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Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D
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Messe Erfurt

Sector takes 3D printing to the next level

At the Automotive Industry forum on 25 June 2019, Toyota, Audi and BMW, along with development and supplier companies, will examine ways of moving from AM prototyping to AM batch production

(Erfurt, 21 May 2019). The automotive industry is taking 3D printing to the next level. “In this sector, additive manufacturing has predominantly been used in the production of prototypes. We are now witnessing the step-up to batch production,” says Frank Cremer, Sales Manager at 3D Systems, describing the current process of transformation, and adding: “As 3D printing technologies develop, we identify more and more potential applications, such as in replacement parts or consumables. At the same time, there is growing momentum in the field of product customisation. Automotive manufacturers and engineering and supplier companies alike are focusing increasingly on these issues.” These trends are reflected in the Automotive Industry forum’s programme at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D in Erfurt on 25 June 2019. The programme has been curated by Frank Cremer together with Dr Bernhard Müller of GENERATIV, the Fraunhofer alliance.

The Japanese automotive manufacturer Toyota’s site in Cologne is one of the largest centres housing additive manufacturing (AM) machinery in the world. Each month, the centre manufactures up to 2,000 components that need to withstand the rigours of motor racing. Alexander Liebold, Engineer for Future Technologies at Toyota Motorsport GmbH, will cover issues ranging from AM wind tunnel adaptations for motor racing to batch manufacturing.
Martin Bock, Project Manager at Audi’s 3D Metal Printing Centre in Ingolstadt, will report on current developments, challenges and solutions for the future of 3D metal printing at the automotive manufacturer. Lukas Knorr, who works in additive manufacturing for BMW, will give a presentation on the production of replacement components using AM at the Bavarian automotive manufacturer.

Richard Kordaß, Development Engineer at EDAG Engineering GmbH, will use a battery case to showcase the opportunities afforded by 3D printing technology in customised product design. Oliver Müllerschön, Head of Industrial Management for Laser Production Technologies at TRUMPF Laser- und Systemtechnik GmbH, will shed light on the potential benefits for the automotive industry of laser cladding for modifying components and optimising brake discs. Alexander Klose from the supplier Hirschvogel Umformtechnik GmbH will address the issue of the stability of the automotive industry’s AM process chain and consider what needs to be done to ensure its stability going forwards.

Markus Oettel, a scientist at the Fraunhofer Institute for Machine Tools and Forming Technology IWU, will present new findings arising from practical research. He will showcase a process that combines die casting and additive manufacturing to improve the flexibility and customisation of automotive parts production.

The Automotive Industry forum is one of 14 sector- and subject-specific forums on the conference programme for Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D. Three forums – Software & Processes, Plastics, and Standardisation & EHS – are appearing on the agenda for the first time. Alongside these new additions, the programme will feature the established Aviation; Medical, Dental and Orthopaedic Technology; Contract Additive Manufacturing; 3D Printed Electronics & Functions; Design; Tool, Mould & Jig Construction; Metal;

and Law forums, as well as a session by the Fraunhofer Additive Manufacturing Alliance and the two-day AM Science forum. Overall, over the three days of the conference, there will be more than 100 lectures presenting the latest developments, trends and findings relating to additive technologies and applications in theory and practice.

The 3D Printing Conference and the redesigned presentation spaces and networking opportunities at the exhibition will also help attendees to share their knowledge and experiences and to build and maintain their networks.

For their 16th edition, Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D are yet again expecting over 200 exhibitors from Germany and abroad, as well as more than 5,000 international trade visitors and conference delegates.

Further information: www.rapidtech-fabcon.com

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