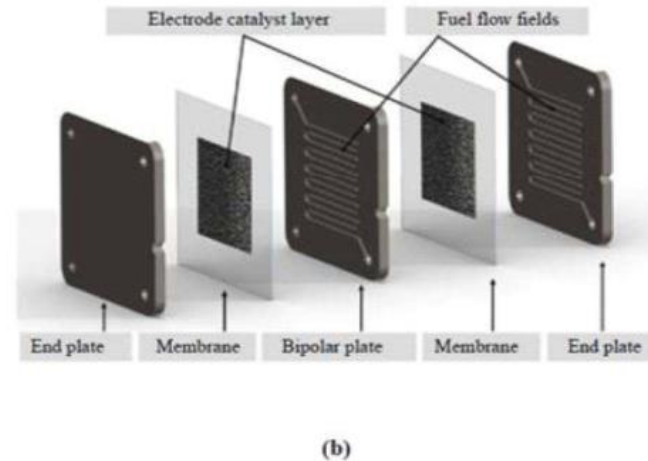
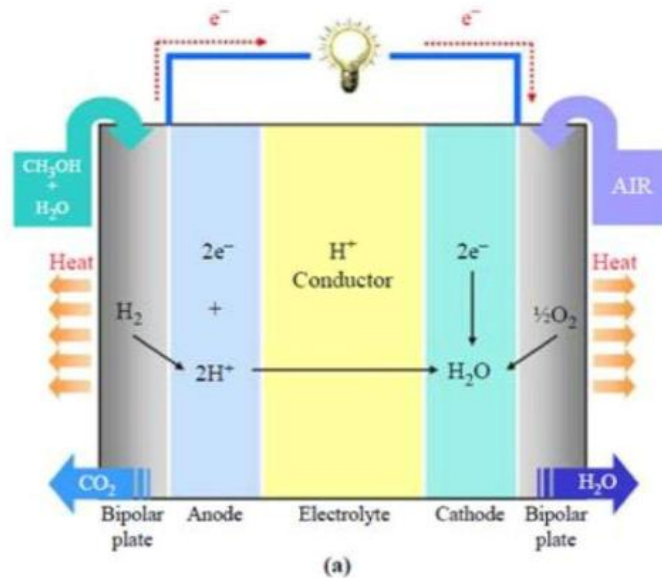
*Source: US Department of Energy Report*

# Example 3: Aircraft Buckle manufacture

Traditional Design	AM Optimized Design
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A conventional steel buckle weights 0.34 lb (or 0.26 lb when made of aluminum)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Titanium buckle designed with AM weighs 0.15 lb – reduction of 55%</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For an Airbus 380 with all economy seating (853 seats), this would mean a reduction of 160 lbs</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over the airplane's lifetime, 872 thousand US gallons of fuel or approx. US\$2.3 million could be saved, assuming a saving of 5,390 gallon per lb and airplane lifetime</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project partners are Plunkett Associates, Crucible Industrial Design, EOS, 3T PRD, Simpleware, Delcam, University of Exeter</li></ul>	

Source: [http://www.rolandberger.com/media/pdf/Roland\\_Berger\\_Additive\\_Manufacturing\\_20131129.pdf](http://www.rolandberger.com/media/pdf/Roland_Berger_Additive_Manufacturing_20131129.pdf).

# Example 4: Manufacturing of Fuel Cells



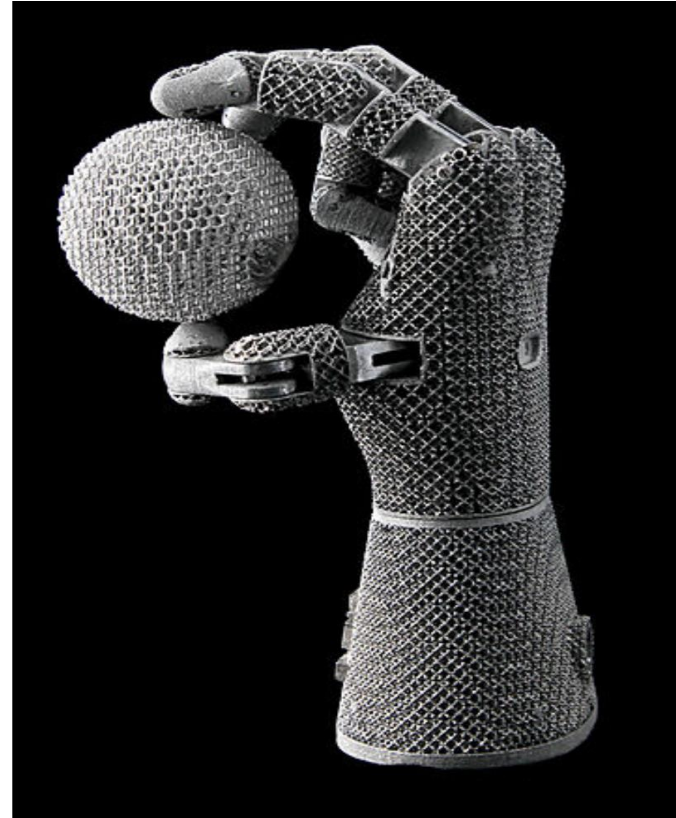
Graphite composite bipolar plate (important component in PEM fuel cell) produced by SLS process

NB: By using SLS the cost and lead-time of developing new bipolar plates can be reduced dramatically compared to conventional methods such as injection molding and compression molding, in which expensive metal molds have to be manufactured.

## Example 5: Implant Manufacture



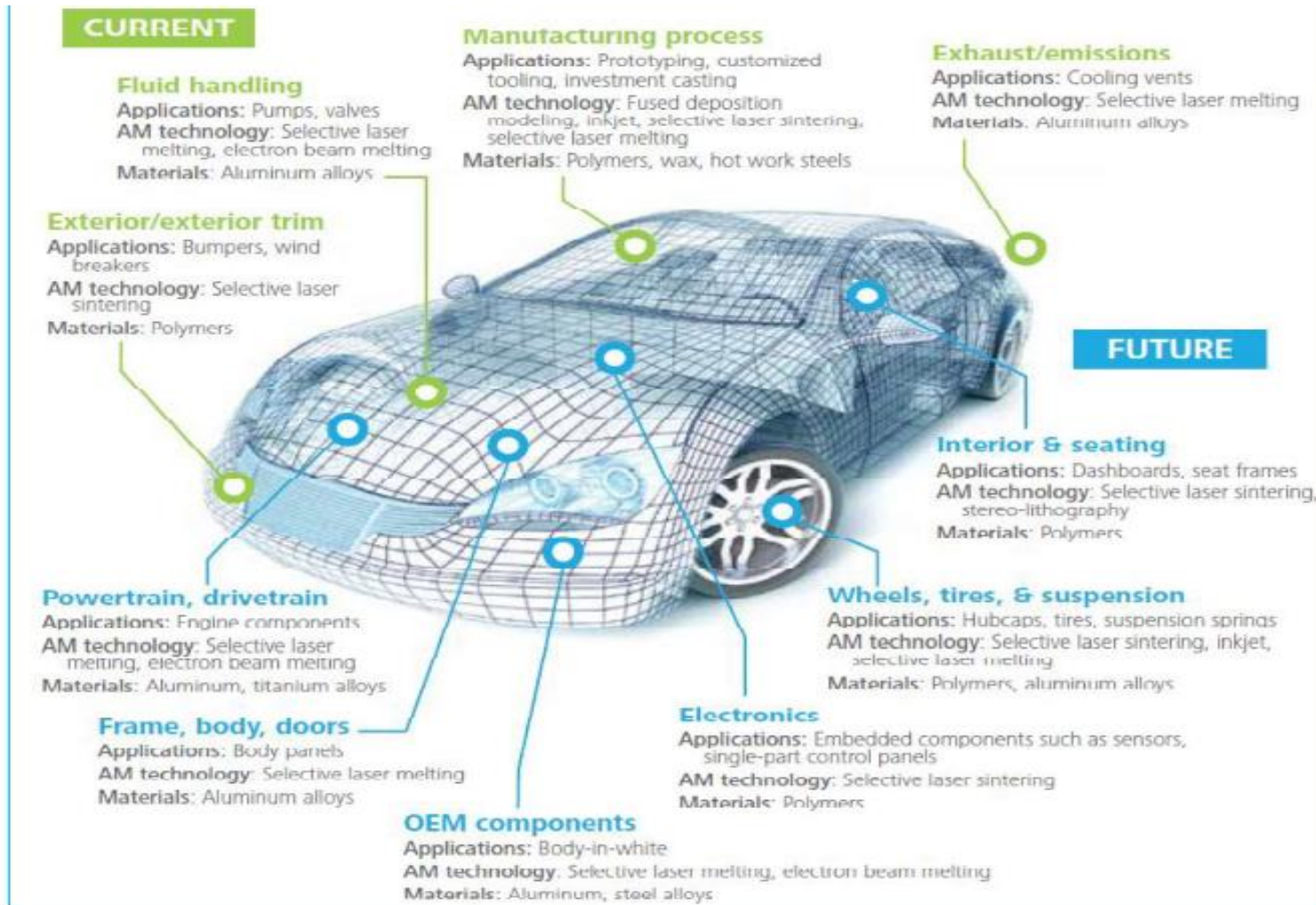
Vertebra/Honeycomb component produced in SEAM via AM



A Titanium prosthetic hand produced via AM at Oak Ridge National Laboratory



# AM holds great promise for Automotive Industry



AM is currently only used for prototyping and direct manufacturing of small, complex and non-safety relevant components within small series, as process reliability and consistency of products is still limited .

## Summary of Metal AM Current Status

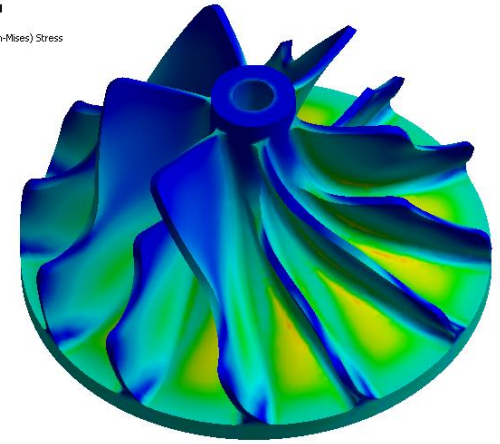
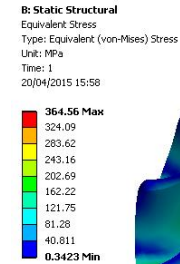
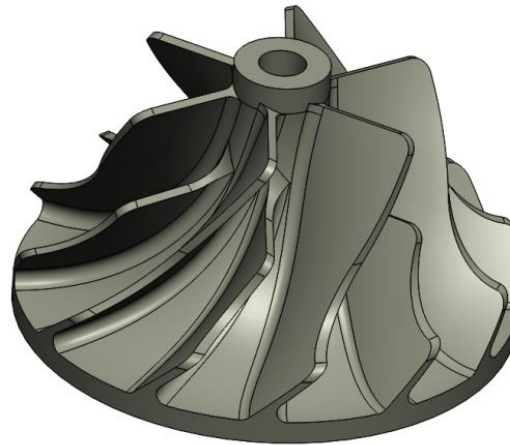
- Today Industry are beginning to realise the advantage of AM to produce custom products without the cost, time, tooling, and overhead required in the traditional machining or manufacturing processes.
- AM technology is particularly advantageous in low-to-moderate volume markets (defense and aerospace) that regularly operate without economies of scale.

What can SEAM offer in Metal AM?

# Metal AM: SEAM Offers Full Design to Prototyping Service

## Design & Optimise

- Concept Development
  - 3D CAD Modeling
- Finite Element Analysis
  - 3D Scanning



## Build

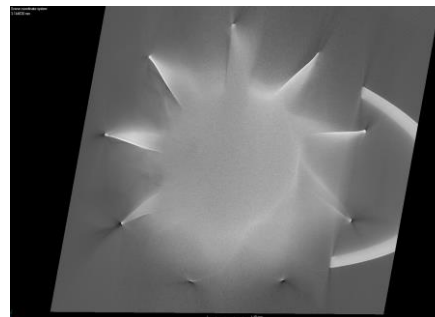
- AM Metal Prototyping
  - Heat Treatment
  - Surface Finishing



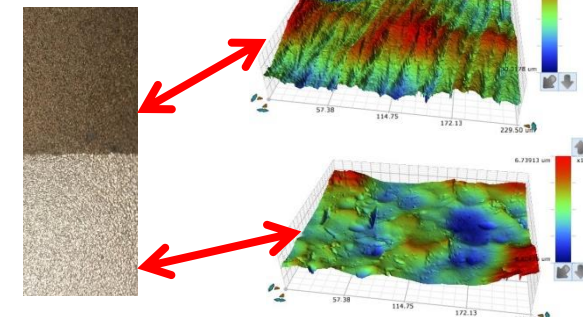
## Verification

- Destructive & Non-Destructive Testing
- Metrology
- Validation Testing
- Finished Part

## CT inspection



Ra before = 4.8  $\mu\text{m}$



Ra after = 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$

# Build Process in SEAM: DMLS (EOS M280) System

- System Spec;
  - 200 W Ytterbium fibre laser
  - Accepts 3D auto CAD .stl files
  - Build volume;  
250 x 250 mm by 300 mm high
  - Ability to optimise material parameters
  - Materials:
    - Maraging Steel – High strength, Easily machined, Post hardened (50 HRC).
    - 316L SS – Easily machined, Annealing not necessary, Good corrosion resistance.
    - Ti6Al4V – Light weight, Excellent corrosion resistance, Biocompatibility.
    - Nickel alloy IN718 – Good tensile and fatigue properties, Excellent at high temp.



**EOSINT M280**

# Surface Morphology; Pre and Post Processing

Micro shot peening via  
Wet Blasting

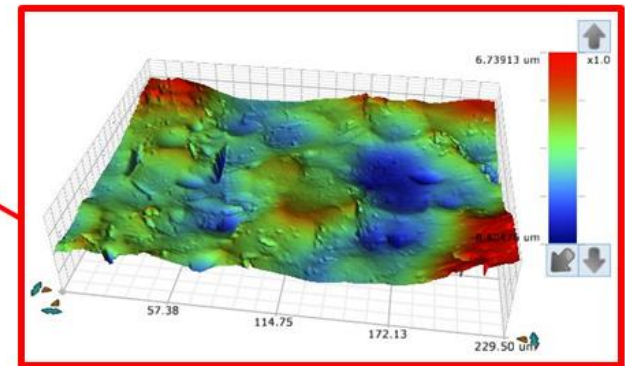
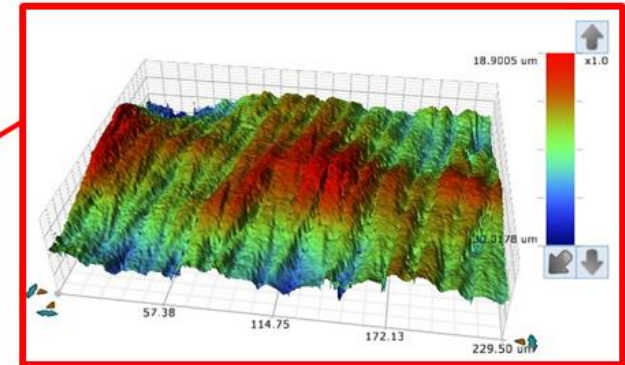


Glass bead =  $160\ \mu\text{m}$

**Ra =  $4.8\ \mu\text{m}$**   
**Before**



**After**  
**Ra =  $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$**



Data from White Light  
Interferometer

# Heat Treatment

- Heat treatment of Maraging Steel for example; 6 hrs - 490°.



- Hardness before and after age hardening = 34 RHC and 51 RHC respectively.



- Furnace capable of maximum temperature of 1280° and inert environment suitable for more exotic materials.

# SEAM has two walk-in CT Systems



180kV Nanotom

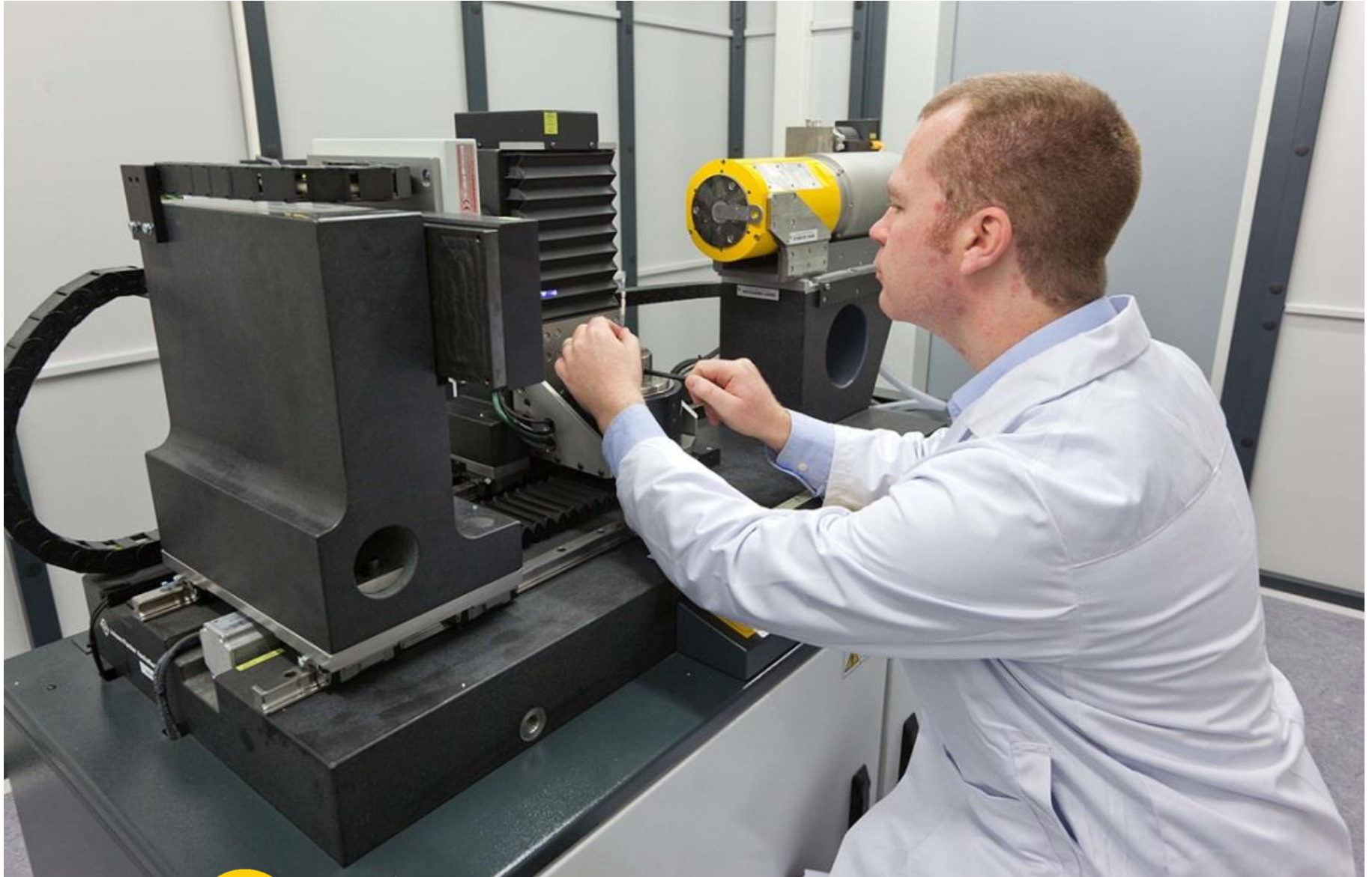
- Be used to generate require CAD Design files for input to AM equipment
- Be used to validate AM printed parts
- Determine the integrity and quality of the AM printed parts



300kV Vtomex-L



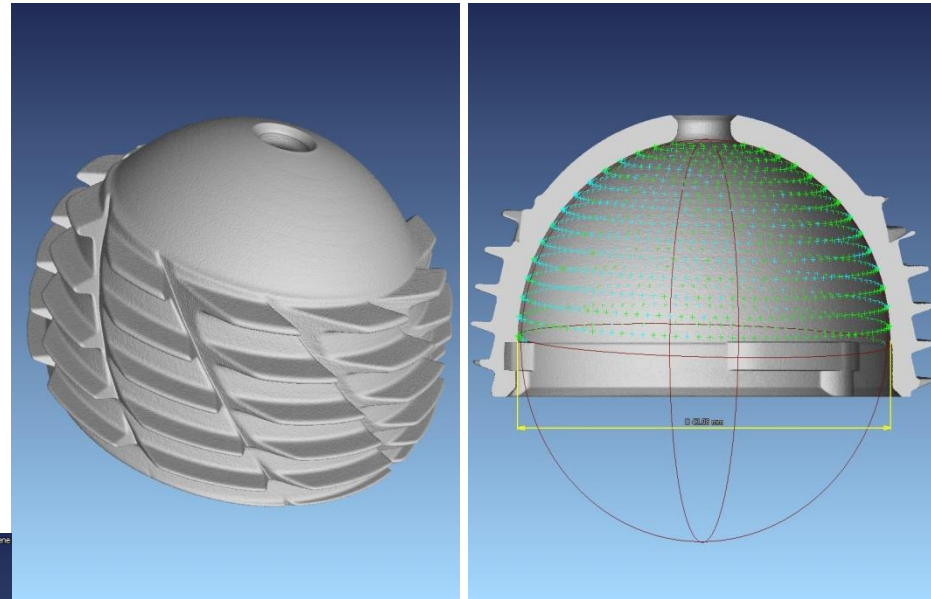
# 180kV Nanotom (CT system)



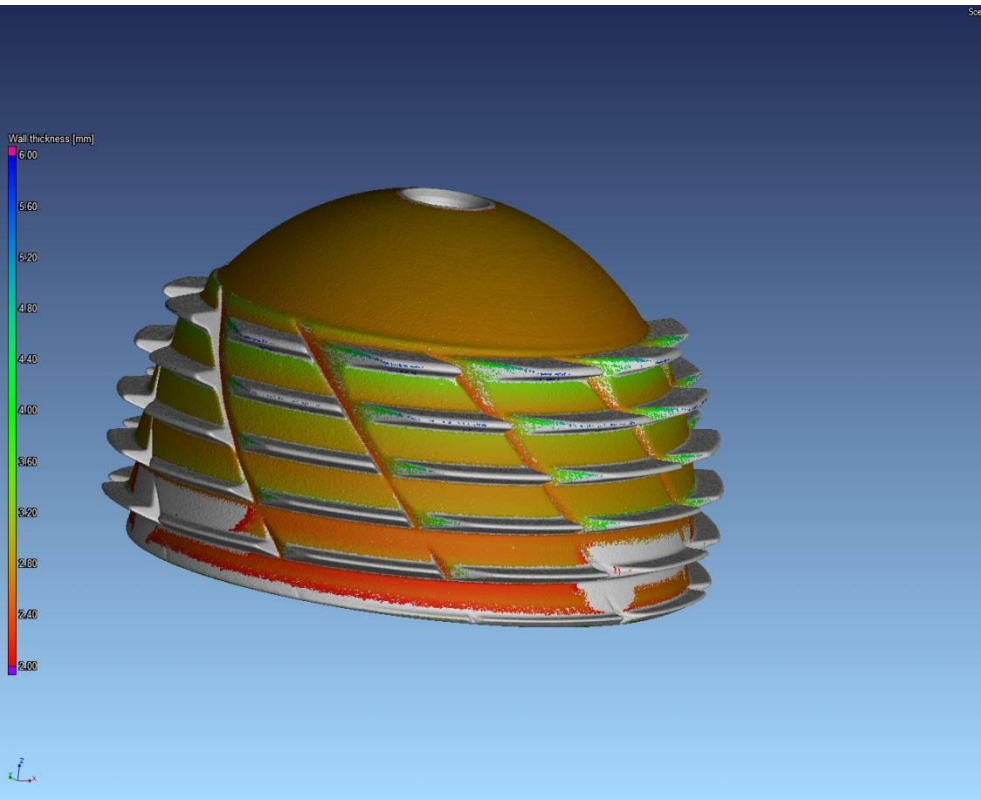
# X-ray v|tome|x L 300 Dual tube System (Unique in Ireland)



# Knee cap Implants



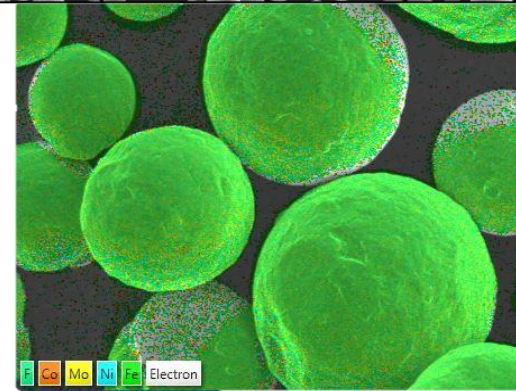
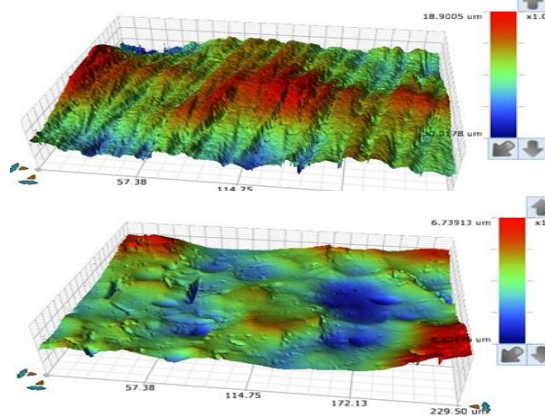
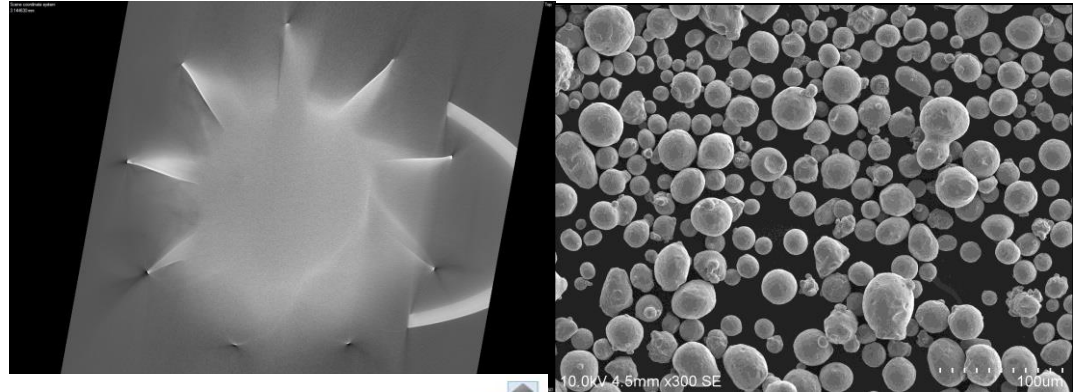
Nominal Comparison



Metrology Inspection

# Other Techniques for Validation of AM

- SEM-EDX (Morphology and Elemental analysis)
- White Light Interferometry (Ra )
- Micro-section and Optical Microscopy
- Mechanical property evaluation (Tensile strength/Hardness)



# SEAM's Ongoing AM related Projects Topics

- **Micro Laser Sintering of Implants and Industrial Components**
- **Building controlled porous structures in wide ranging materials**
- **Develop methodologies for material consistency and process repeatability**
- **Design of Microwave Components using AM techniques**

# SEAM Foresight Research Topics in AM

- **Correlating Structure Property Relationship in materials processed through AM –Ph.D Topic -position available**
- **Understanding and mitigating metrology challenges in AM - Ph.D position available**
- **Understanding process methodologies for building high impact Light weight structures (lattice structures)**
- **Development of next generation techniques for measurement of complex AM products**

Thank You All from SEAM Team



**Delivering Real solutions for Real Industry Problems**