



**AACHEN CENTER  
FOR ADDITIVE  
MANUFACTURING**



## **Discover3DPrinting @ Motek 2023**

Basic AM Seminar

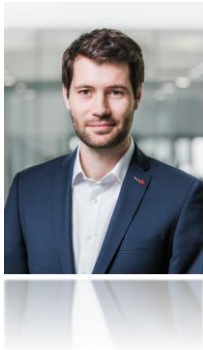


Matthias Oly | October 2023

# The ACAM Offers Services in the Areas of Consulting, Engineering, Research and Education with a Focus on the Additive Manufacturing Industry



## Your presenter



*Matthias Oly, M.Sc.*

- Consultant for ACAM Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing GmbH
- Research Associate at the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University

## Community

### BUSINESS Members



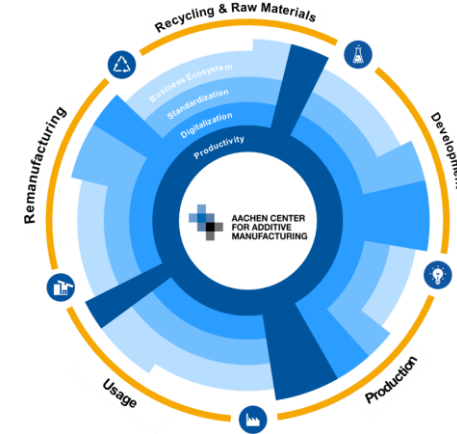
### BASIC Members



### COOPERATION Members



## Perspective and focus



## Key figures

- One-stop-shop for additive manufacturing covering the entire process chain
- Pooling of resources of RWTH Aachen Campus and facilitating industry's access to the Additive Manufacturing expertise of leading scientific and research institutions
- Over 100 researchers engaged in topics around the AM product life cycle and industry structure
- Delivery of approx. 40 industry project in consulting, engineering and research

# Basic AM Seminar – Content



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1	Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing	3
2	Introduction to Additive Manufacturing (AM)	7
3	Overview of AM Technologies	16
4	AM Application Examples	28
5	Successful Adaption of AM	35
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# RWTH Aachen Campus

## A Unique Research Landscape – the Engineering Valley



„Megatrends such as digitalization, automation, mobility, climate change, globalization or demographic change are changing the world and creating major challenges for society. The combination of different scientific disciplines and companies is necessary to solve these complex relationships and issues.“\*



-  1870 founded
-  260 institutes
-  6.000 research assistants
-  390 Mio. € Third party funds per year
-  University of Excellence since 2007



**Enrollment of the companies with the objectives:**

- Joint research & development
- Exchange with experts from science & business
- Use of specific further training offers
- Use of individual services



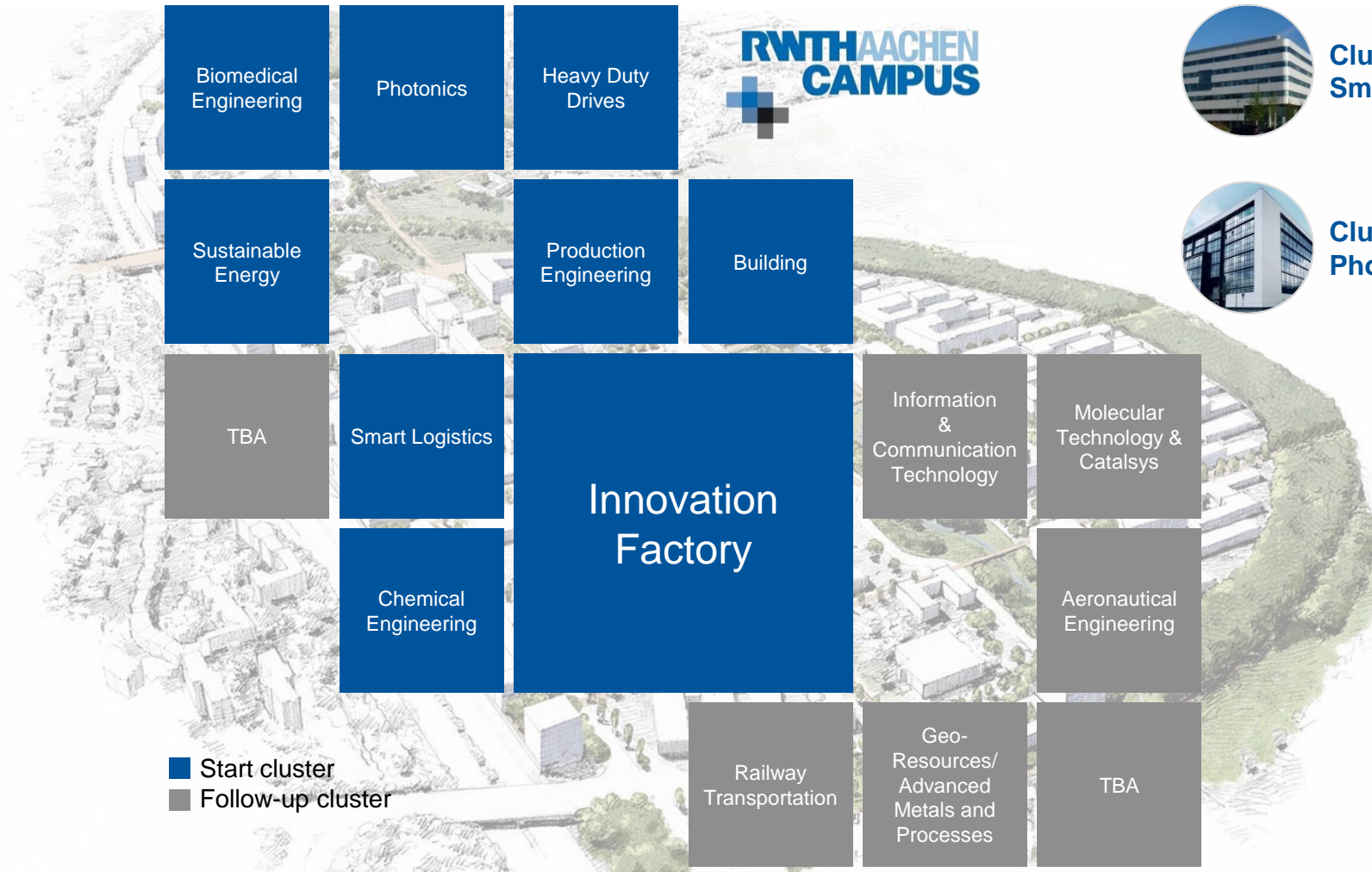
**> 400 enrolled companies**

**Exchange and development of knowledge between research and industry –  
Companies, institutes and the university share resources, utilize synergies and jointly conduct research on sustainable innovations**

\*Vision of the RWTH Aachen Campus



# RWTH Aachen Campus: 16 Research Clusters Are Developing



**Cluster Smart Logistic**



**Cluster Heavy Duty Drives**



**Cluster Photonics**



**Cluster Sustainable Energy**



**Cluster Production Engineering**



**Cluster Bio-Medical Engineering**



**Cluster Chemical Engineering**

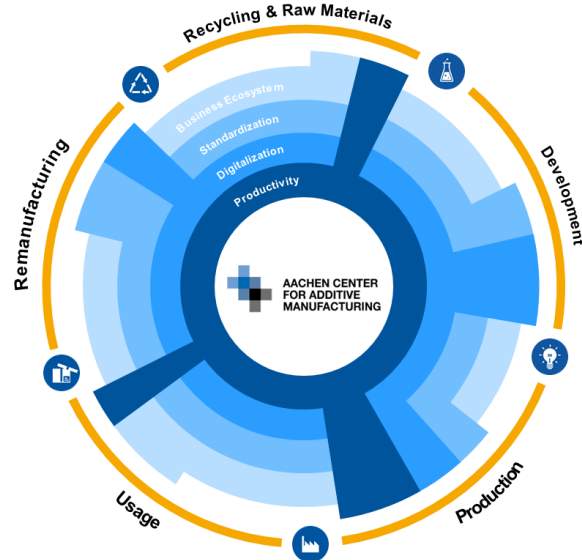
# Community



## The Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing



### Navigating AM complexity

Creating opportunities by leading-edge **R&D**, professional **training and education**, and agile **engineering** and **consulting** services



-  Dedicating **3,000 m²** lab space to AM research
-  Connecting **100+ researchers** in the field of AM

### Leading-Edge Research in Additive Manufacturing



**The ACAM is your one stop shop for Additive Manufacturing research, education, engineering and consulting.**

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# Introduction to AM

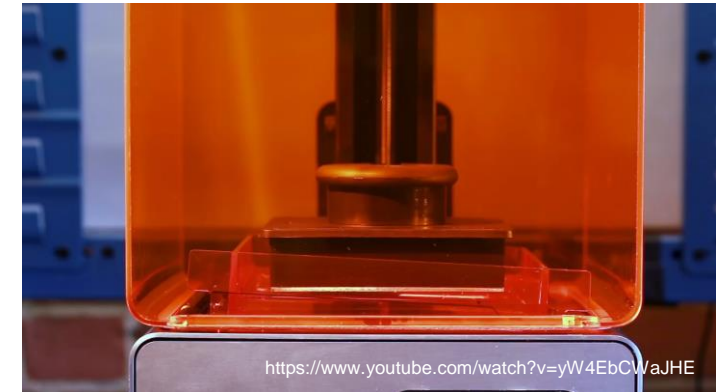
## Additive Manufacturing – Definition



### Definition (ASTM 52900)

*“Additive Manufacturing (AM) is defined as the process that*

- ***produces components from 3D model** data*
- ***by joining material usually layer by layer,***
- *as opposed to subtractive and formative manufacturing methods.”*



### Definition (VDI 3405)

*“Manufacturing process in which the **work piece is built up in successive layers or units.**”*



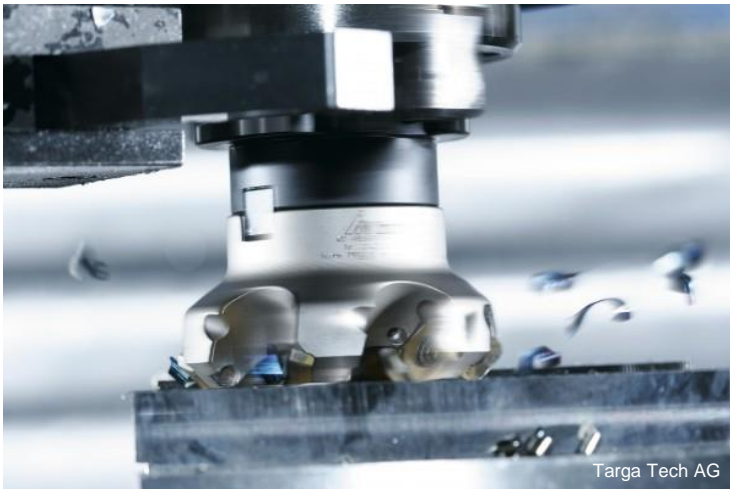


# Introduction to AM

## Subdivision of Manufacturing Technologies



### Subtractive Manufacturing



Manufacturing of geometry by removing of defined areas from workpiece

- Milling
- Turning
- ...

### Formative Manufacturing



Forming a given volume into geometry under the condition of constant volume

- Deep Drawing
- Molding
- ...

### Additive Manufacturing



Stacking of volume elements (usually in layers)

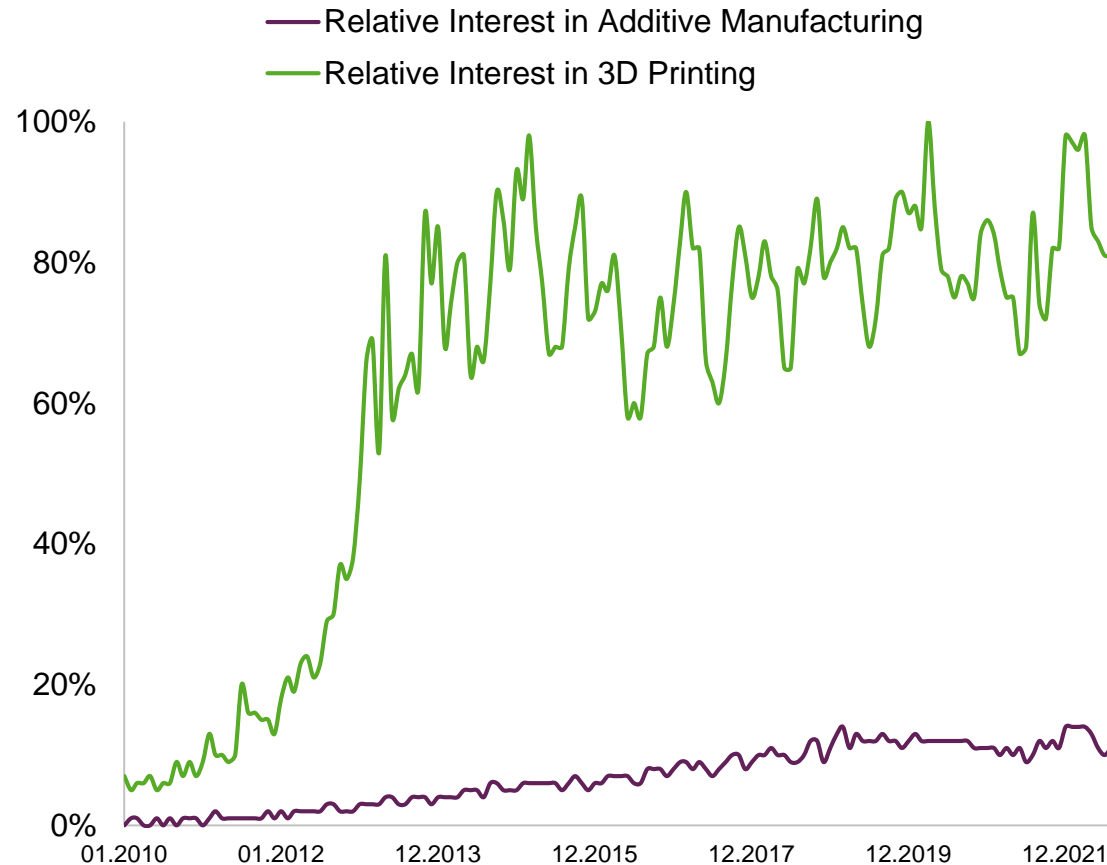
- Laser Powder Bed Fusion
- Laser Metal Deposition
- ...

# Introduction to AM

## Global Interest on AM According to Google Trends



Global relative interest according to Google Trends



- **Overall positive trend** of relative interest in AM and 3D printing in online search engines
- **Lower interest in AM compared to 3D printing** because **AM is the more scientific term**
- **Strong increase (hype) until 2013/2014** of the search term **3D printing**

**“3D Printing has the potential to revolutionize the way we make almost everything”**

Barack Obama, State of the Union,  
Feb 2013

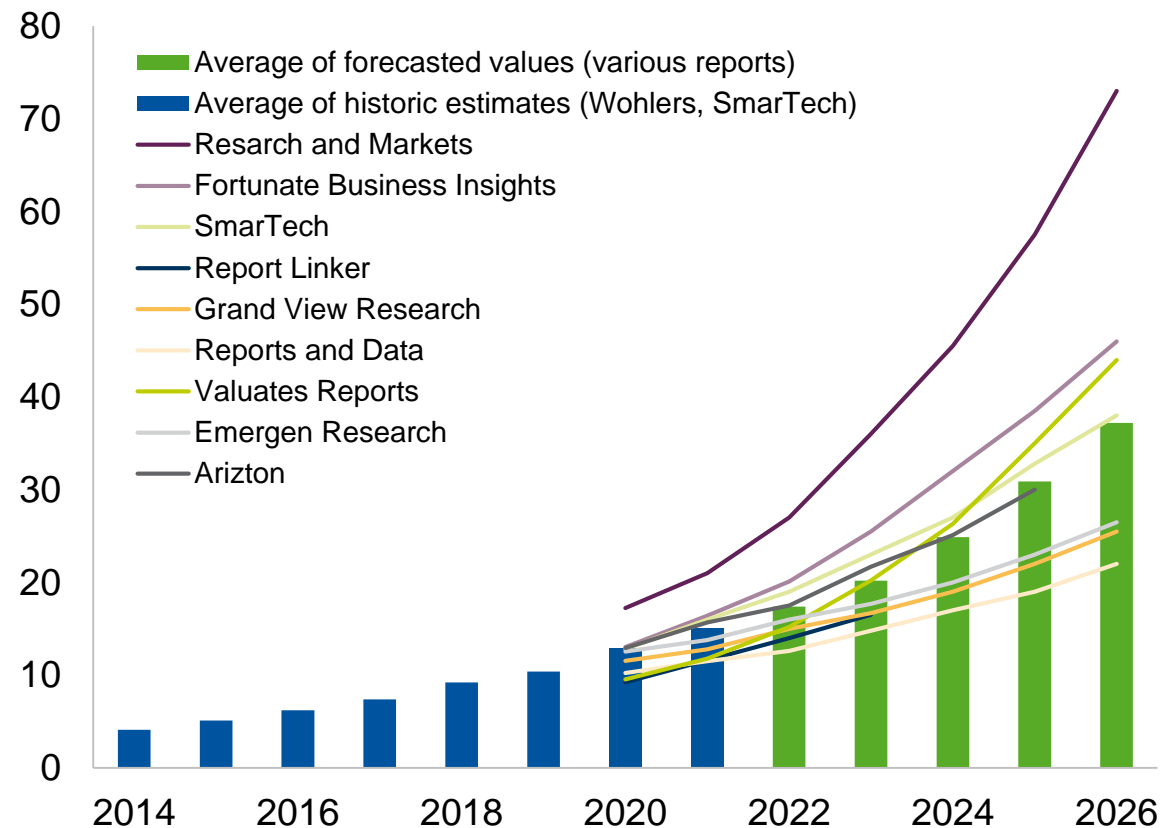


# Introduction to AM

## Positive Historic and Future Development of the AM Market

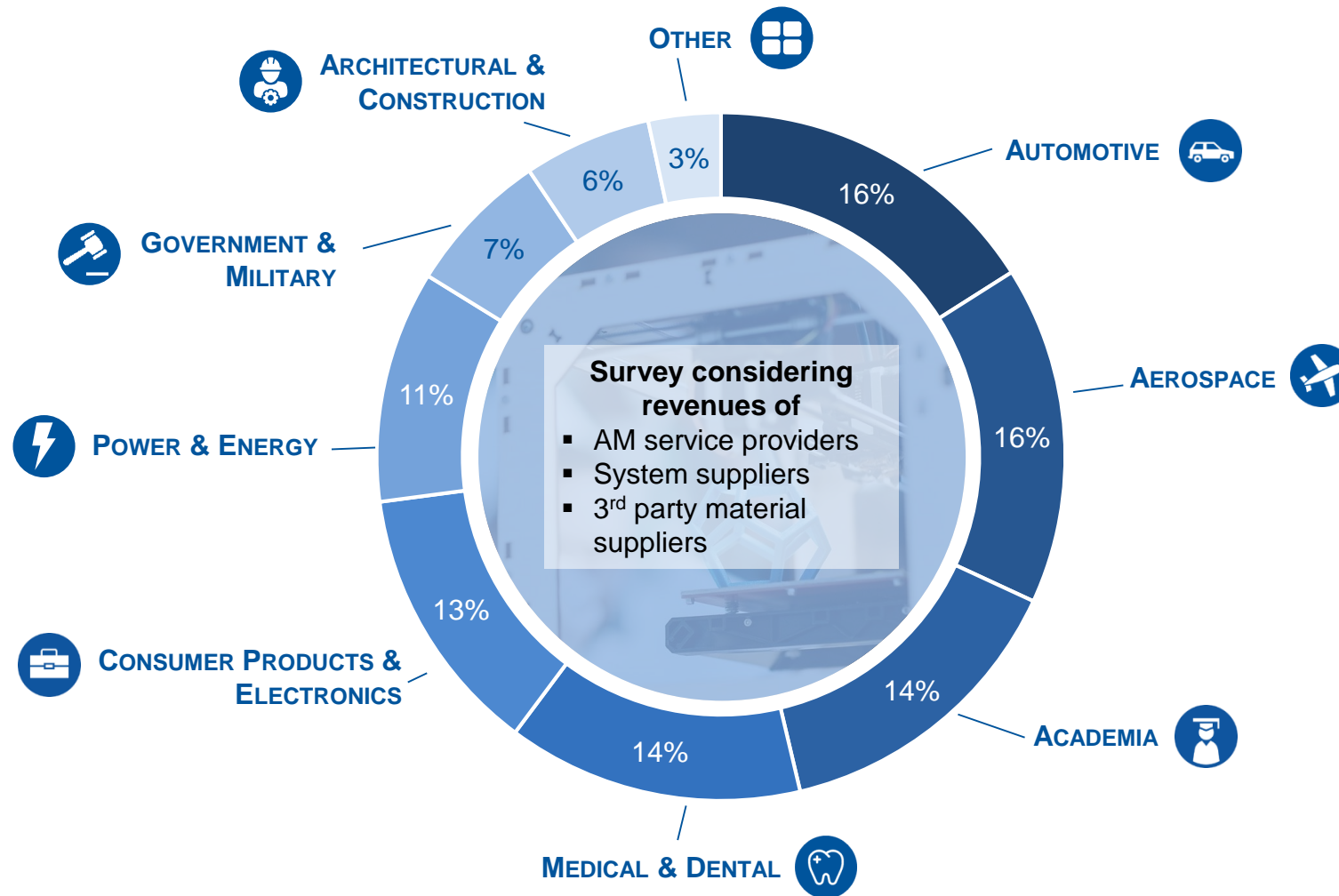


**Total AM market size according to different market reports [\$ billion]**



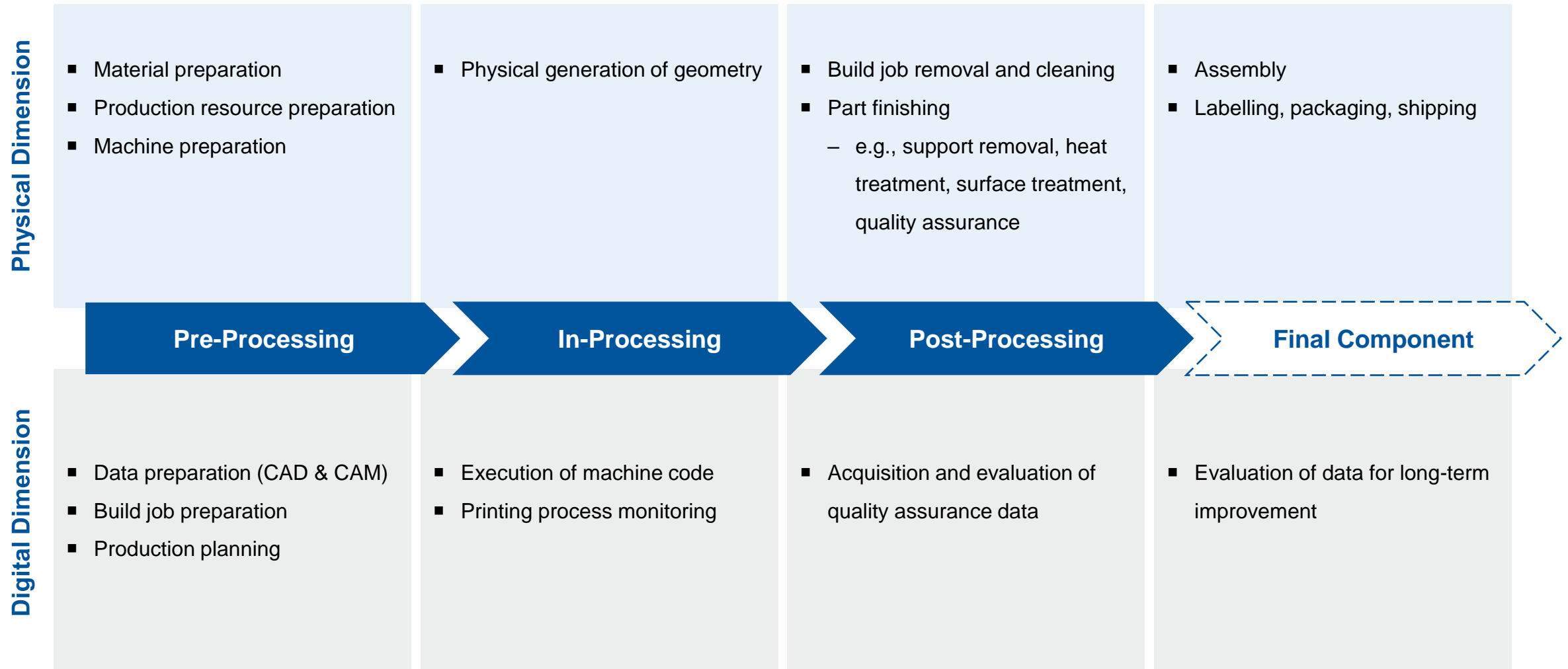
- **Overall positive** forecasted and historic growth rates in all reports
- **Diverging positive forecasts** indicate a **developing** volatile and uncertain market
- **Included revenue (primary market):**
  - AM systems
  - Software
  - Materials
  - Services

# Introduction to AM Market Overview



# Introduction to AM

## General AM Process Chain





# Introduction to AM

## Key Characteristics of Additive Manufacturing



### Additive



*Geometry is generated by adding material instead of removing or forming*

### Toolless



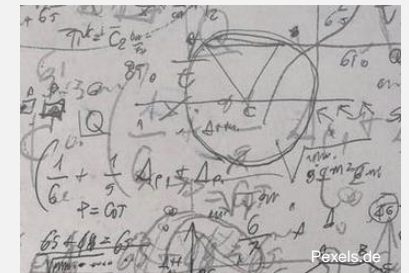
*Component geometry is independent from tool*

### Digital



*Direct manufacturing based on 3D models*

### Complex



*Different technologies require specific expert knowledge*



# Introduction to AM

## AM Benefits and Barriers



### + AM Benefits

- **Design freedom:** Complex features, lightweight, monolithic
- **Flexible design** iterations and engineering changes
- **Integration of functions**
- Economic **small quantities** and **individualization**
- **Short time** and efficiency **idea to product**
- **Short supply chain**
- **Insourcing:** Appealing due to high degree of automation
- **Sustainability** by material reduction or efficiency in performance

### - AM Barriers

- **Long printing times**
- Almost **no economies of scale**
- **Low surface quality** as-built
- **Large geometrical tolerances** as-built
- **Requires “Additive Mindset”** and **skills**
- **Complex quality assurance** and **certification**
- **Health and security** measures required

**AM benefits and barriers are not generic – consideration of use case, AM technology and process chain mandatory**

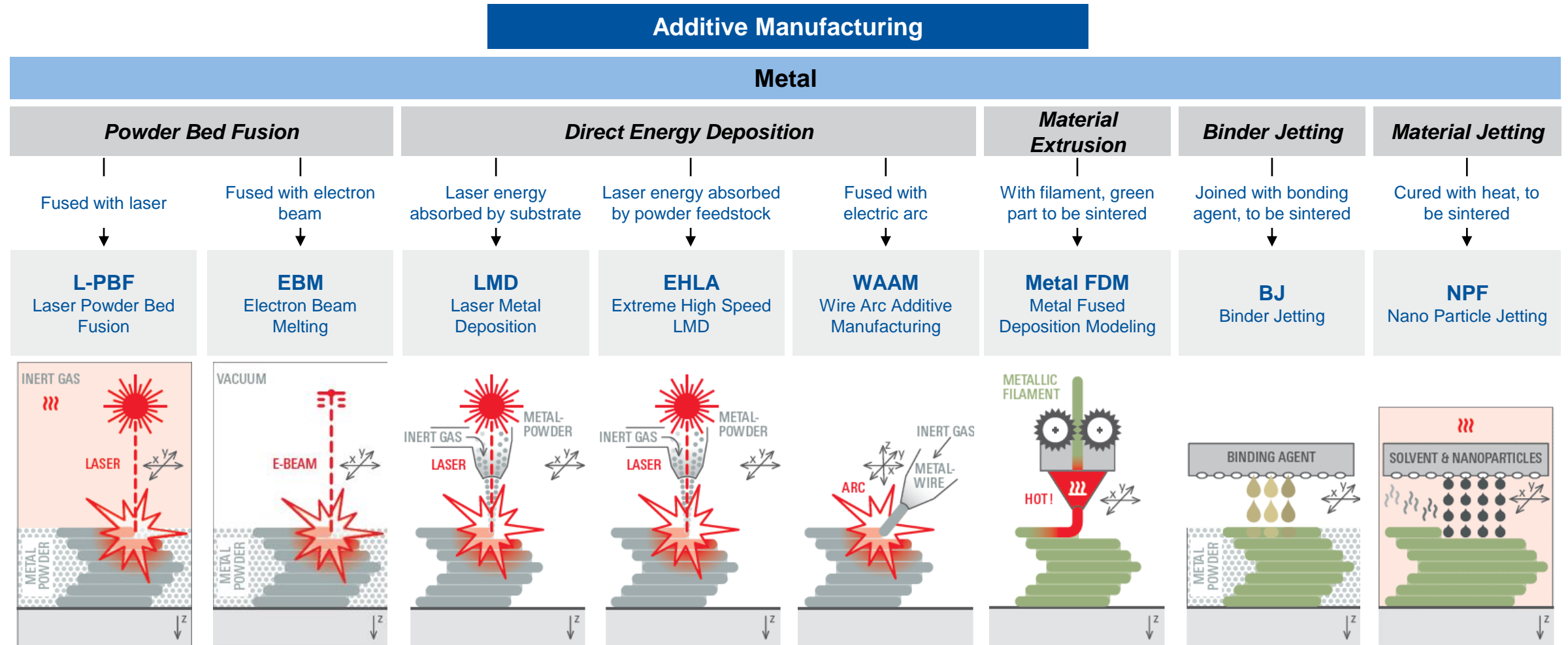
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# AM Technology Overview

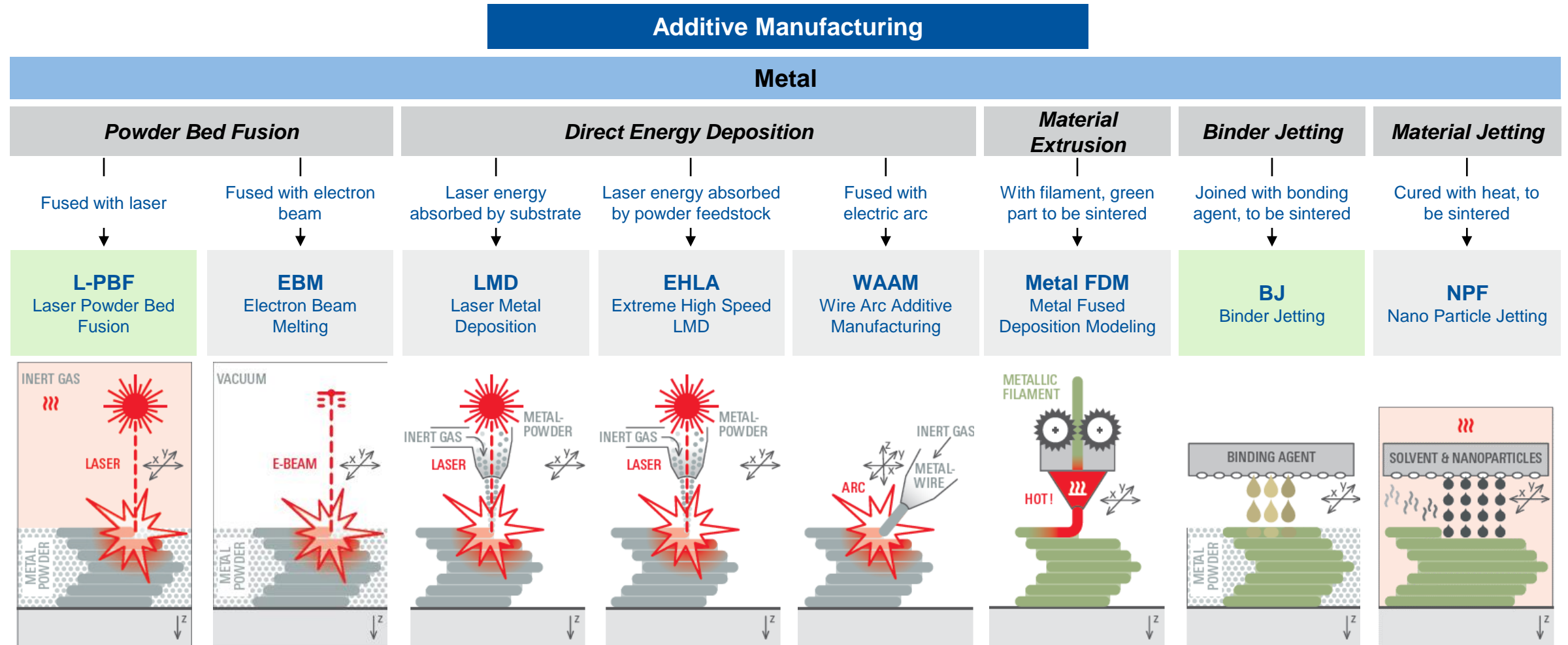
## Segmentation of Established Metal AM Technologies



Source: Derived from Formnext AM Field Guide Compact and DIN EN ISO/ASTM Terminology

# AM Technology Overview

## Segmentation of Established Metal AM Technologies



Source: Derived from Formnext AM Field Guide Compact and DIN EN ISO/ASTM Terminology

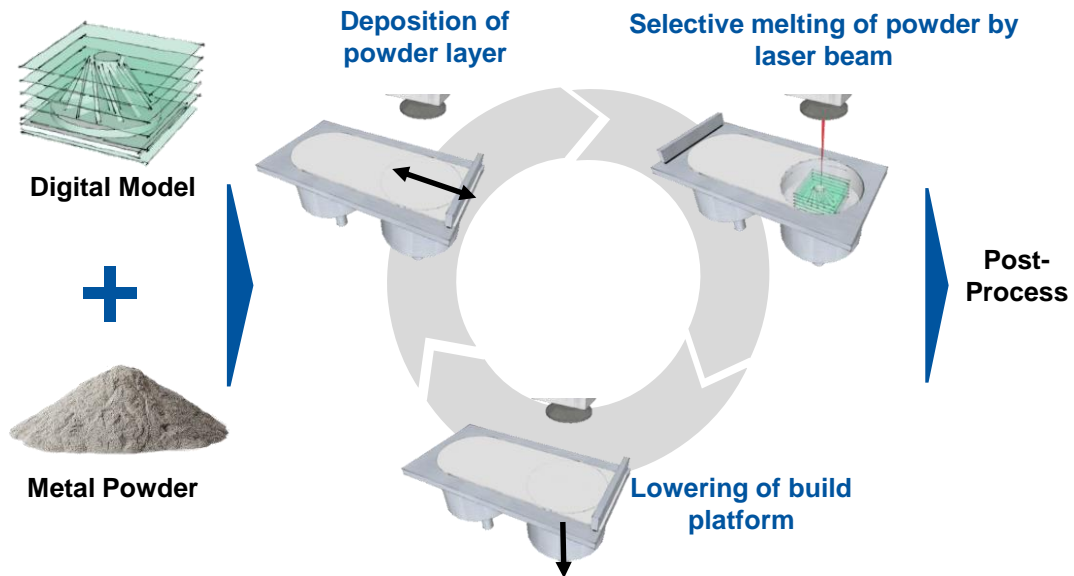


# AM Technologies

## Laser Powder Bed Fusion of Metal (LPBF)



### Process Principle



### Process in Action



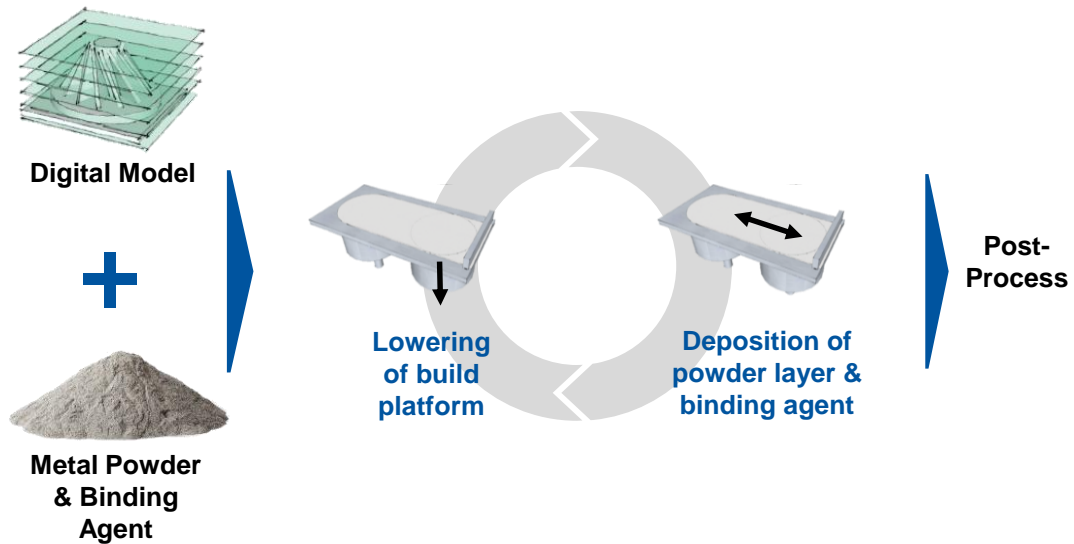
- Selective melting of metal powder layer-by-layer with one or more lasers
- Requires support structures for overhangs
- General suitability for weldable materials, comparably many alloys are qualified (e.g., steels, Ni based alloys, CoCr, copper and alloys, Ti and alloys, Al alloys, refractory metals, Mg alloys)

# AM Technologies

## Binder Jetting (BJ)



### Process Principle



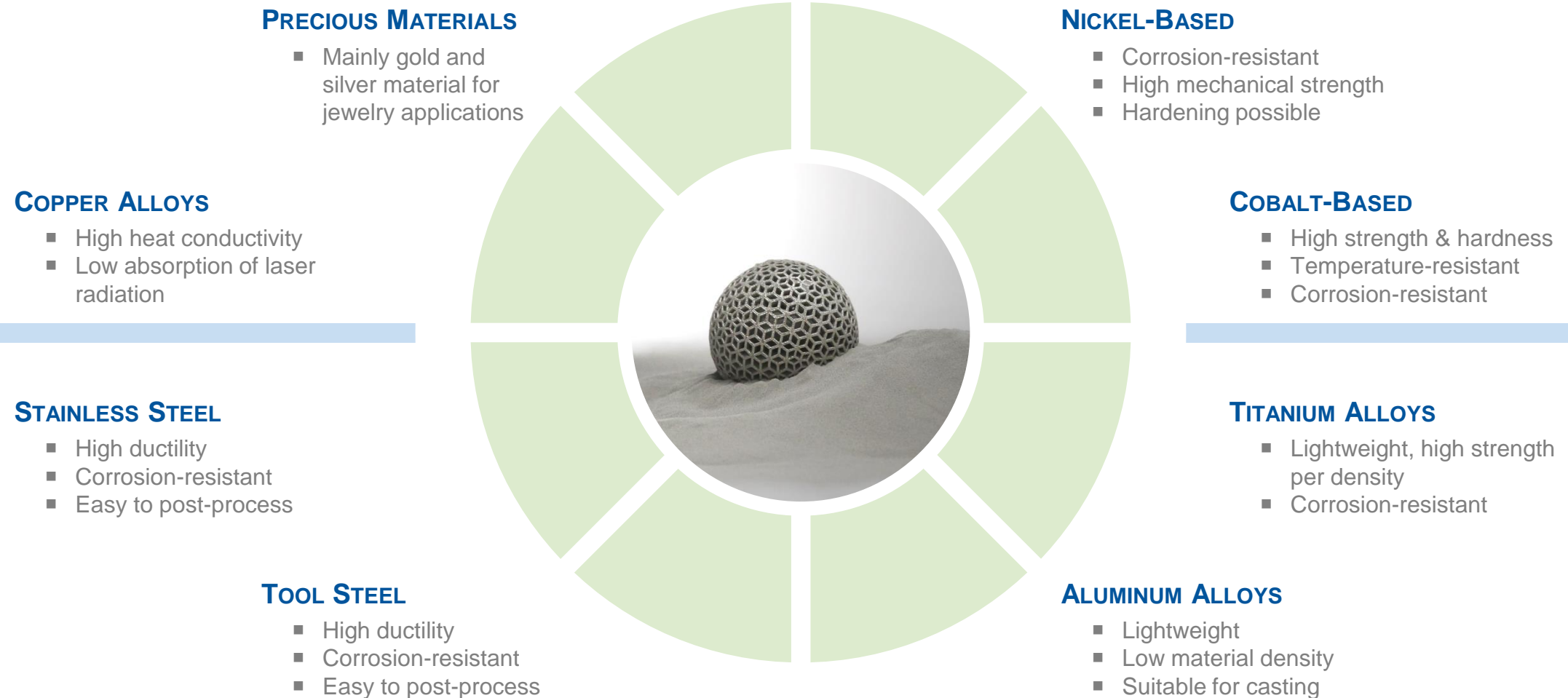
### Process in Action



- Production of complex geometries by selective deposition of binder agent on metal powder layer by layer
- As-built part is in green state and requires further processing steps for functionality (e.g., curing, depowdering, sintering)
- Compared to LPBF lower technological maturity and less materials qualified, but potential of higher productivity

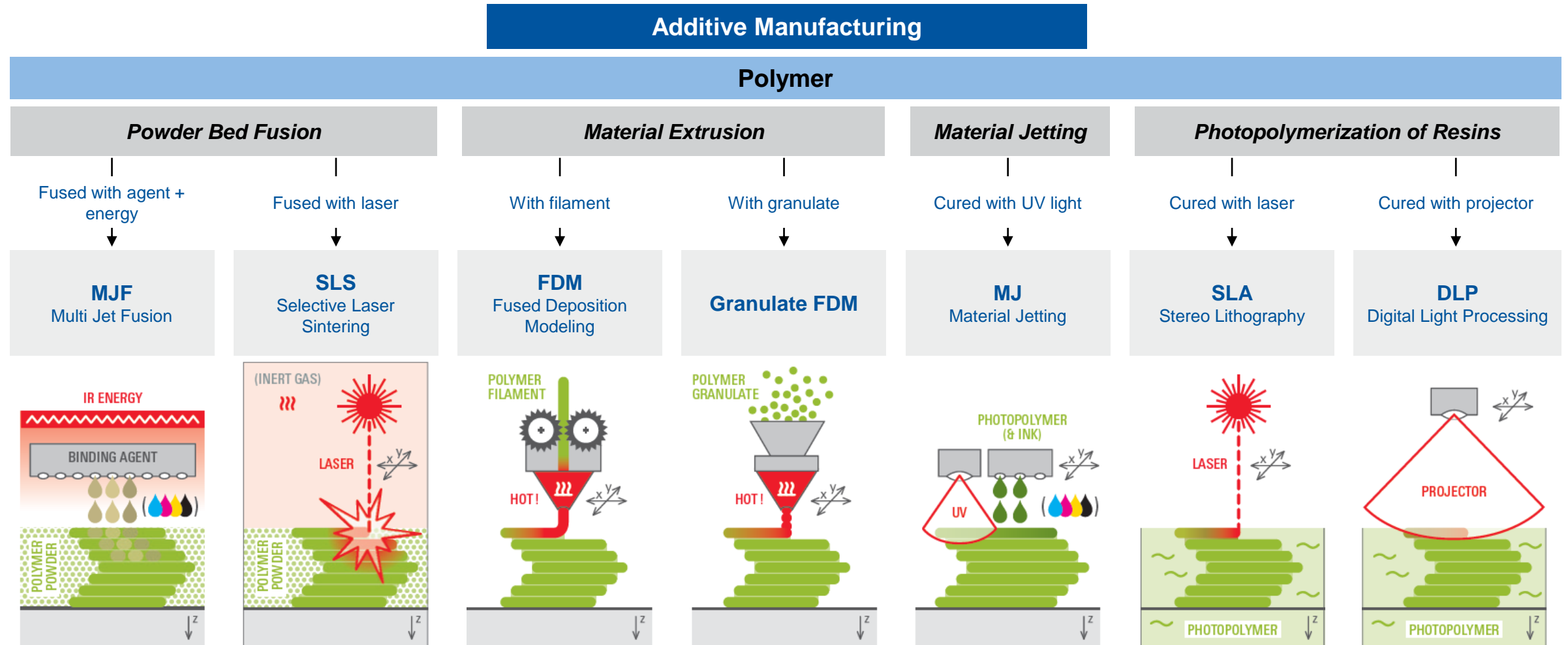
# AM Technology Overview

## Available Metal Materials



# AM Technology Overview

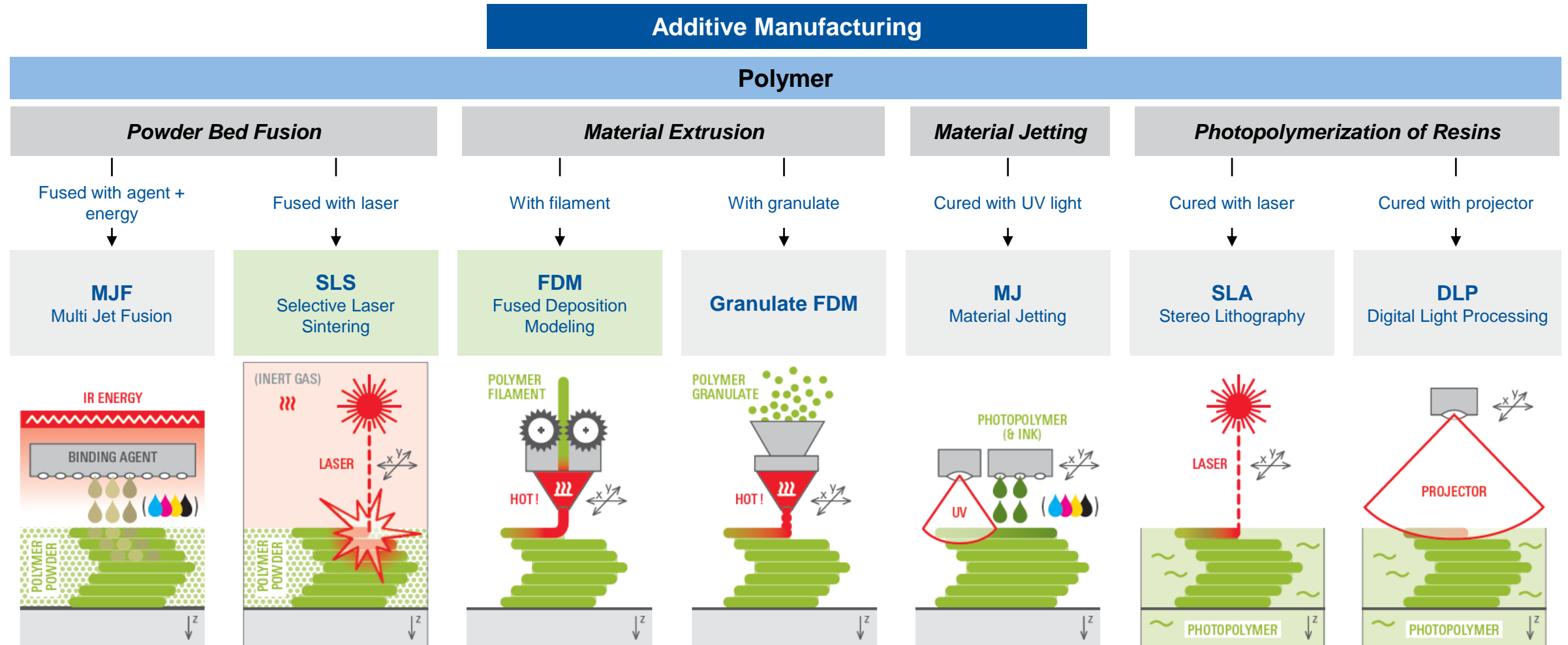
## Segmentation of Established Polymer AM Technologies



Source: Derived from Formnext AM Field Guide Compact and DIN EN ISO/ASTM Terminology

# AM Technology Overview

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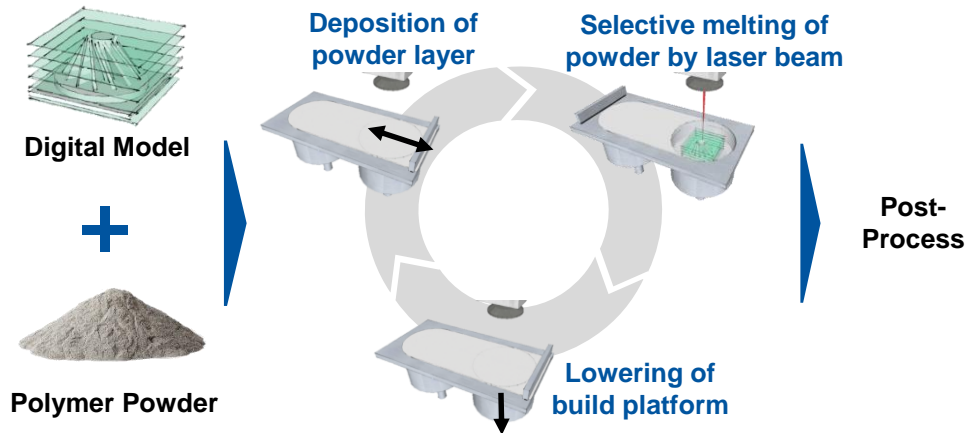


# AM Technologies

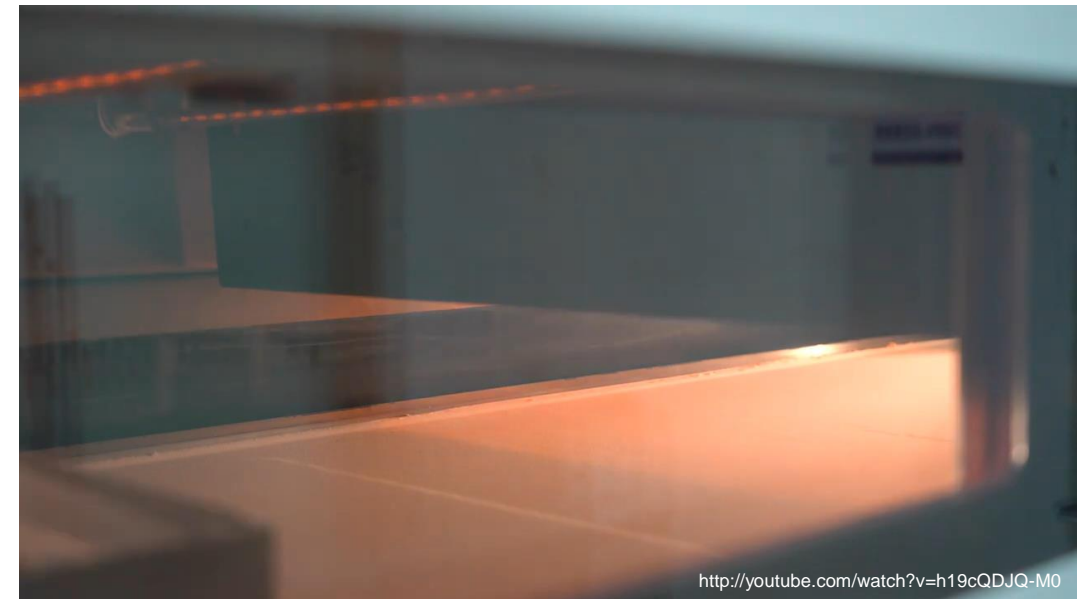
## Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)



### Process Principle



### Process in Action



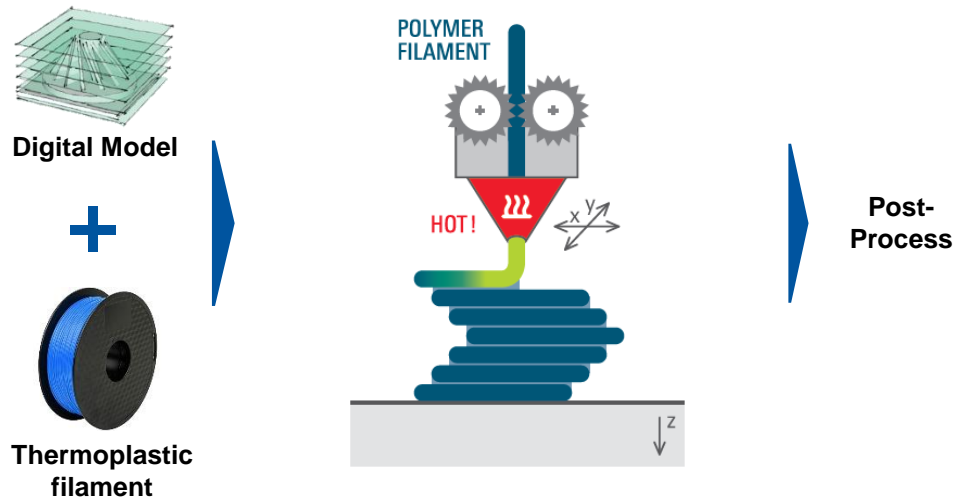
- Production of complex geometries by selective melting of polymer powder with one or more lasers
- As-built parts are usually white (polymer color)
- Many different materials available (e.g., PA11, PA12, TPU, PEEK, TPE, PP)

# AM Technologies

## Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)



### Process Principle



### Process in Action

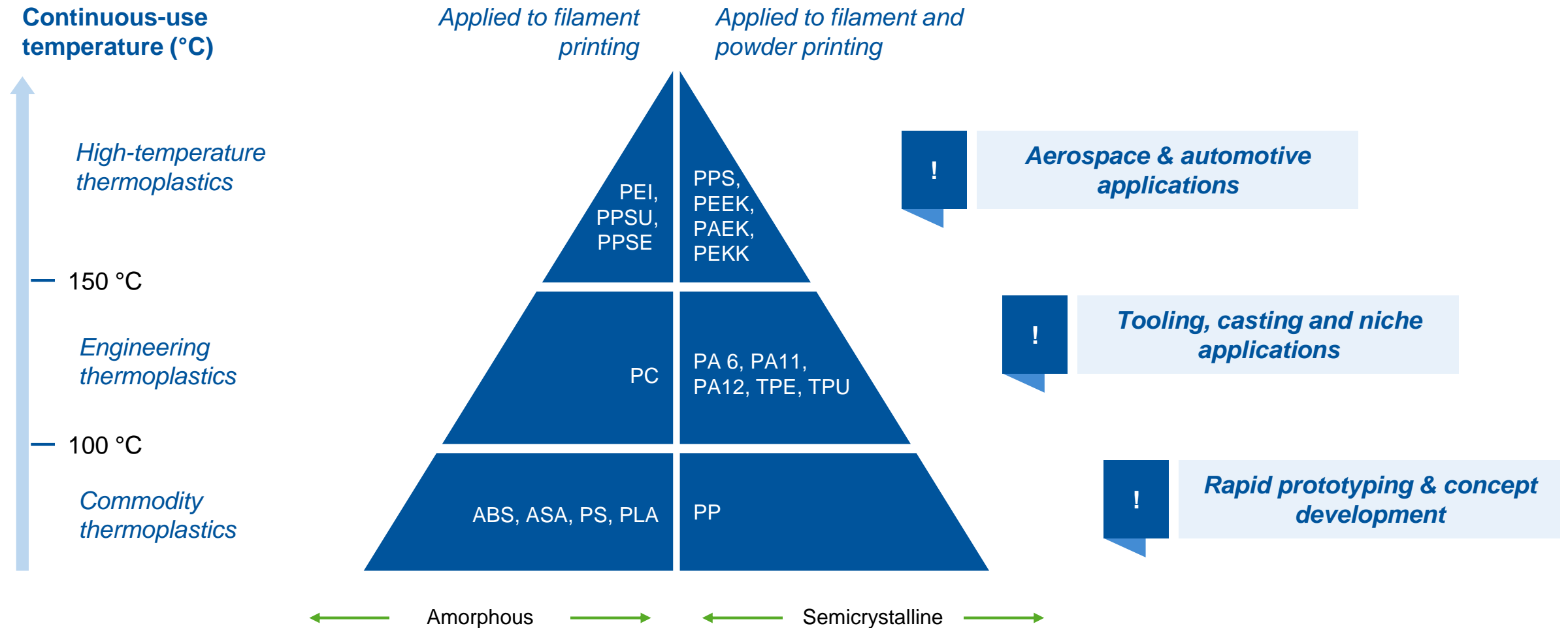


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKHMmKqdl68>

- Thermoplastic filament is molten and extruded through a hot nozzle
- Support structures are required for overhangs
- Use in industry, but also huge open source and DIY community
- Many materials available (e.g, PLA, ABS, PP, PA, PC, TPE, TPC, TPU, PEEK, PEKK, PPSU, PEI)

# AM Technology Overview

## Available Polymer Materials

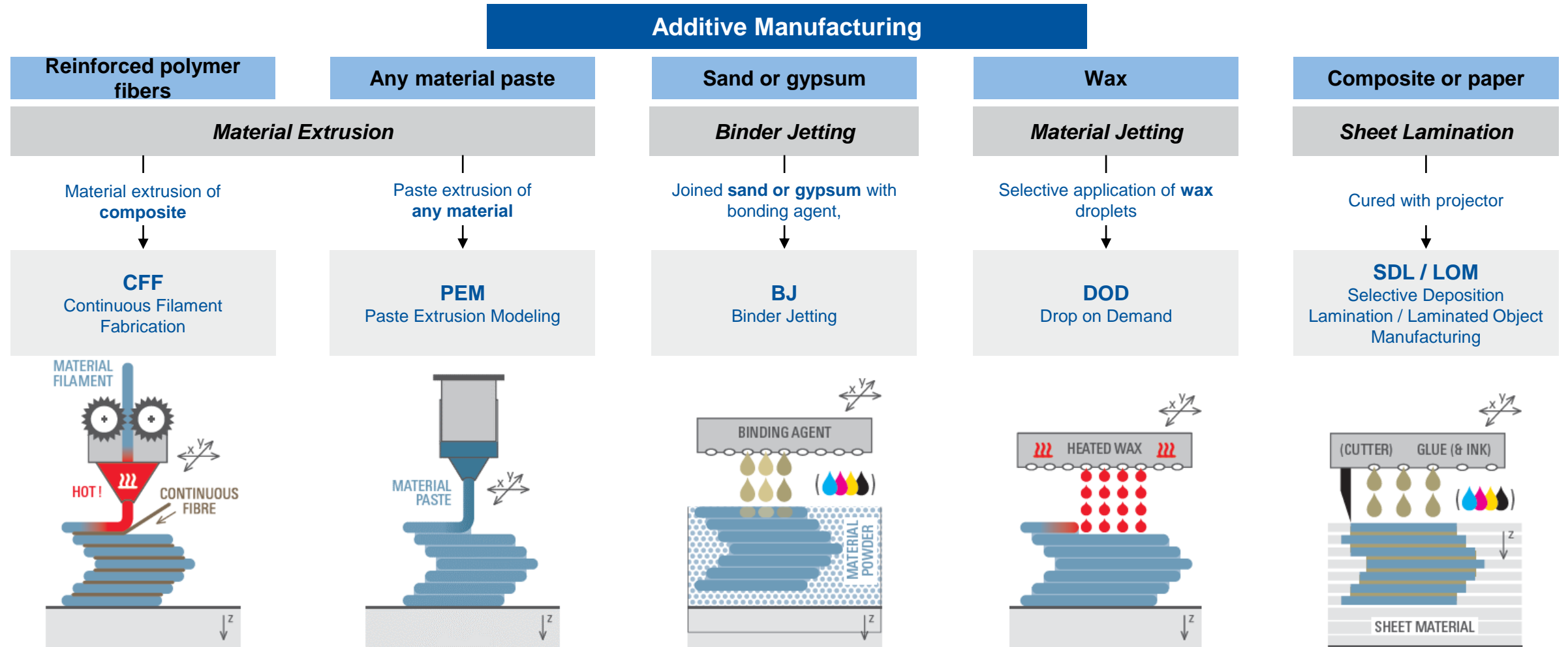


Source: 3DMaker Engineering, RapidMade, EOS, BigRep

Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing | RWTH Aachen Campus

# AM Technology Overview

## Segmentation of Other AM Technologies



Source: Derived from Formnext AM Field Guide Compact and DIN EN ISO/ASTM Terminology

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# AM Application Examples

## Wittmann Robot Systeme GmbH Bronchial Gripper



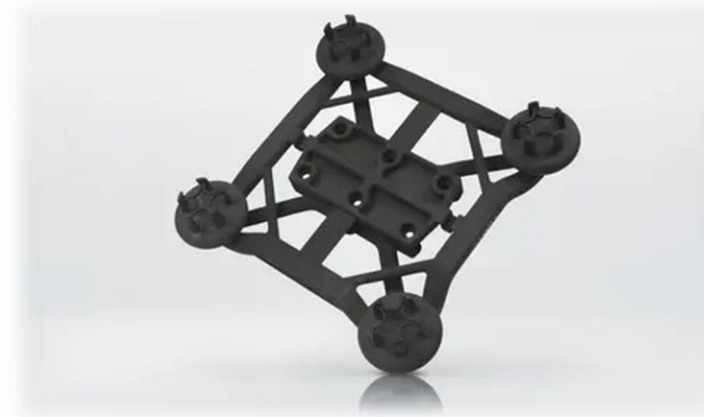
### Characteristics

- Bronchial gripper with functional plate made of polyamide
- EOS technology in collaboration with KuhnStoff
- Over 5 million work cycles without downtime
- Direct integration of pneumatic connections and lines into the plate
- Reduction of components from 21 to only two

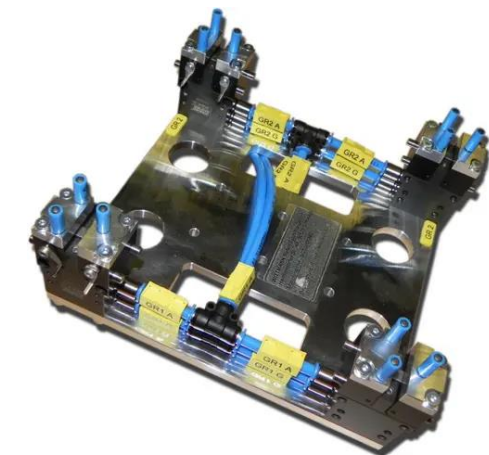


### Utilized AM Benefits

- Weight reduction by 86% to only 220 g
- Significant cost reduction by using less material and fewer parts
- Short production time: Reduced from twelve days to just three working days



Additively manufactured  
Weight: 220 g  
Pieces: 2



Milled steel  
Weight: 1570 g  
Pieces: 21

# AM Application Examples

## Schmalz GmbH Individual Vacuum Grippers



### Characteristics

- In collaboration with trinckle 3D GmbH, a digital platform for the configuration of grippers was developed
- The gripper can be individually configured in six steps
- Individually designed grippers are particularly light and robust, specially designed for the respective application

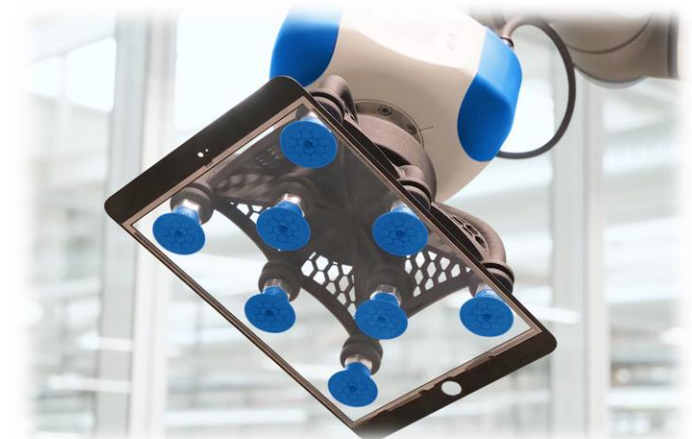


### Utilized AM Benefits

- Fast and flexible production of individual gripping solutions
- Reduced interference contours through integration of functions directly into the design
- Enables the combination of the gripper with different vacuum components



Additively manufactured gripper



# AM Application Examples

## Beulco GmbH Parallel and Suction Gripper



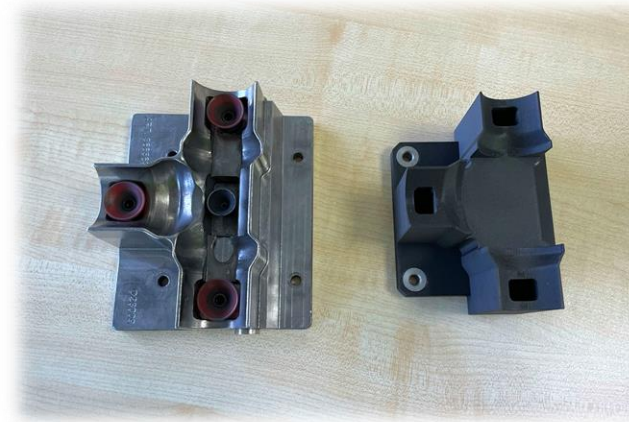
### Characteristics

- Individual workpiece contours with over 300 variants lead to high tooling costs
- Requirement for cost-efficient and adaptable gripper alternatives to conventional metal grippers
- 3D-Printed with carbon continuous fiber reinforced polymer FDM technology on Markforged 3D printers (Mark3D)



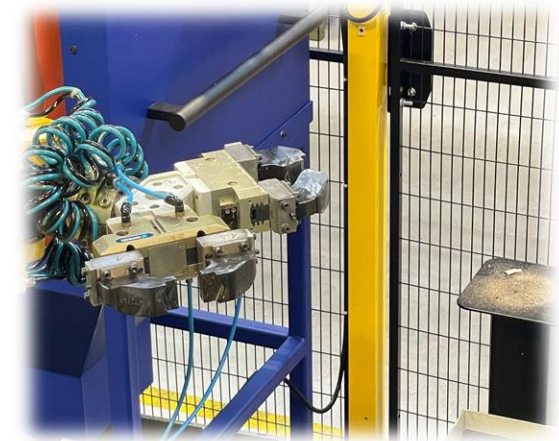
### Utilized AM Benefits

- Shortening of delivery times
- Total savings of €200,000 on over 330 printed pairs of grippers and suction gripper



Milled steel  
Weight: 3194 g  
Costs: 1.145,00 €  
Delivery Time: 4-6 weeks

Additively manufactured  
Weight: 189 g  
Cost: 100 €  
Delivery time: 24 hours



# AM Application Examples

## RNA GmbH Vibratory Conveyors



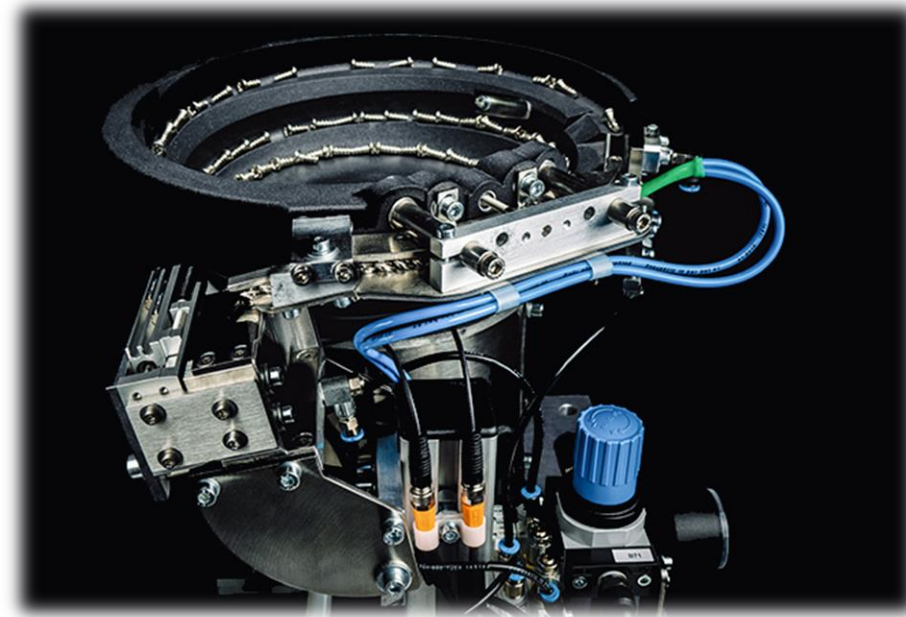
### Characteristics

- SLS-3D printed vibratory conveyors
- The high-performance magnets used enable a high load-independent conveying capacity
- 3D deep learning AI technology helps optimization of geometry



### Utilized AM Benefits

- Completely reproducible
- Flexible and can be quickly converted for other workpieces
- Different parts from the same part family can be fed



3D printed vibratory  
conveyor drive

# AM Application Examples

## IFC GmbH Conveyor Pots



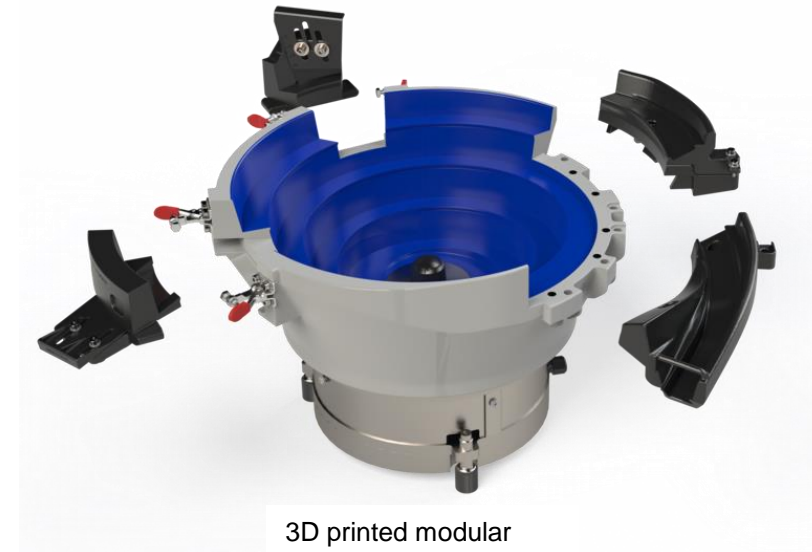
### Characteristics

- Conveyor pot for automated feeding of bulk material
- Printed with HP Multi Jet Fusion technology
- Modular system with a "base pot" that can be flexibly adapted to different bulk materials



### Utilized AM Benefits

- Higher flexibility due to easier change of components for different bulk materials
- Cost efficiency due to lower manufacturing costs and avoidance of costly warehousing
- Lighter weight leads to reduced vibration and lower energy consumption and is therefore more efficient and sustainable



3D printed modular  
conveyor pot



# AM Application Examples

## 3DGence Mounting Brackets for Camera Systems



### Characteristics

- Customization and production of customer-specific mounting brackets for industrial cameras
- FDM-printed from ABS

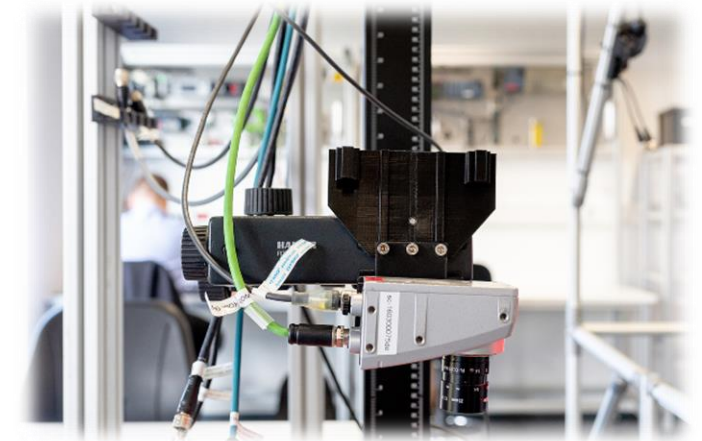


Additively manufactured assembly element



### Utilized AM Benefits

- Fast and precise production of individual brackets
- Reduced production costs compared to traditional manufacturing methods
- Complete control over the geometry of the printed parts and reduce the need for retouches





# AM Application Examples

## Research Project AddFlex of WZL of RWTH Aachen University



### Characteristics

- Automated generative design of adaptive lightweight gripper fingers
- Simulation of the gripper supports the generation of a digital twin of the gripper in the gripping process
- FDM 3D-printed gripper fingers



### Utilized AM Benefits

- After usage, grippers can be shredded and recycled material can be used to 3D-print new grippers
- Individualized gripper fingers increase flexibility and decrease cost for handling



Additively manufactured  
lightweight gripper fingers



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# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset”



## Comparing Apples with Oranges...



**Successful AM adaption** requires **consideration of AM differences**. Without change of expectations, AM turns out as a poor substitute for established processes.

Source: Effectory, TCT

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## ...Additive Manufacturing is different



**Different cost structure**



**Financial return** and **technological feasibility** must be considered in **identification of parts with positive business case**



Enables **new business models** such as mass customization or digital warehousing



**Products** and **required expertise** along the product life cycle are different (e.g. Design for Additive Manufacturing)



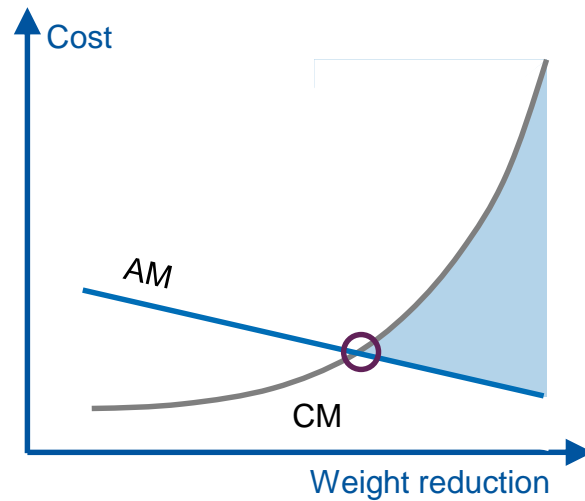
Some AM technologies require complex **health & security measures**

# Successful Adaption of AM

## Different Cost Structure of Conventional Manufacturing (CM) and AM

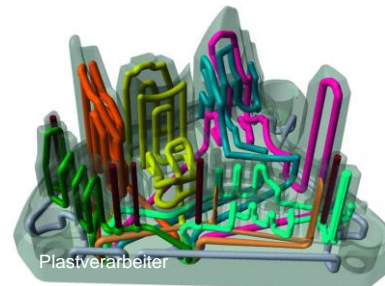
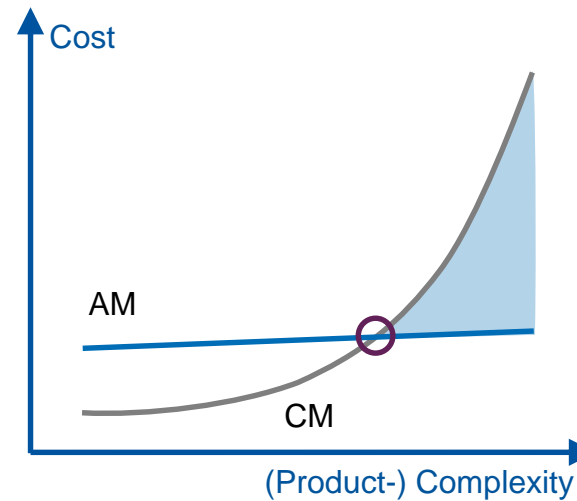


Weight reduction means cost reduction



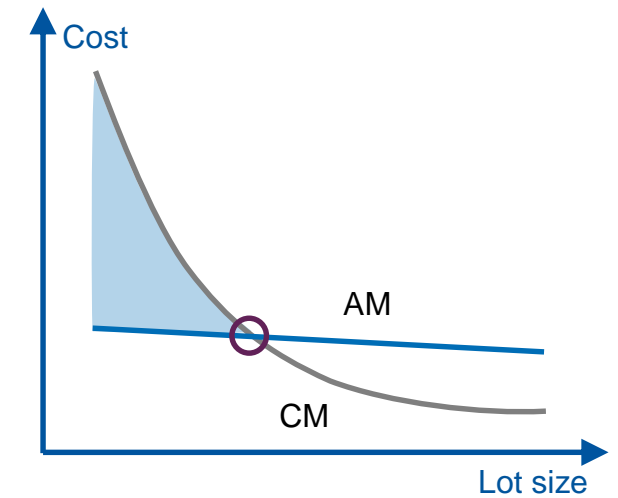
BMW Group

Complexity (almost) for free



Plastverarbeiter

Individualization (almost) for free



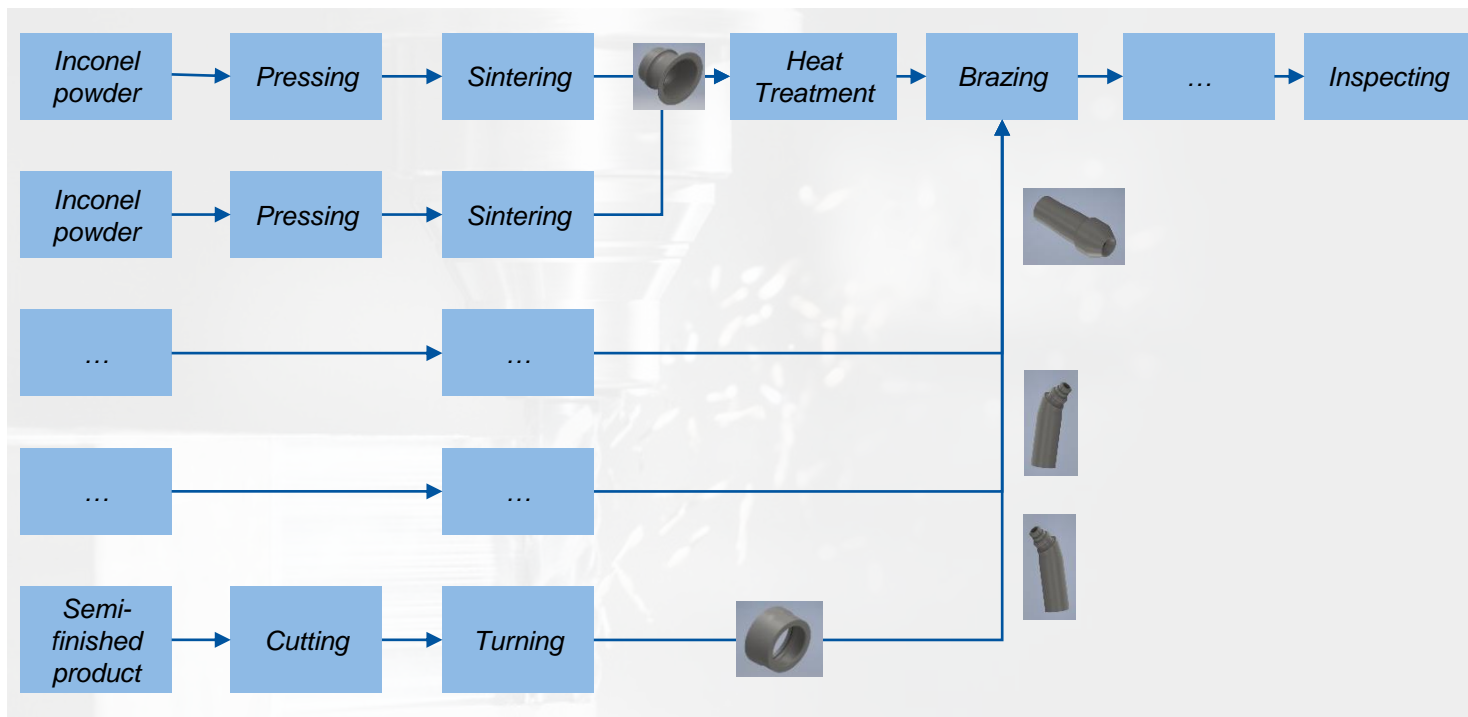
EOS

# Successful Adaption of AM

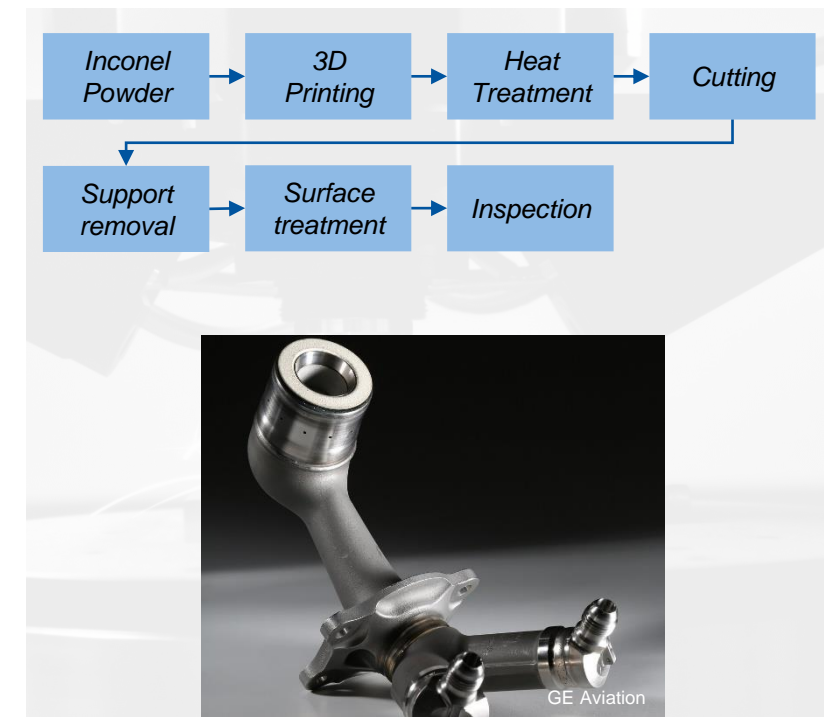
## Different Process Chains Result in Different Manufacturing Cost Structure



### Conventional process chain



### Additive process chain



Additive Manufacturing allows to transfer process chain complexity to part design (e.g. through part consolidation)



# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset”



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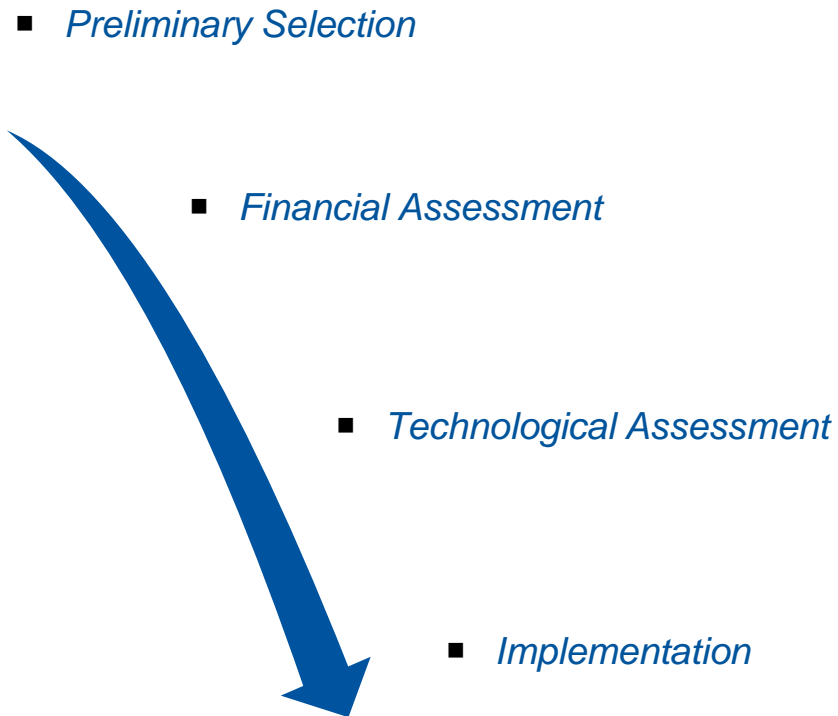
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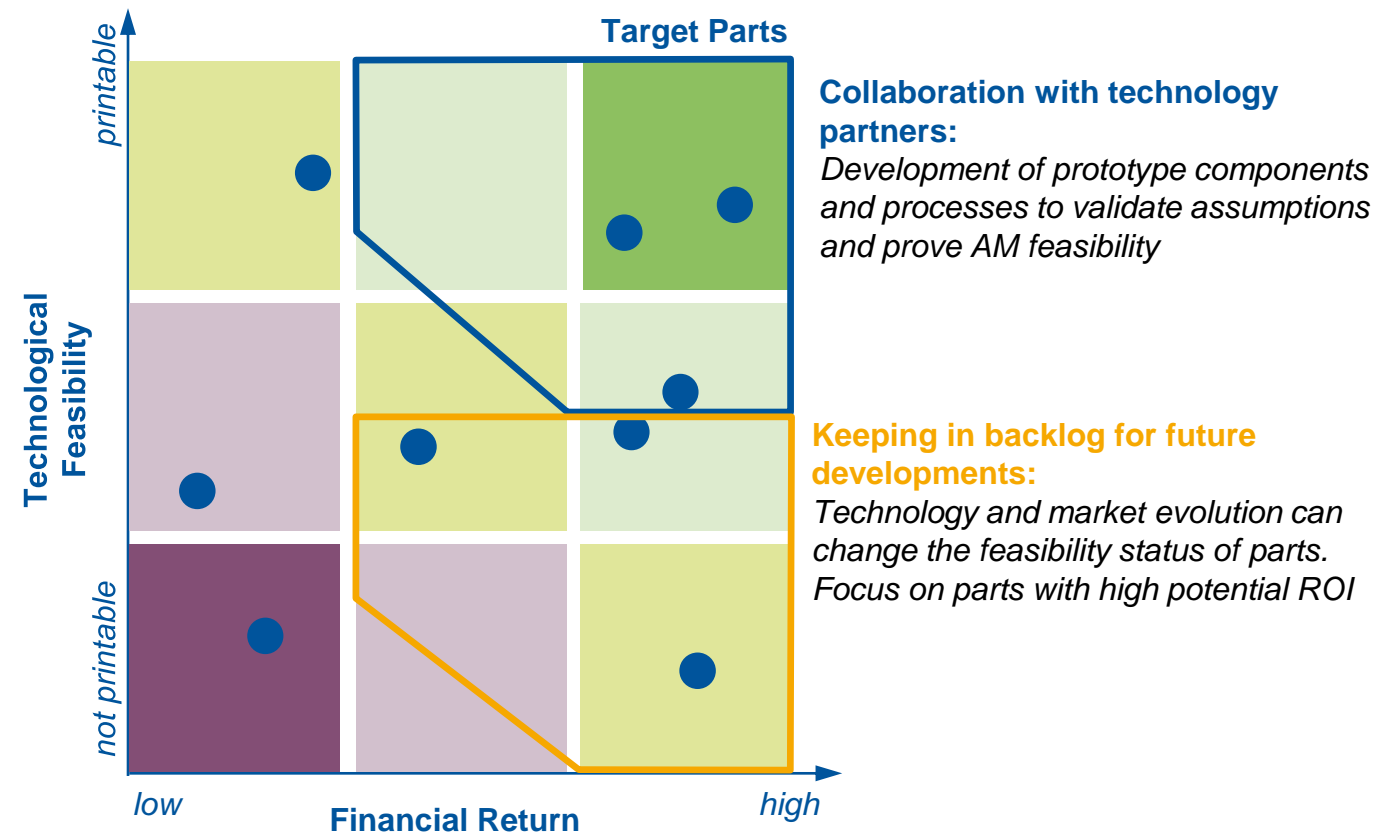
# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset“



## Part identification process



## Mapping of possible candidates to find target parts for implementation



# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset”



## Comparing Apples with Oranges...



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Source: Effectory, TCT

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## ...Additive Manufacturing is different



Different cost structure



Financial return and technological feasibility must be considered in identification of parts with positive business case



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Products and required expertise along the product life cycle are different (e.g. Design for Additive Manufacturing)



Some AM technologies require complex **health & security measures**

# Successful Adaption of AM Business Models Based on AM



## + AM Benefits

- **Design freedom:** Complex features, lightweight, monolithic
- **Flexible design** iterations and engineering changes
- **Integration of functions**
- Economic **small quantities** and **individualization**
- **Short time** and efficiency **idea to product**
- **Short supply chain**
- **Insourcing:** Appealing industrialized countries & high degree of automation
- **Sustainability** by material reduction or efficiency in performance



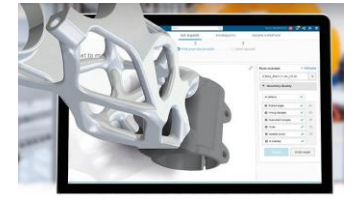
## Enabled business models for AM users (not conclusive)



*Digital spare part warehouse*



*Service provider*



*Online marketplace*



*Mass customization*



*Co-Production*

*Others ...*

# Successful Adaption of AM

## Online Marketplaces with integrated AM Service Providers

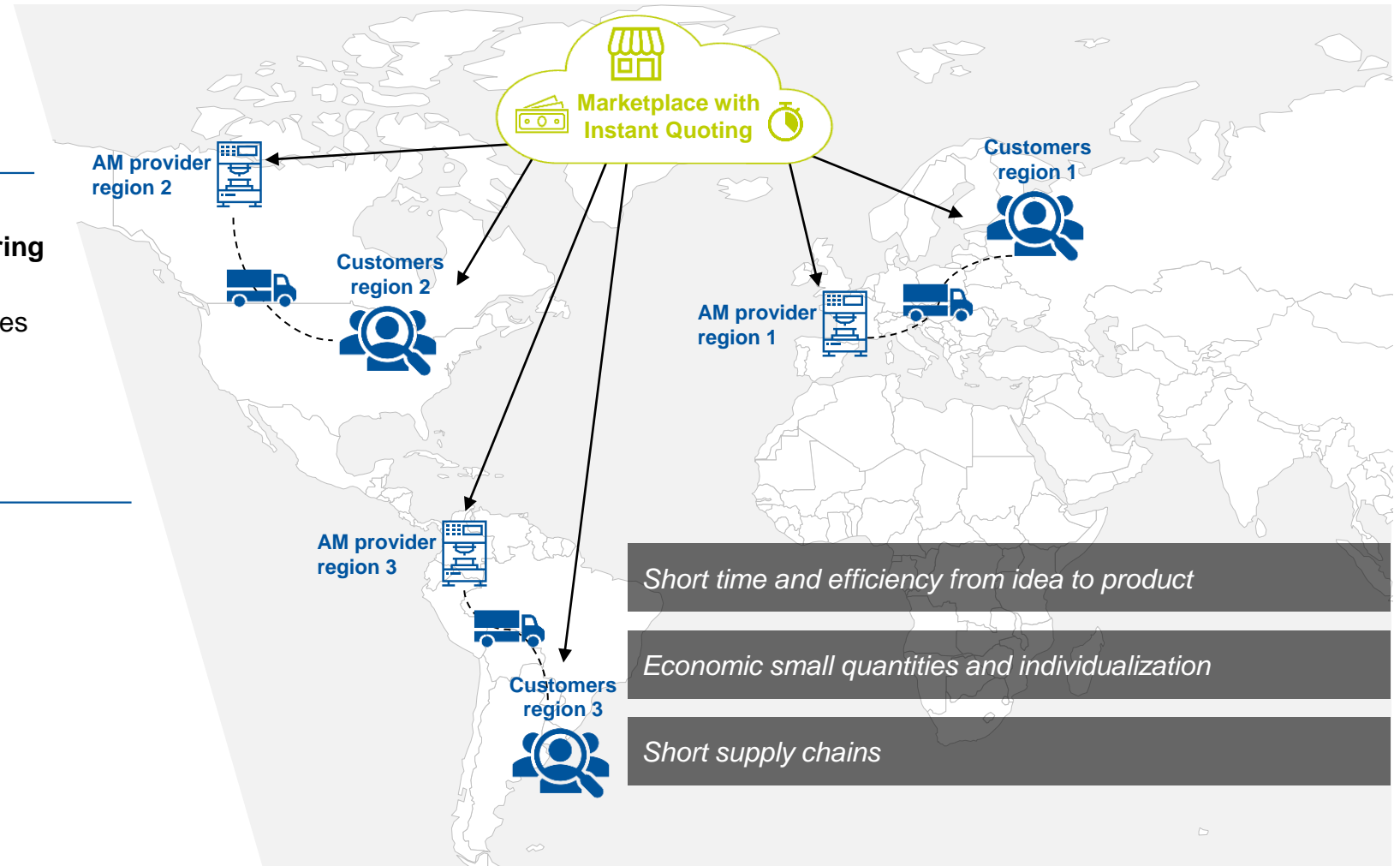


### Online marketplace for AM

- Integration of **AM service providers**
- Platform for customers to **compare manufacturing services** of different providers
- **Instant quoting tool** with price and delivery dates based on CAD upload by customer
- **Automated design check** of uploaded models

### Exemplary AM marketplaces

- Protiq
- Xometry
- Hubs
- Jellypipe
- HP Digital Manufacturing Network
- ...



# Successful Adaption of AM

## Digital Spare Parts Warehouse

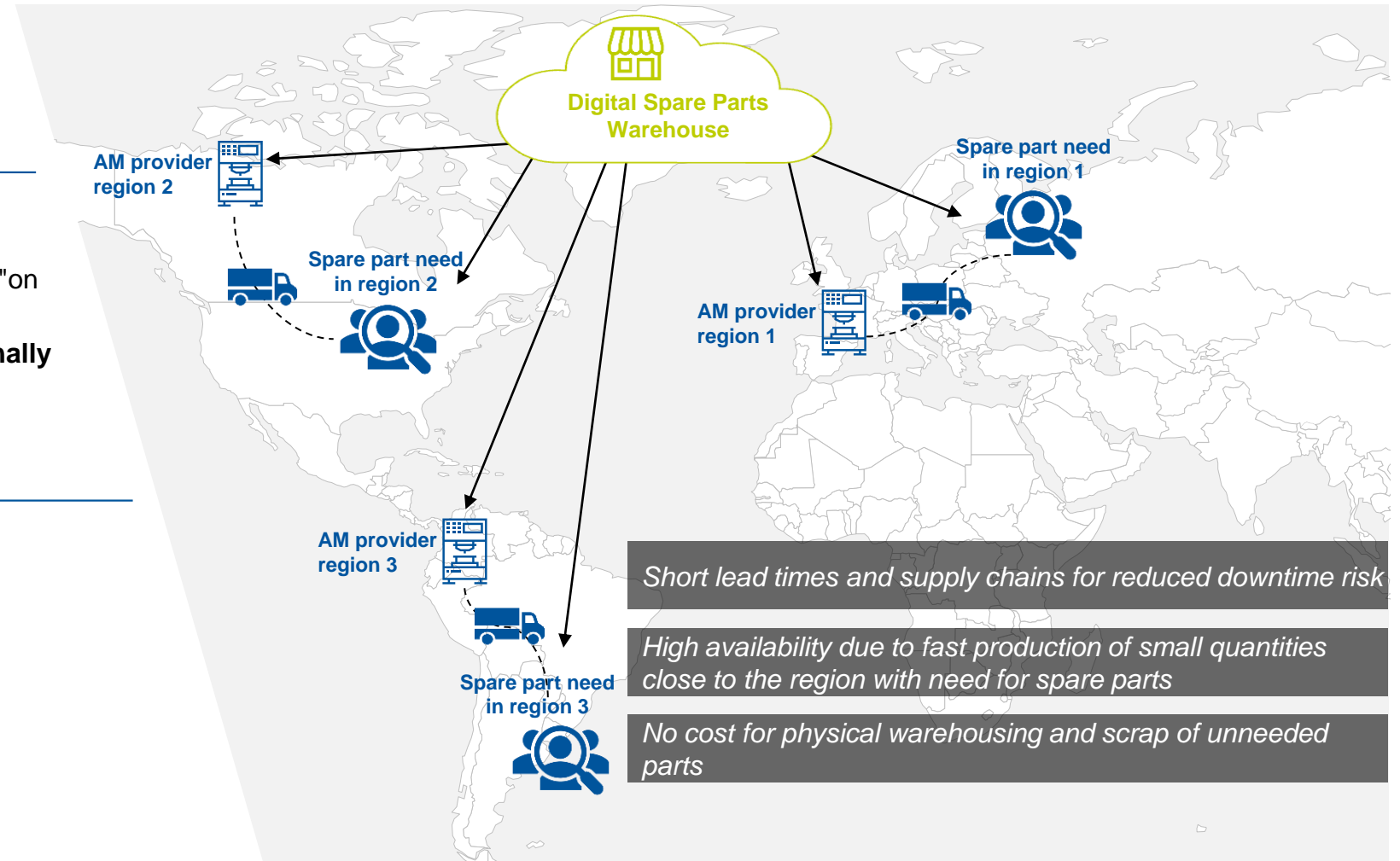


### Digital Spare Parts Warehouse

- **No physical warehousing**
- **Digitization** of additively manufacturable spare parts & backup in virtual warehouse Production "on demand"
- Also used to **supplement obsolete conventionally manufactured parts**

### Exemplary Digital Spare Parts Warehouses

- Wilhelmsen and thyssenkrupp
- FIT AG
- EvoBus GmbH, Daimler Group
- Shell
- ...





# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset”



## Comparing Apples with Oranges...



**Successful AM adaption** requires **consideration of AM differences**. Without change of expectations, AM turns out as a poor substitute for established processes.

Source: Effectory, TCT

Aachen Center for Additive Manufacturing | RWTH Aachen Campus

## ...Additive Manufacturing is different



**Different cost structure:** High upfront investment costs and high material prices, but not driven by economies of scale



**Financial return** and **technological feasibility** must be considered in **identification of parts with positive business case**



Enables **new business models** such as mass customization or digital warehousing



**Products and required expertise** along the product life cycle are different (e.g. Design for Additive Manufacturing)

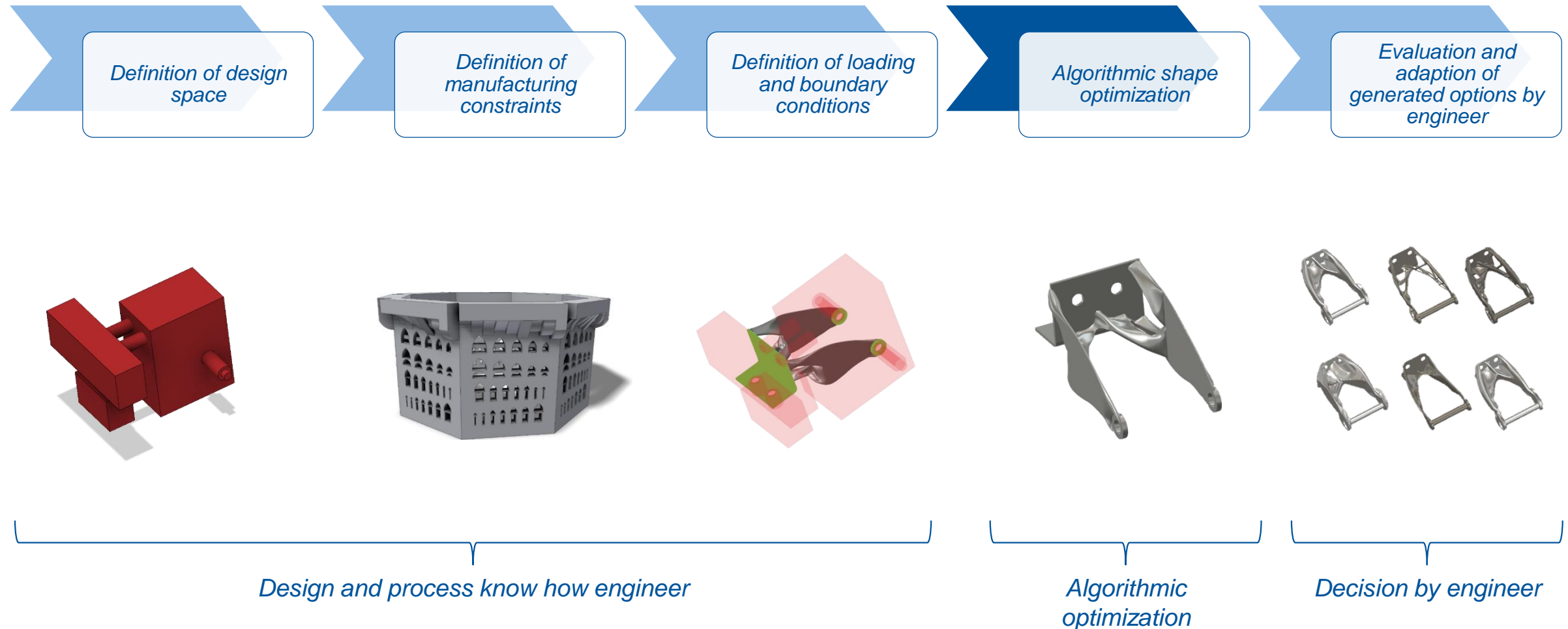


Some AM technologies require complex **health & security measures**



# Successful Adaption of AM

## Algorithmic Design for Additive Manufacturing – Generative Design



# Successful Adaption of AM Benefits Through an “Additive Mindset”



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Some AM technologies require complex health & security measures

# Successful Adaption of AM

## Health & Safety Risks and Measures for Prevention



### ⊖ Risks of Metal Powder



**GHS05:**  
Corrosive



**GHS01:**  
Explosive



**GHS02:**  
Flammable



**GHS03:**  
Oxidizing



**GHS06:**  
Toxic



**GHS07:**  
Harmful



**GHS08:**  
Health hazards



**GHS09:**  
Environmental  
hazards



### + Health & Safety Measures

#### Standard PPE

- Protective gloves
- Work protective clothing
- Respirator mask
- Tight-closing safety goggles
- Anti-static work shoes

#### Extended PPE

- Heat-protective gloves
- Flameproof clothing
- Full respiratory mask
- Protective shield
- ESD wristband

**Prevention of health hazards requires implementation of specific safety measures**

# Basic AM Seminar – Content



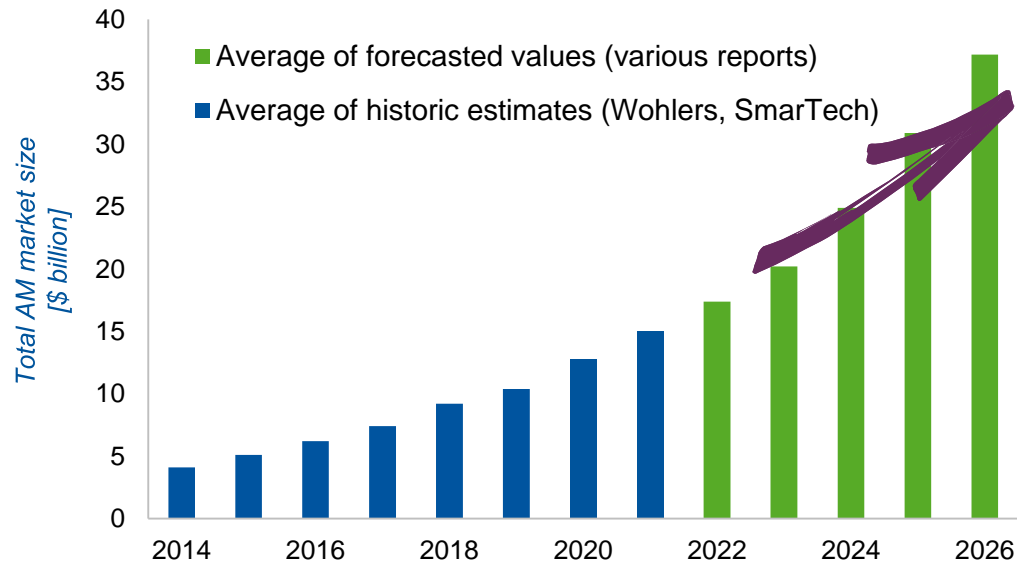
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# Future Perspective of AM

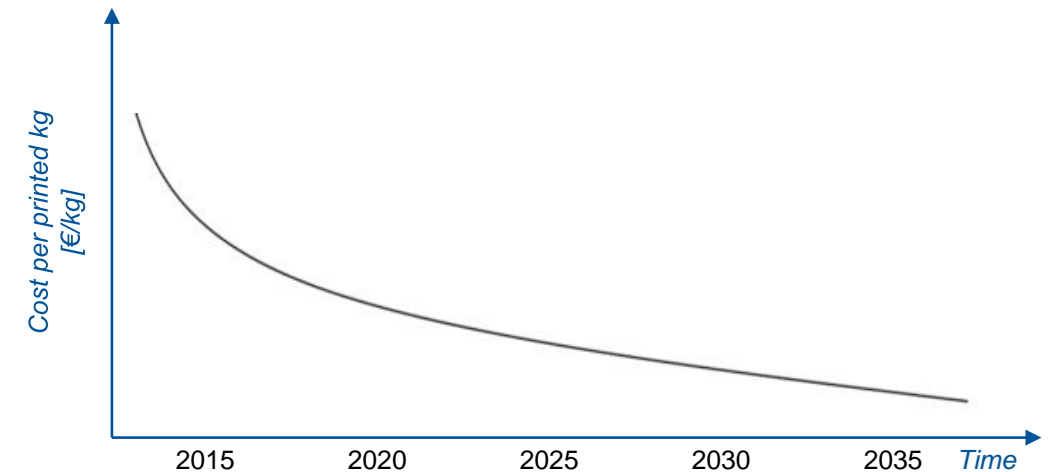
## What Does the Future Hold for Additive Manufacturing?



### Expected market development



### Expected cost development



- Increase of machine productivity
- Decrease of material prices
- Higher technology readiness level
- Higher degree of automation

Forecasted continuous strong growth and reduced costs.  
Current barriers of AM are addressed in industry and ongoing research and development.

# Future Perspective of AM

## Key Aspects



### Emerging AM Technologies

RWTH DAP

### Digital Materials

Altair Enlighten

### Automation & Line Integration

IDAM, BMW

### Digital & Sustainable Business Models

RWTH DAP



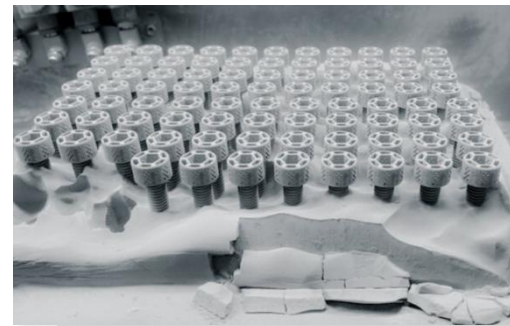
# Future Perspective of AM

## Emerging AM Technologies – Metal Binder Jetting for Mass Production



### Expectations in productivity

- More parts per build job due to 3D nesting compared to 2D nesting with LPBF
- Faster printing speed especially with high filling degree



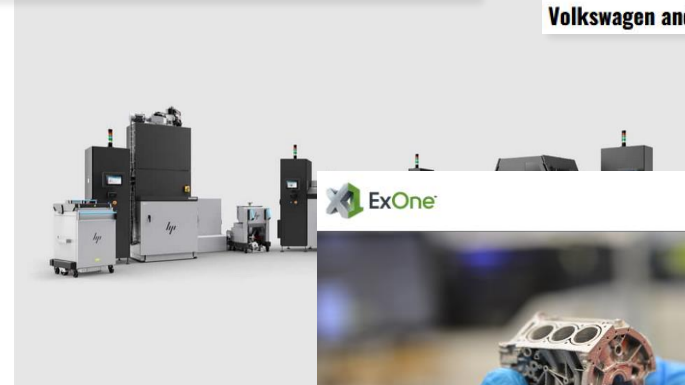
Two Volkswagen employees check the quality of 3D printed structural parts at the Wolfsburg center (photo credit: Volkswagen)

**Volkswagen and binder jetting, a winning duo?**

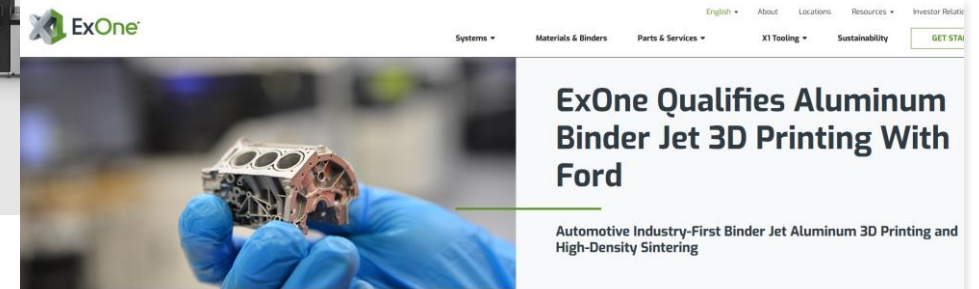


### Barriers for realization

- Additional process steps: Debinding & Sintering
- Automation, e.g., removal of green parts from powder cake
- Comparably low technology maturity compared to LPBF



**New HP Metal Jet S100**



• New patent-pending process developed by ExOne and Ford Motor Co. for binder jetting aluminum 6061, one of the most commonly used aluminum alloys in the world, delivers final parts with 99% density and material properties comparable to traditional manufacturing

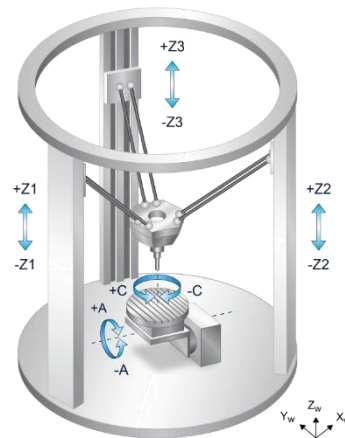
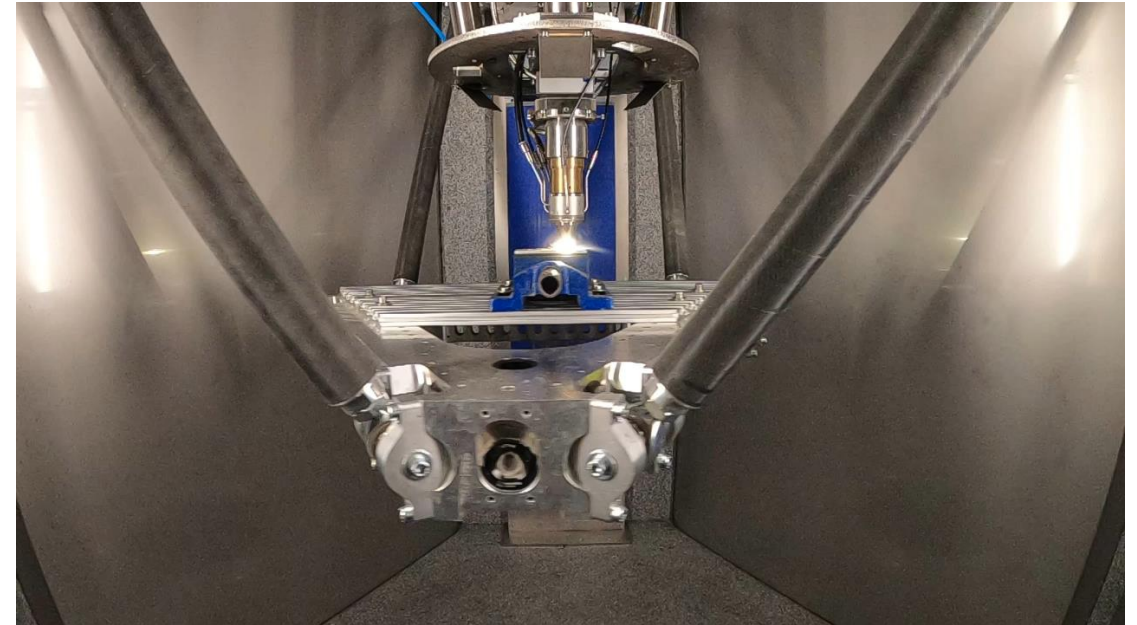
# Future Perspective of AM

## Emerging AM Technologies – EHLA for Non-Rotational Symmetric Parts



### Characteristics of the 3D EHLA Process

- Additive coating and manufacturing of components
- Non-rotationally symmetric components possible
- Complex surfaces can be coated locally
- Wide variety of materials
- Develop and process new types of alloys



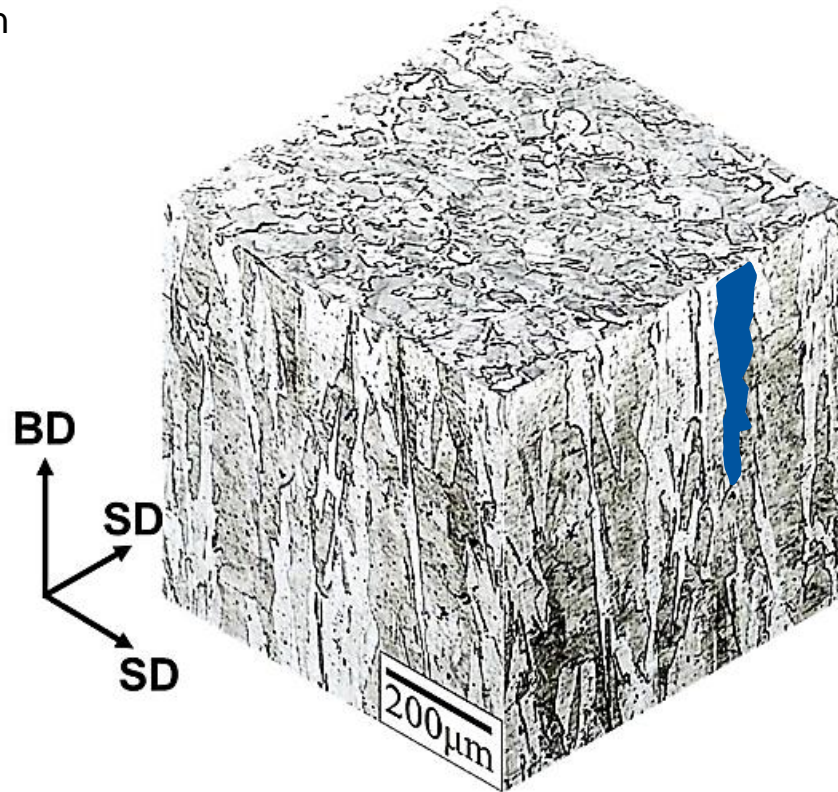
Tripod Kinematics

# Future Perspective of AM

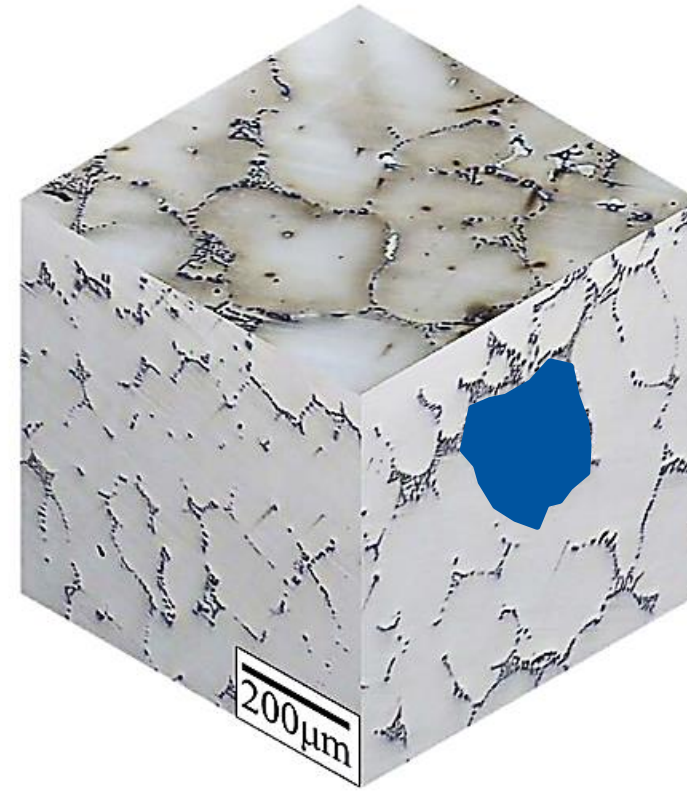
## Digital Material – Different Microstructure with Influence on Mechanical Properties



BD: build direction  
SD: side direction



**Microstructure after LPBF**



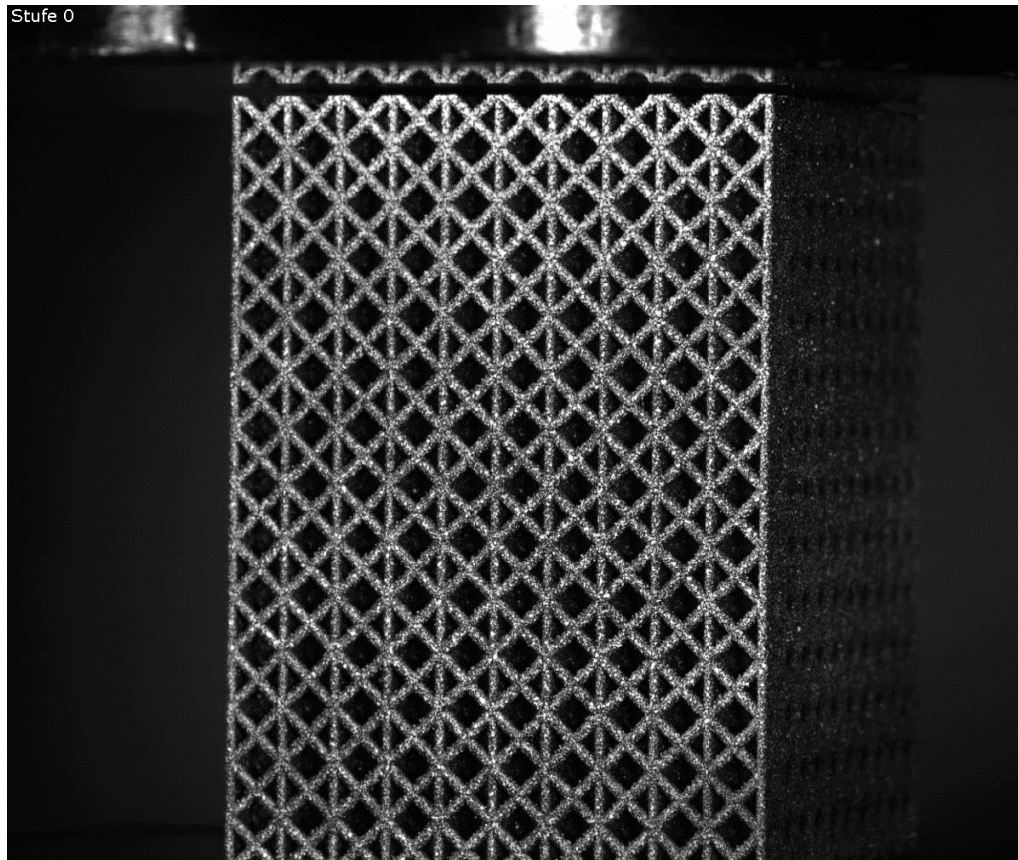
**Microstructure after casting**

Source: Manfredi, D., & Bidulský, R. (2017). Laser powder bed fusion of aluminum alloys. *Acta Metallurgica Slovaca*, 23(3), 276-282.

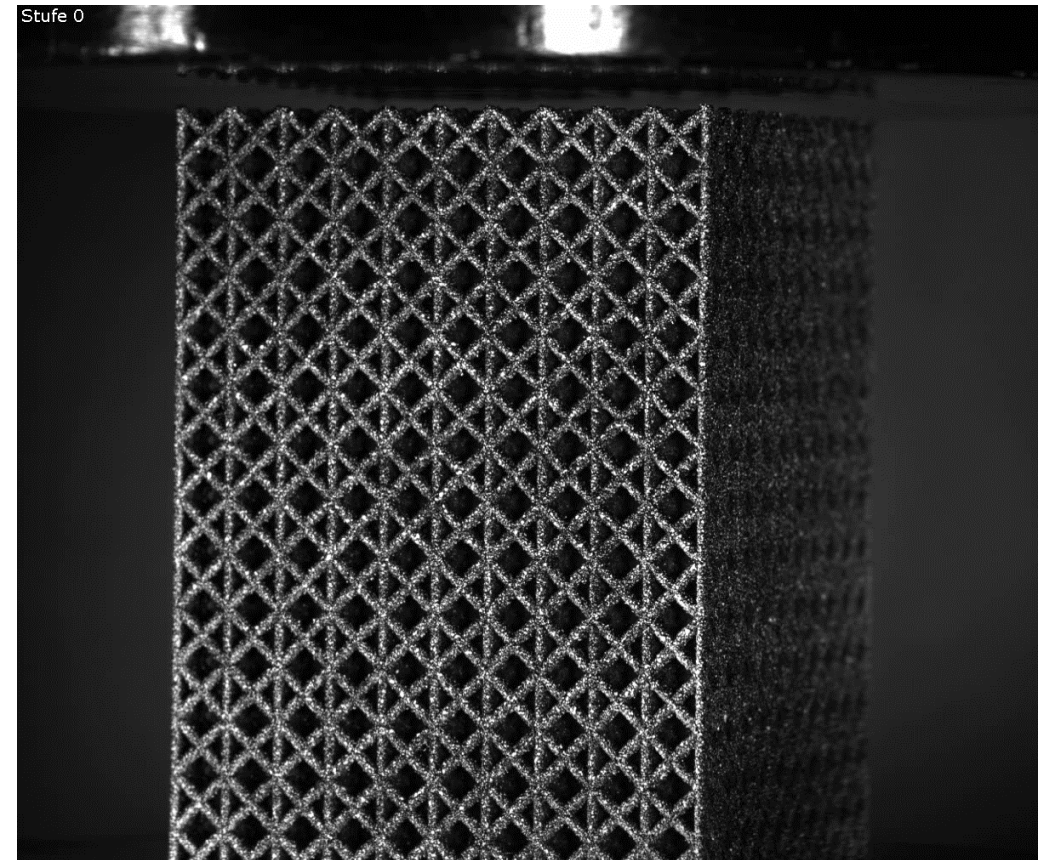


# Future Perspective of AM

## Digital Material – Illustration of the Effect of Locally Adapted Microstructure



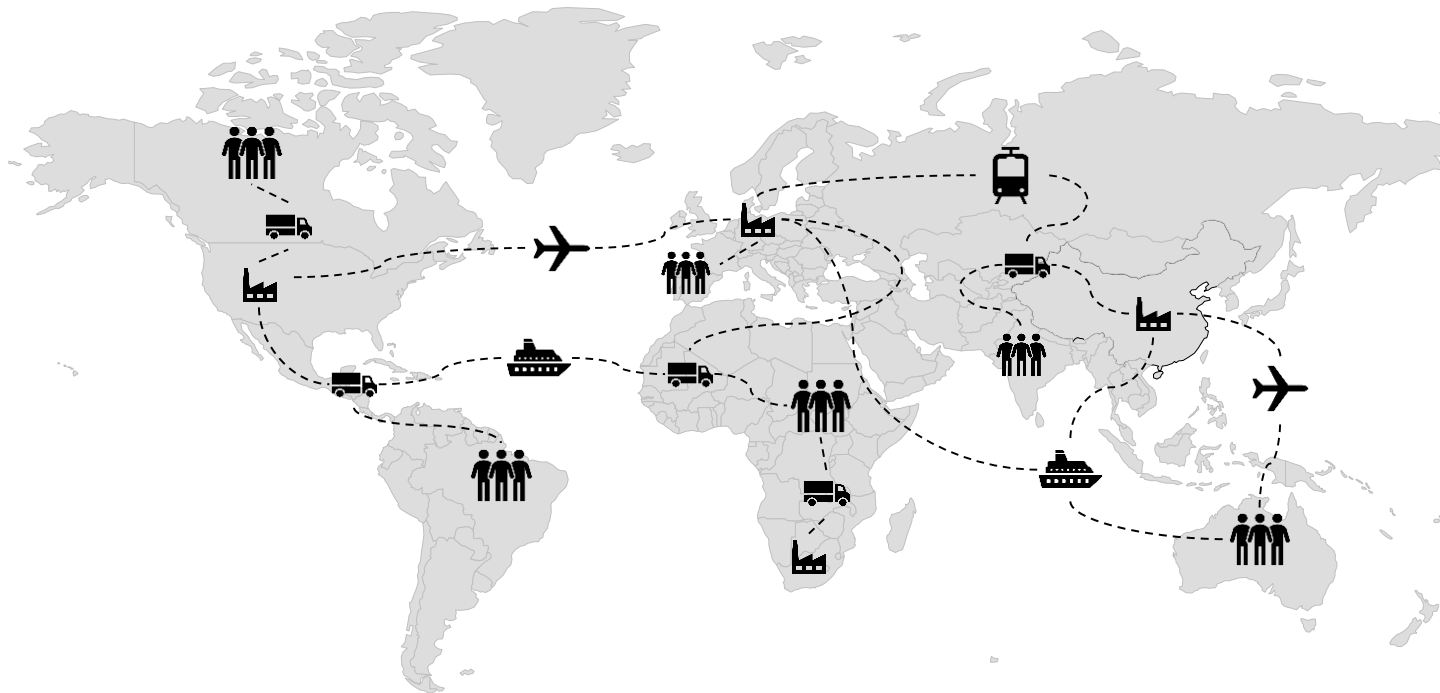
**Conventional**



**Locally adapted microstructure  
(digital material)**

# Future Perspective of AM

## Current State: Globalized, Complex, and Vulnerable Supply Chains



Is China's lockdowns causing supply chain disruptions again?



**How the Ukraine Crisis Is Disrupting Global Supply Chains**

March 18, 2022  
Mark Miller  
Member of Global Supply Chain Consortium



**Retail navigates a constant state of supply chain disruption**

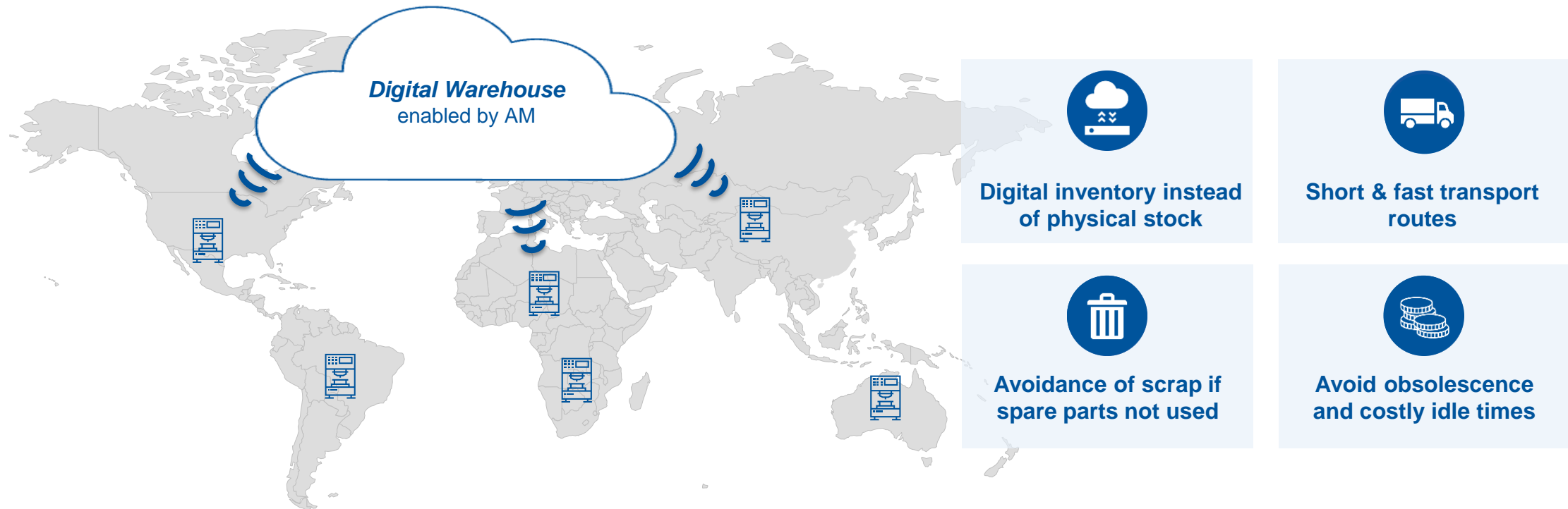
Challenges include port congestion, pandemic restrictions and economic sanctions



Recent crises have shown the vulnerability of global supply chains. Resilience is a key element to competitiveness.

# Future Perspective of AM

## Digital Spare Parts Warehouses as New Business Models Enabled by AM



But how to ensure secure data handling and quality with different part designers and suppliers?



# Basic AM Seminar – Content



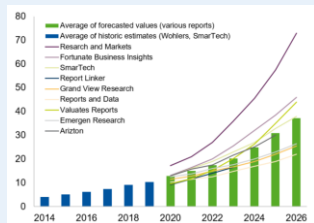
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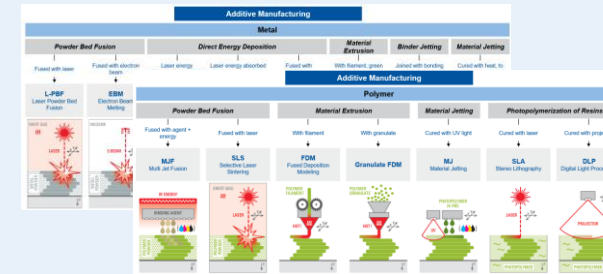
# Basic AM Seminar Summary



## Introduction to Additive Manufacturing



## Overview of AM Technologies



- High variety of established and emerging AM technologies
- Varying technology readiness
- Technology-specific characteristics, advantages and disadvantages
- Material choice according to application

## Future Perspective

- Expected continuous market growth
- Cost decrease due to increased technology readiness level, productivity and industrialization
- Technological and economical challenges are addressed through industry and R&D

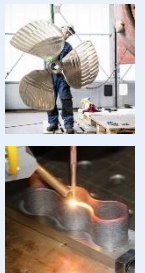
## Successful Adaption of AM

**Successful AM adaption** requires **consideration of AM differences**. Without change of expectations, AM turns out as a poor substitute for established processes.



## AM Application Examples

- Various applications along the product lifecycle
- Differentiation in rapid prototyping, rapid tooling and AM of end use parts
- Taking advantage of different AM benefits according to application



# Get in touch!



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**Get in touch with our experts and become a part  
of Europe's most vivid AM and engineering  
ecosystem!**

