



Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D
25-27 June 2019
Messe Erfurt

3D printing hotspot wows again

Almost 4,500 visitors came along to the 16th edition of Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D in Erfurt to hear all about the latest developments and applications in additive manufacturing

(Erfurt, 27 June 2019). Once again, Erfurt has proved itself the hotspot of 3D printing. And not just because the 16th Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D took place on the hottest days of the summer so far. Almost 4,500 visitors, 180 exhibitors and over 100 speakers at the Rapid.Tech specialist conference and the 3D Printing Conference gave the event the thumbs up as an unmissable opportunity for application-centred exchange on current capabilities and future developments in additive manufacturing (AM). “First-rate talks, appealing stands and special exhibition areas in the foyer are the foundation on which we keep developing the oldest congress exhibition of its kind in Germany. This year, we held the first forum dedicated to education and training and got a fantastic response that confirmed demand in this field. That’s where we need to focus – if additive manufacturing is to continue making progress, we are going to need well-trained experts. The process needs to start at school,” says Michael Eichmann, who together with Prof. Dr. Gerd Witt is advisory board chairman for Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D.

In his keynote address on the final day of the event, Dr. Steffen Beyer from the Ariane Group looked at the exciting work awaiting current and future AM experts particularly in relation to aviation and space travel. The materials specialist is responsible for materials, production processes and industrialization in the rocket engines division. At present, all eyes are on the Ariane 6, due to be launched next year, and the next generation of rockets. The aim is to bring engine costs down from the current ten million Euros to one million. “A leap forward of this size can only be achieved by means of disruptive technology. Additive manufacturing plays a major role here,” Dr. Beyer pointed out, as he explained the scale of the challenge. In addition to the powder bed process (LBM), which has already been qualified, Ariane Group developments include a wire process (WAAM) and cold gas spray (CGS) for industrial application. As a rule, it focuses on qualification and industrialization of the entire additive development and manufacturing chain.

The vast potential of additive technologies is also clearly demonstrated by the finalists of the international 3D Pioneers Challenge design competition, and the Start-Up Awards. Innovations such as the first 3D printed mini heart using human cells, a new process for making highly purified quartz glass for use in optics, and a new 3D-printed stone material – such as the one to be used to rebuild the gargoyles destroyed in the fire at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris – were presented and discussed at the Messe TV studio, another innovation this year. “We are keen to continue using the latest communication channels to bring the many new developments in our field to the outside world, and to offer both exhibitors and visitors an even wider range of services. A comprehensive investment programme including new hotel construction and structural refurbishment will have a significant impact on Messe infrastructure in the coming years. Exhibitors and visitors at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D 2020 will be able to see the initial results of this,” promises Michael Kynast, CEO of Messe Erfurt GmbH.

The next Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D. will be held in Erfurt from 16 to 18 June 2020.



Feedback on Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D 2019

Ulli Klenk, Principal Key Expert, Siemens Gas and Power:

The world's leading trade fair for additive manufacturing takes place in Erfurt, and covers a range of specialist topics as well as key cross-cutting issues such as training, law and standardisation. I've been coming to Erfurt for seven years, and I've always found it incredibly useful.

Martina Sturm, Marketing, Hirtenberger Engineered Surfaces GmbH, Hirtenberg/Austria:

We heard about the Erfurt exhibition at another event, so we decided to come along in 2019 and present our achievements in post-processing for 3D-printed metal parts. It was a decision that paid off. Lots of interested people visited our stand and learned more about the benefits of our patented Hirtisation technology, which removes sintered-on particles and support structures, and smooths surfaces. It's suitable for all metals and alloys commonly used in 3D-printing.

Dr.-Ing. Arwed Kilian, Head of Sales Additive Manufacturing Germany, TRUMPF Laser- und Systemtechnik GmbH:

We've noticed increased demand for additive technologies in tool- and mould-making. So this year we geared our exhibition presence to this topic. This year we are also unveiling new exhibits, printed using the powder bed process and powder deposition welding, the two mainstays of 3D metal printing at Trumpf. In addition to helping us cultivate relationships with our customers and partners, Erfurt always gives us the opportunity to compare notes with representatives from universities and research institutes, which traditionally have a strong presence here.

Prof. Dr. Bastian Rapp, CEO Glassomer GmbH:

The process we developed for manufacturing a 3D-printable pure quartz glass, which can also be printed on in 3D, impressed the Start-Up Awards jury, and we won first prize. We are absolutely delighted. Erfurt is one of the most important platforms for 3D printing. All the leading companies in the field have a presence here. It has given us great publicity for our young company, which is only just a year old.

Frank Cremer, Direct Sales Manager, 3D Systems:

The 16th Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D was a hit yet again with an appealing exhibition and high-calibre specialist forums. Germany's longest-standing trade fair in this field has become an institution, never afraid to pick up on the latest trends and run with them. Lateral thinking will continue to be the key to future events and to giving visitors an insight into the wide variety of cost-effective additive manufacturing solutions out there.

Further information: www.rapidtech-fabcon.com

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