



# EMERGING DIRECT INK WRITE CAPABILITIES FOR FUNCTIONAL SOFT MATTER APPLICATIONS

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DECEMBER 2023

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[2] PRESIDENT | JUGGERBOT 3D LLC

# OUTLINE

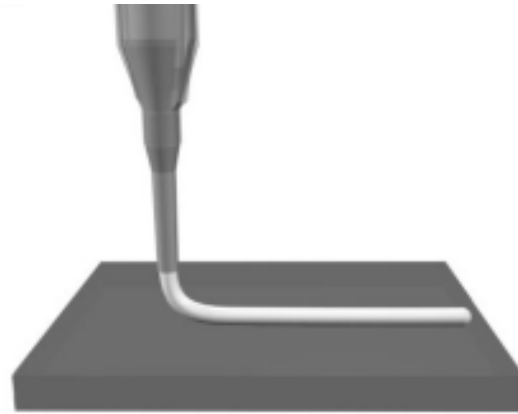
1. INTRODUCTION

2. VISION

3. ASSESSMENT

4. SELECT APPLICATIONS

5. CONCLUSION



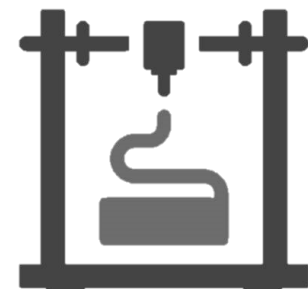
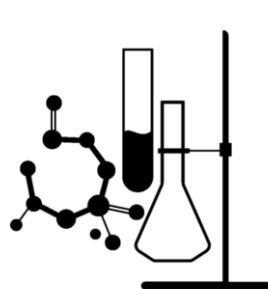
JUGGERBOT3D

*DIW is an underappreciated and underutilized AM mode*

*Enables advanced engineering materials*

*Rapidly gaining technical and manufacturing maturity*

*Should be considered as part of manufacturing strategy*



*valley of death*


OFF THE BENCH



INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

# VISION: STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT



  
 U.S. ARMY  
**2021**  
**ARMY MODERNIZATION STRATEGY:**  
 Investing in the Future

**PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS**  
 Material by Design  
 Science of Additive Manufacturing

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## Department of Defense Additive Manufacturing Strategy



January 2021

Joint Defense Manufacturing Council

- GOAL 1: ***Integrate*** AM into DoD and the ***defense industrial base***.  
 GOAL 2: ***Align*** AM activities across DoD and ***external partners***.  
 GOAL 3: ***Advance*** and Promote ***Agile Use of AM***.  
 GOAL 4: Expand proficiency in AM: ***learn, practice and share***.  
 GOAL 5: Secure the AM workflow.

Washington, D.C.

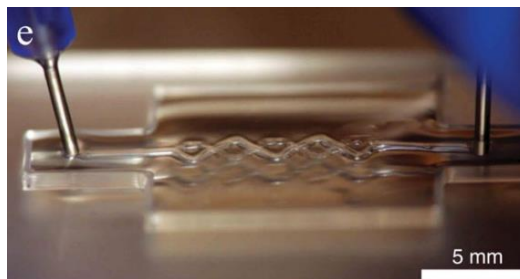
# INTRO: DIRECT INK WRITE

**Direct Ink Write (DIW):** extrusion-based additive manufacturing method. A liquid-phase “ink” is dispensed out of nozzles under controlled flow rates and selectively deposited along digitally defined paths to fabricate 3D structures layer-by-layer.

- **Conceptually Simple**  
*Cake icing*
- **Advantages over FFF**  
*Material versatility (thermosets, elastomers)*  
*Ink tailorability (multiscale functionality)*
- **Wide range of engineering materials + applications**  
*Food, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, synthetic biomaterials, construction, energy, and defense*
- **Maturing research & Industrial base**



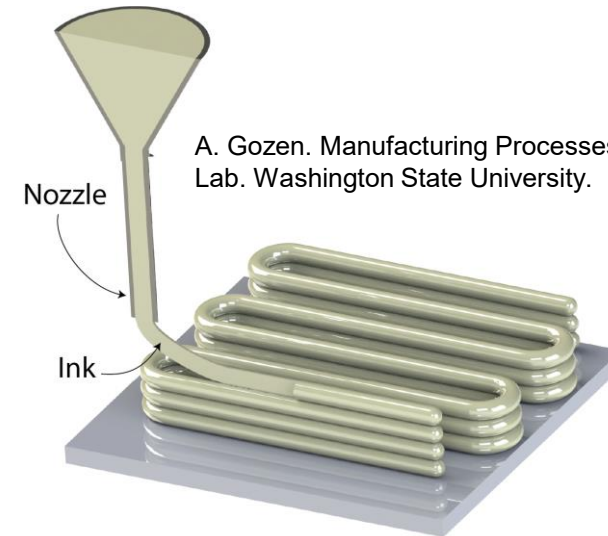
Juggerbot 3D LLC. Tricks of the Tradesman. The Role of Direct Ink Writing in Industrial 3D Printing. 2021.



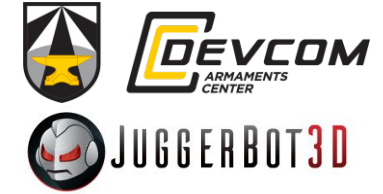
D. Kolesy et al. 3D Bioprinting of Vascularized, Heterogeneous Cell-Laden Tissue Constructs. 2014.



U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineer Research Laboratory's concrete 3D printing apparatus. US Army. 2020.



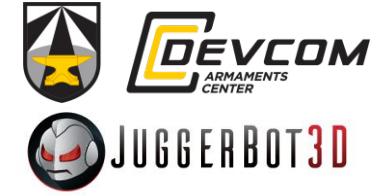
A. Gozen. Manufacturing Processes and Machinery Lab. Washington State University.



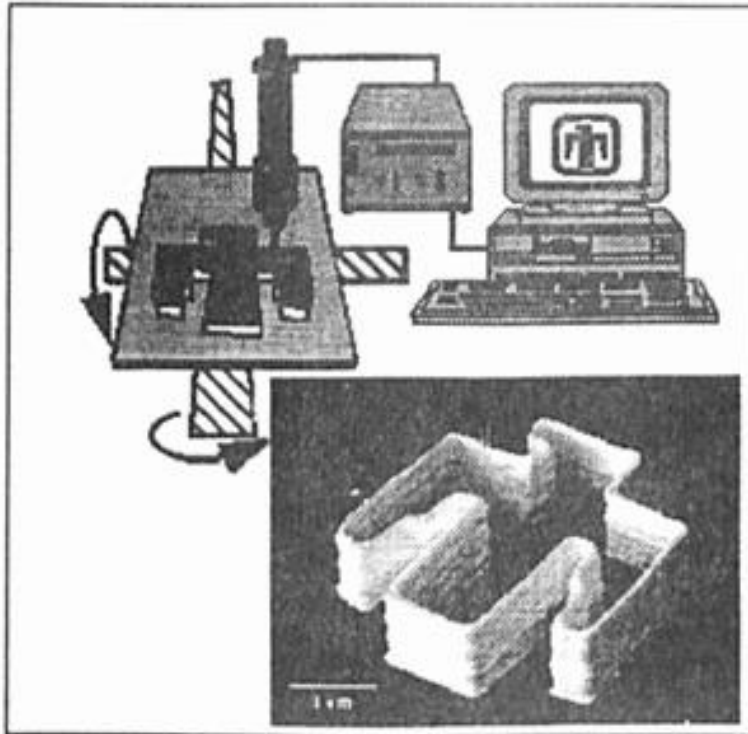
R. Karyappa & M. Hashimoto. Chocolate-based Ink Three-dimensional Printing (Ci3DP). Nature Scientific Reports. 2019.



# INTRO: ROBOCASTING

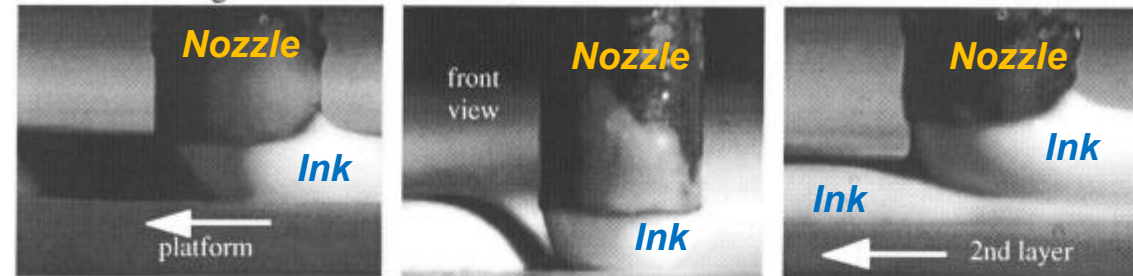


*J. Cesarano seminal work in the area circa 1990s*

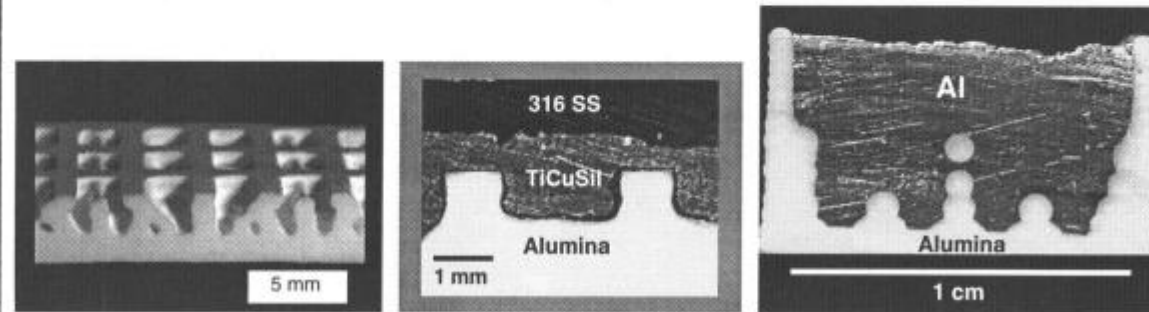


**Figure 1.** Schematic of the Robocasting process with an inset photo of a thunderbird made with 20 layers of aluminum oxide, and sintered crack-free to 96% of theoretical density.

J. Cesarano & S. Grieco. Robocasting: A New Technique for the Freeform Fabrication of Near-Net-Shape Ceramics. Materials Technology. 1997.

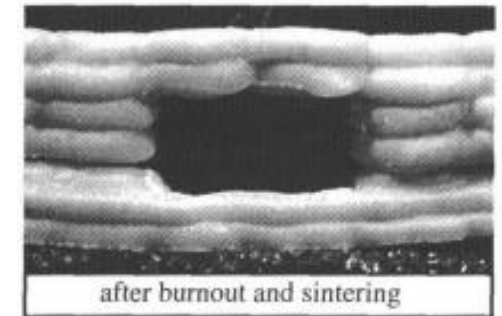


**Figure 3:** Images of an alumina slurry being deposited onto a moving platform (left and center) and the slurry being deposited onto a previously deposited alumina bead (right).

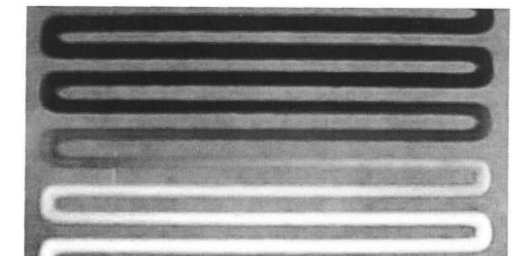


**Figure 4:** Robocast alumina preforms infiltrated with metal form graded interlocking composites.

J. Cesarano. A review of robocasting technology. Materials Research Society. 1999.



**Figure 6:** Demonstration of a graded transition between two slurries (bead width 1.5 mm).





# INDUSTRIAL 3D PRINTERS FOR PRODUCTION MATERIALS AT SCALE



Large format 3D printers delivering performance, reliability and value.

Committed to guiding the additive manufacturing industry toward a more sustainable tomorrow.



**JUGGERBOT3D**

# Pellet Specialty

*Various grades of available thermoplastic materials for FGF printing*

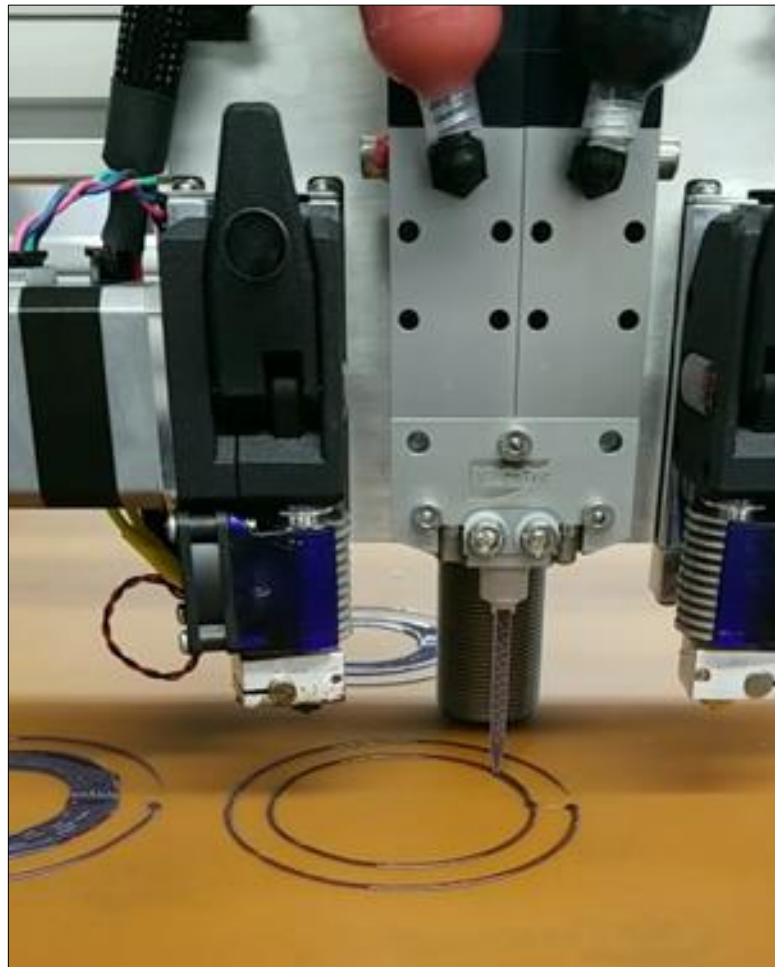
- *Standard: ABS, ASA, PE, PP*
- *Engineering: PA, PC, PET*
- *Performance: PEI, PEEK, PSU*



# DIW Development

## Ink Extrusion System:

- Volumetric dispenser and filling system
- Two servo motors for Part A and Part B resin that directly drives mixing screws (rotors).
- Mixing screws encapsulated in a stator membrane, which allows the resin ink material to “pump” and be conveyed through an aluminum manifold.
- Manifold is designed to allow the materials to flow separately through individual 45° channels.
- Static mixer joins the two materials (A & B resins) and deposits/volumetrically dispenses the new mixture through a fixture orifice.



## Army STTR Phase 1

Topic#: A20B-T010-0326

Project Title: Direct Ink Writing of Functionally Graded  
Thermoset Materials



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PennState  
Behrend

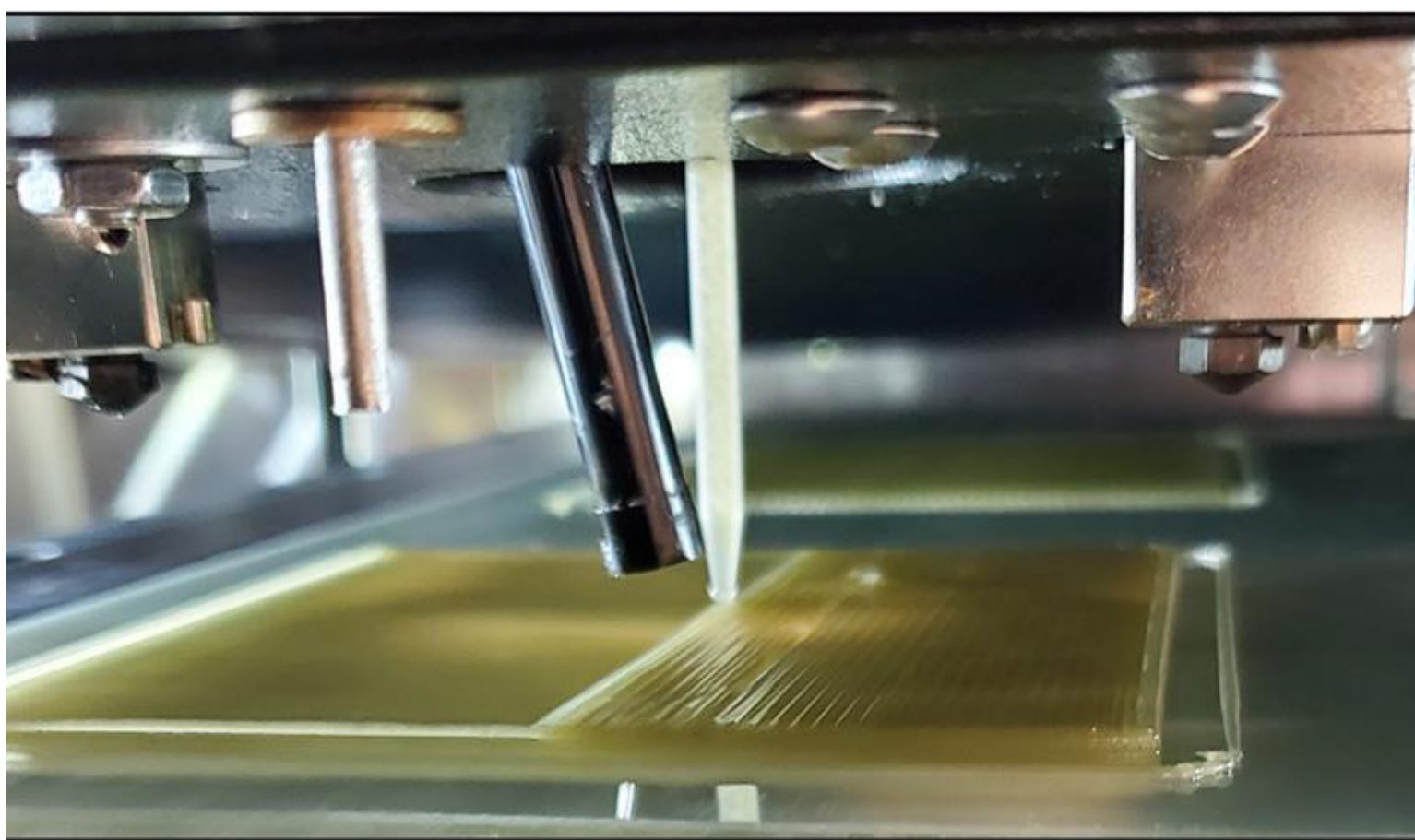




# DIW - Functional Materials

Anhydride epoxy formulations processed through Tradesman Series™ F3-32-H additive system.

- Latent thermal cure behavior
- Thixotropic viscosity
- Demonstrated Speeds: 5mm/s – 20mm/s



**Army STTR Phase 1**

Topic#: A20B-T010-0326

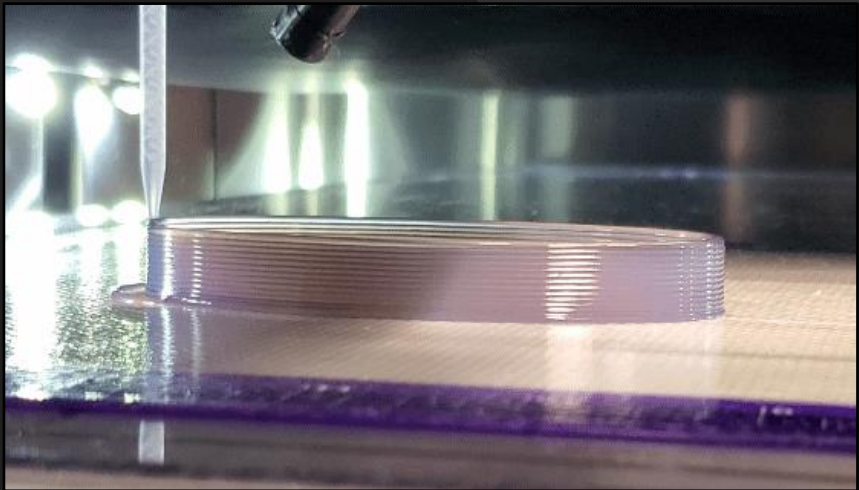
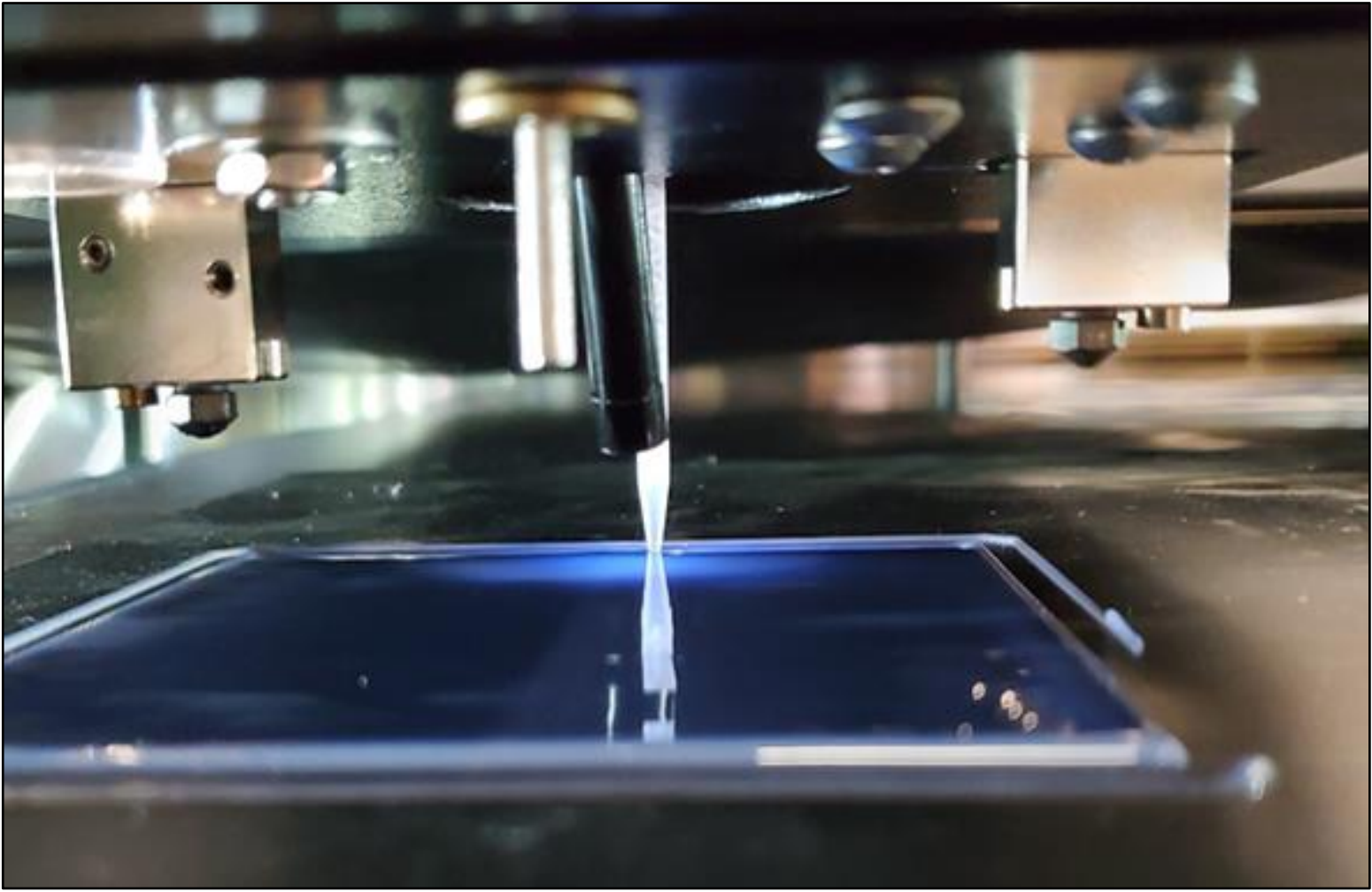
Project Title: Direct Ink Writing of Functionally Graded  
Thermoset Materials



# DIW - Functional Materials

Polyurethane formulations processed through Tradesman Series™ F3-32-H additive system;

- 30-45 Gelation activity
- Demonstrated Speeds: 5mm/s – 20mm/s
- Prevention of curing of materials within the static mixer required



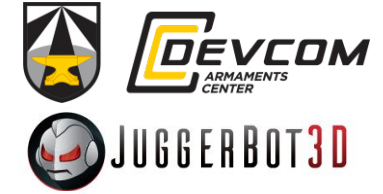
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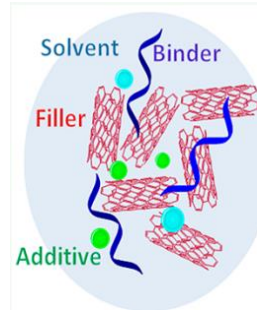


# VISION: ARCHITECTED FUNCTIONAL SOFT MATTER

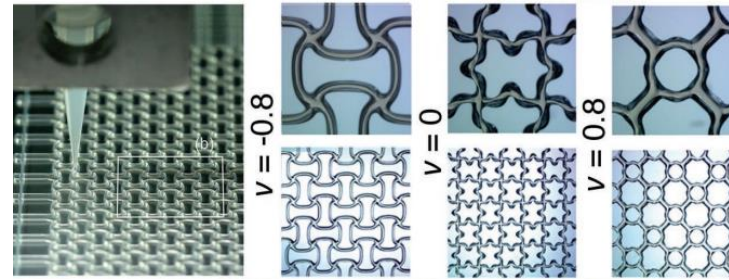


**AM promise:** ability to **locally specify both composition and structure** will allow tailored control over material properties and functionality

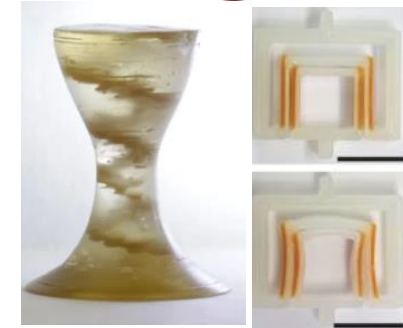
- **Microstructure (ink):**
- **Mesostructure (layer):**
- **Macrostructure (part):**
- **Multi-material, graded, heterogeneity**
- **This ultimately leads to metamaterials and “4D” printing**



Y. Zhang et al. Recent Progress of Direct Ink Writing of Electronic Components for Advanced Wearable Devices. ACS Applied Electronic Materials. 2019.



A. Clausen et al. Topology Optimized Architectures with Programmable Poisson's Ratio over Large Deformations. Advanced Materials. 2015



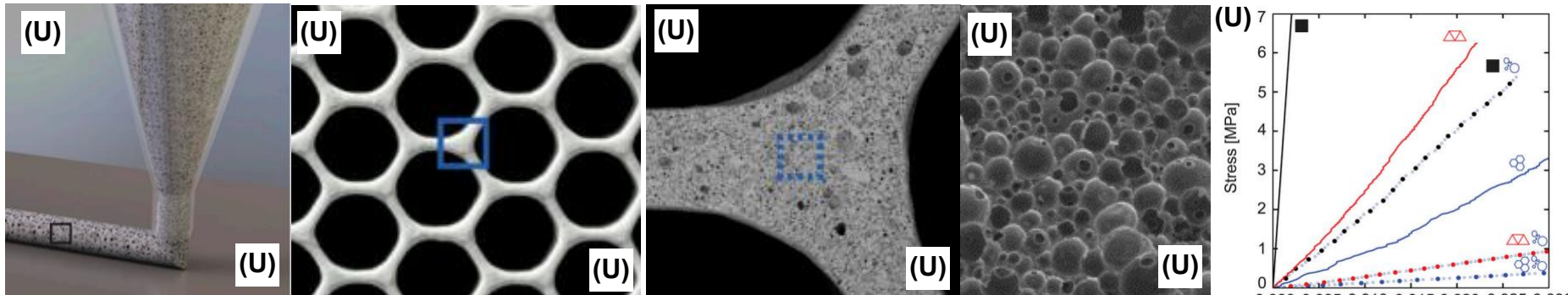
D. Kokkinis et al. Multimaterial magnetically assisted 3D printing of composite materials. Nature Communications 2015.



## PERFORMANCE

- Self healing
- Shape shifting
- Reactive
- Drug delivery
- Specific strength
- Toughness
- Magnetic
- Piezoelectric
- Dielectric

## PROCESS >> STRUCTURE >> PROPERTY



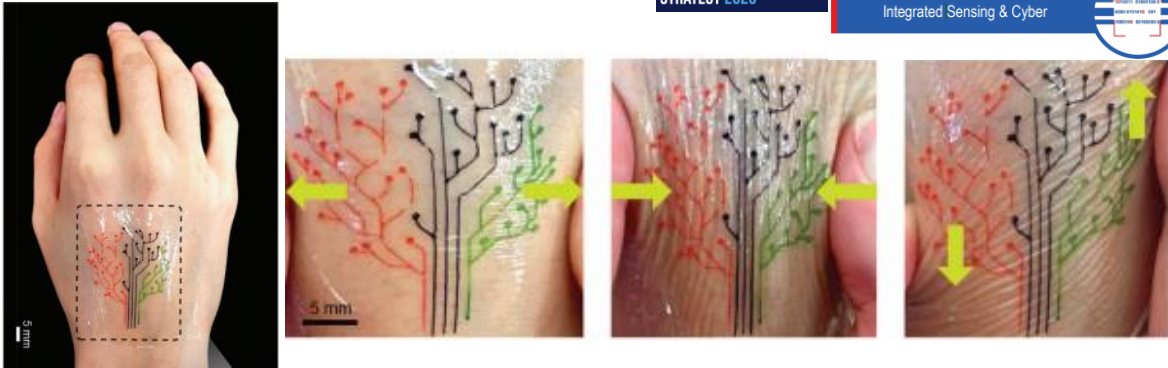
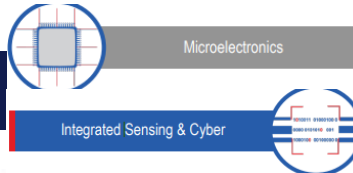
Muth et al. "Architected cellular ceramics with tailored stiffness via direct foam writing". PNAS 2017

# SOME EMERGING APPLICATIONS



## FLEXIBLE SENSING

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2023



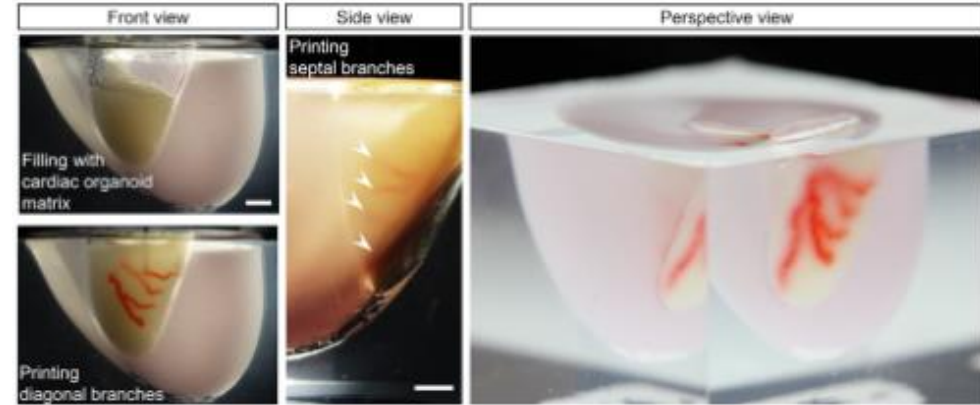
X. Liu et al. 3D Printing of Living Responsive Materials and Devices. *Advanced Materials*. 2017.

## BIOTECH

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2023



Biotechnology

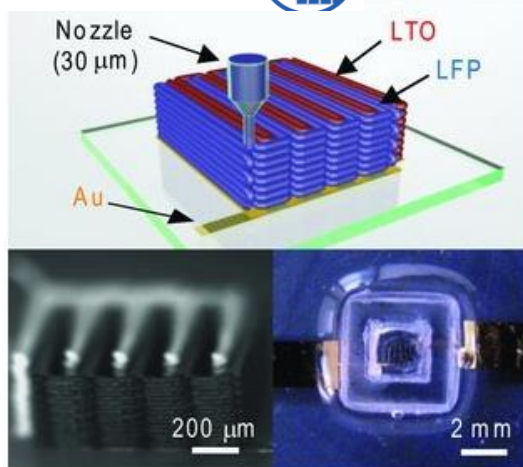
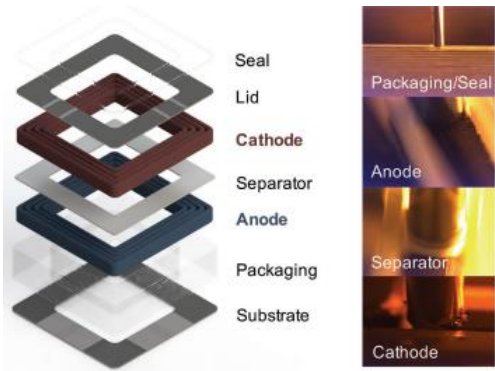


M. Skylar-Scott et al. Biomanufacturing of organ-specific tissues with high cellular density and embedded vascular channels. *SCIENCE ADVANCES*. 2019.

## ENERGY

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2023

Renewable Energy Generation & Storage



K. Sun et al. 3D Printing of Interdigitated Li-Ion Microbattery Architectures. *Advanced Materials*. 2013.

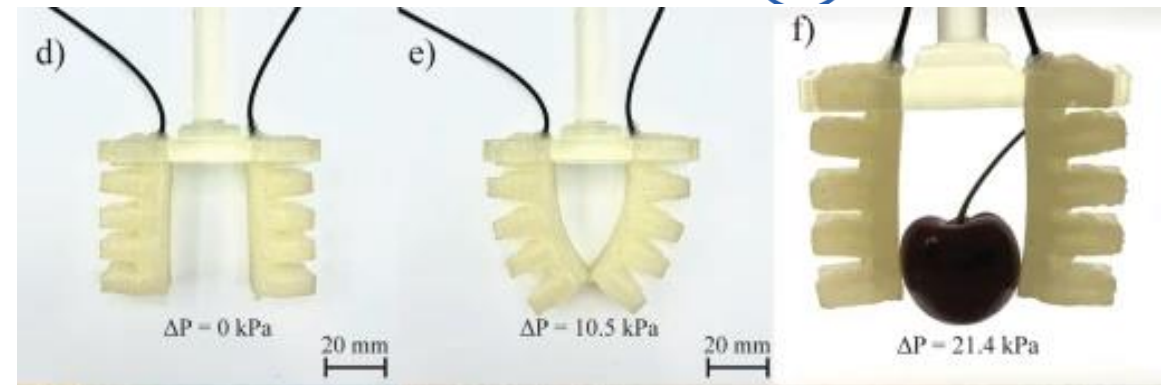
## SOFT ROBOTICS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2023

Trusted AI & Autonomy



Human Machine Interfaces



O.D. Yirmibesoglu. Multi-material direct ink writing of photocurable elastomeric foams. *Communications Materials*. 2021.

# APPLICATION: BATTERIES AND ELECTRONICS

**WHO:** DOE Nat'l Lab w/ Large Biz Partner

**Lawrence Livermore  
National Laboratory**

**MILLIPORE  
SIGMA**

[2022]

**HOW:** Functional DIW feedstocks

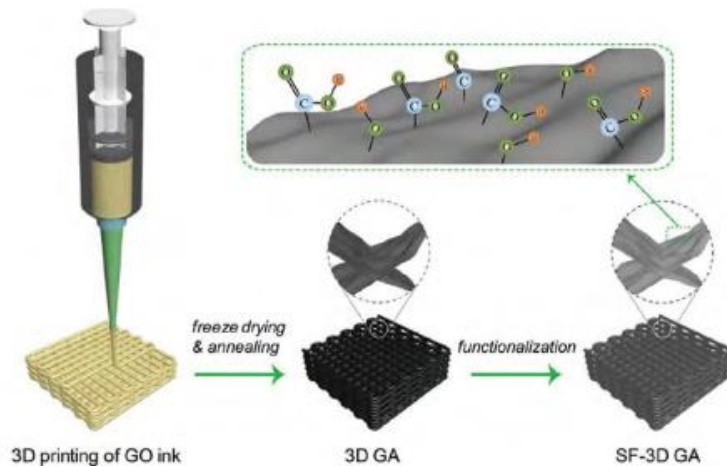
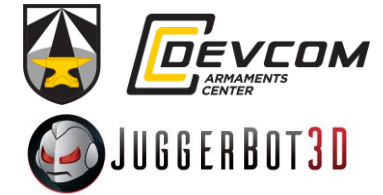
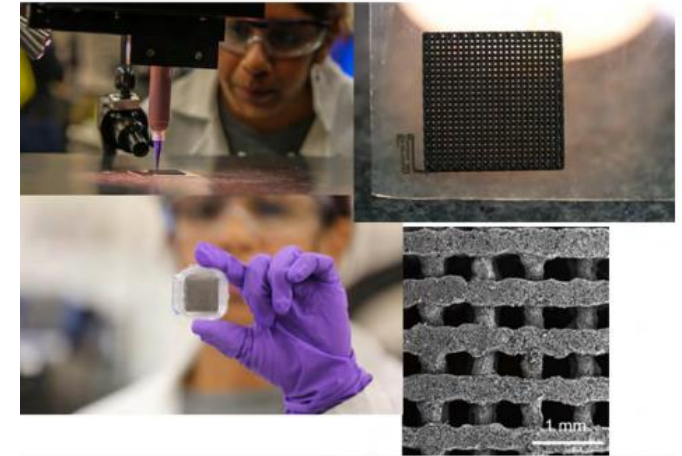


Figure 6: Steps for 3D printing of graphene oxide ink

**WHAT:** Energy Inks

Enables customized devices from batteries, catalysts, and fuel cells to heat exchangers and desalination devices, among others

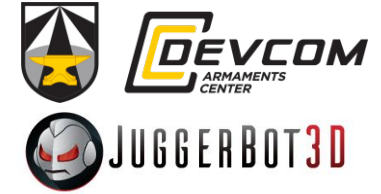


**WHY:**

- Improved time to market
- Improved productivity (↓ cost, time)
- Customizable
- Higher performance
- Survivable
- Advantages vs. powder AM, inkjet, and traditional mfg

**GROWING GLOBAL DEMAND FOR ELECTRONICS, ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES, AND CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

# APPLICATION: GASKETS & TOOLING



**WHO:** *Large biz sponsored by US Army*

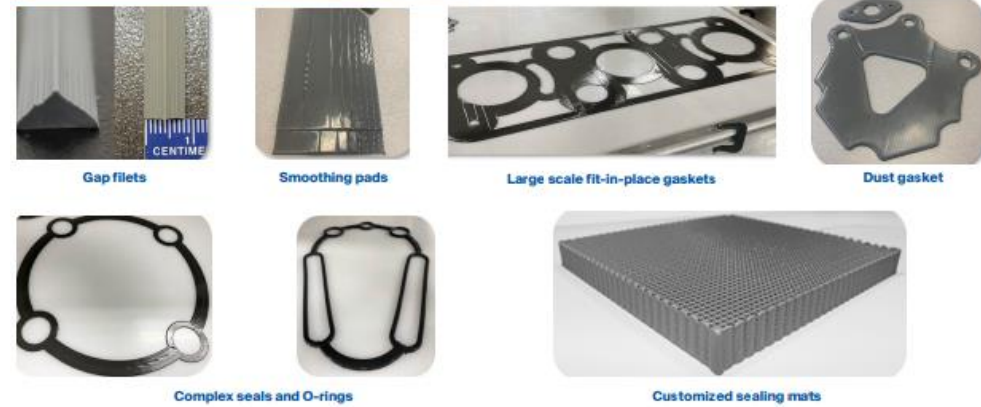


We protect and beautify the world™



[2018-2023]

**WHAT:** *Aerospace seals*



**HOW:** *“Ambient Reactive Extrusion”*



**WHY:**

- *Improved time to market*
- *Improved productivity (↓ cost, time)*
- *Customizable*
- *Point of need mfg*



# Direct Ink Write Applications



Emerging Direct Ink Write Capabilities for Functional Soft Matter Applications

# Robot End Effectors

End of Arm Tooling (EOAT)

Components:

- Soft/Rigid Grippers
- Vacuum/Suction Cups

Material Requirements:

- Nonabrasive
- Wear resistant
- Smooth surface
- Compressive (Soft)
- Chemical resistant
- Light Weight

Applications:

- Manufacturing
- Food
- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Logistics





# Elastomer Seals and Gaskets

**Seals** prevent leakages between two moving parts such as shafts, pumps, and engine parts

**Gaskets** prevent leakages between two flat surfaces of a component or a flange

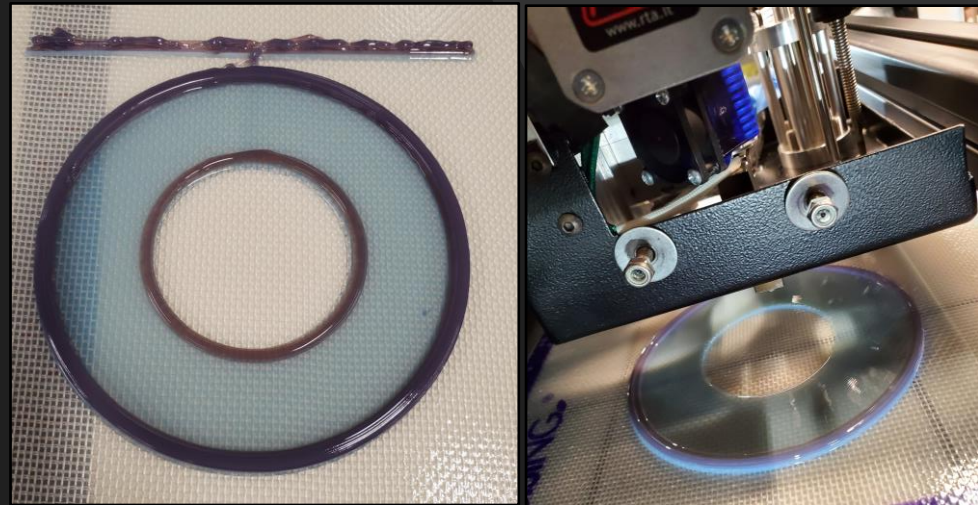
Material Requirements:

- High-temperature resistance
- Abrasion and shock resistance
- Corrosion and oxidation protection
- Degradation resistance.
- Salt, water, alkaline, and acid resistance
- Thermal or fire insulation.



# Elastomer Seals and Gaskets

Multi-material components developed using advanced tool path programs, allowing operators to print the initial solid layer with softer materials, then change to a hard material to print edge features.



# Multi-Durometer Seal

Thermoset Material: ChromaFlow™50 & ChromaFlow™90



Seal stretches and flex's easily in certain directions but refrains from folding or twisting due to the rigid outside and inside perimeters.



Army STTR Phase 1

Topic#: A20B-T010-0326

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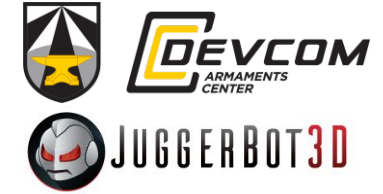
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PennState  
Behrend



# CONCLUSION



## DIW is an underappreciated and underutilized AM mode

- There are advantages over traditional means, FFF, and other AM modes
- It's conceptually simple (who hasn't put icing on a cake?)

## Enables advanced engineering materials

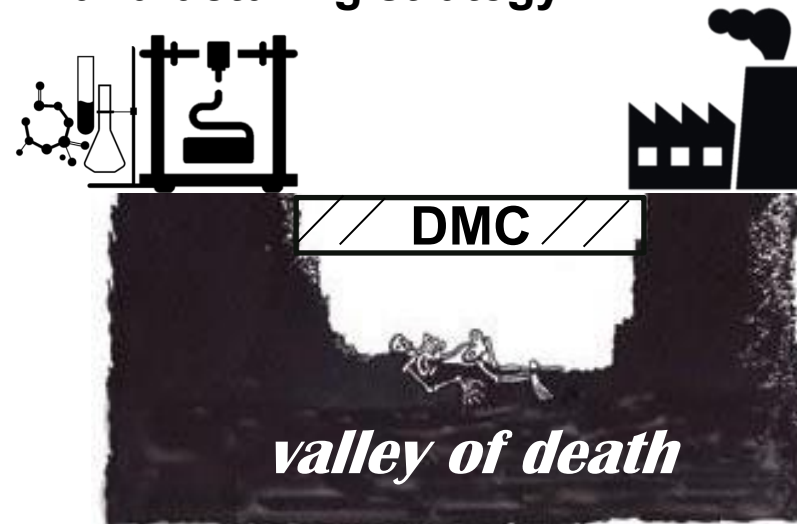
- AGILITY! TAILORED MULTISCALE FUNCTION!
- Materials by design

## Rapidly gaining technical and manufacturing maturity

- Several business have started to offer applied industrial solutions relevant to DoD

## Should be considered as part of manufacturing strategy

- Mixed-mode/hybrid mfg
- Enabling functions



# THANK YOU.



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