MANUELA

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MANUELA

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING USING METAL PILOT LINE

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INTRODUCTION

The goal of MANUELA is the development and realization of a metal Additive Manufacturing (AM) pilot line service covering the full AM development cycle including simulation, robust AM manufacturing and on-line process control, characterization, real-time feedback, post-treatment, AM qualification protocols and associated business model.

MANUELA´s ambition is to provide the European industry with world class, reliable pilot line manufacturing service leveraging metal Additive Manufacturing products. This will be achieved by having the hardware solutions cost-efficiently connected to the best possible competences and capacities across Europe to cover the full range of powder bed fusion technologies from medium to large scale including Powder Bed Fusion Laser Beam (PBF-LB) as well as Powder Bed Fusion Electron Beam (PBF-EB) processes.

MANUELA is a project funded by European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program coordinated by Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

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WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR

The overall scope of Manuela is to facilitate a one entry contact to an independent and high level solution provision composed of a number of core AM laboratories and associated partners (see consortium overview). Through MANUELA project, the capacities are being developed and internal networks are being trained through R&D driven by a number of pre-defined use cases. Further validation of the pilot line will come after an open call for additional use cases will be opened to external companies. The MANUELA project involves all necessary capacities and competences to address the needs for development of solution for the fabrication and qualification of part by AM involving materials, design process and product assessment. The service is expected to allow companies across Europe closer and more rapid access to products/ solutions they can bring to the market either in their own manufacturing or simply by commercial acquisition from service bureaus across Europe. MANUELA will provide the unique AM and will be able to assist further in the process, but the aim of the project is not to set up a commercial serial production entity of its own.

Prof. Lars Nyborg

CONSORTIUM

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BENEFITS OF METAL AM

Additive manufacturing (AM) is an innovative and agile manufacturing method that adds material instead of subtracting it. There are some key advantages of AM compared with traditional manufacturing:

Innovative and flexible product design enabling complex geometries

Optimized material utilization reducing waste generation

Energy cost savings

Reduced lead times

Enhanced product differentiation

KEY INNOVATIONS OF MANUELA

MANUELA project

TAILORED RECYCLABLE METAL POWDER

PILOT LINE DASHBOARD

WORKFLOW OPTIMIZATION AND AUTOMATION

REAL-TIME PROCESS MONITORING

QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION STANDARD

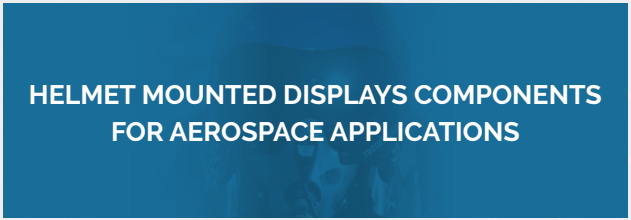
Post-MANUELA pilot line offering

- Pre-industrial testing for specific AM products
- Full manufacturing chain available
- Turn-key delivery/One-stop-shop
- Time to market reduction
- First-time-right product design
- Qualified products for new segments
- New materials integration into manufacturing line
- 'Green' technology approved by Life Cycle Analysis

MANUELA

USE CASES

The pilot line will be validated by these six use cases within which prototype components will be manufactured and demonstrated in their operational environment.

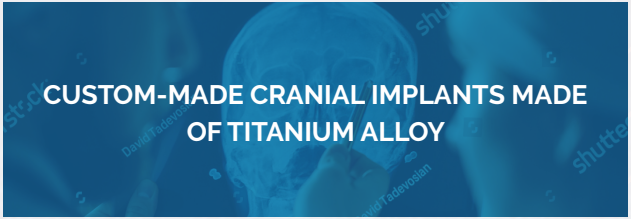


HELMET MOUNTED DISPLAYS COMPONENTS FOR AEROSPACE APPLICATIONS

QIOPTIQ Photonics for Innovation
An Excelitas Technologies Company

NOVEL SLIP RINGS ALLOWING ENERGY AND SIGNAL TRANSFERS FOR ROTATING ACTUATORS

Together ahead. RUAG



CUSTOM-MADE CRANIAL IMPLANTS MADE OF TITANIUM ALLOY

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Benefits from improved AM processes

Time to market reduction	~30%
Manufacturing cost reduction	~25%
Product price reduction	~20%

Time to market reduction	~50%
Manufacturing cost reduction	~40%
Product price reduction	~~30%
Production speed increase	~30%
Market increase	~20%

Time to market reduction	~30%
Product price reduction	~20%
Production of parts no longer available on market	~50%

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and technologies enabled by MANUELA

~30%	Time to market reduction
~40%	Manufacturing cost reduction

POWER PLANT MACHINERY COMPONENTS (GAS TURBINE LINER AND INJECTOR) SUBJECTED TO HIGH THERMO-MECHANICAL STRESSES

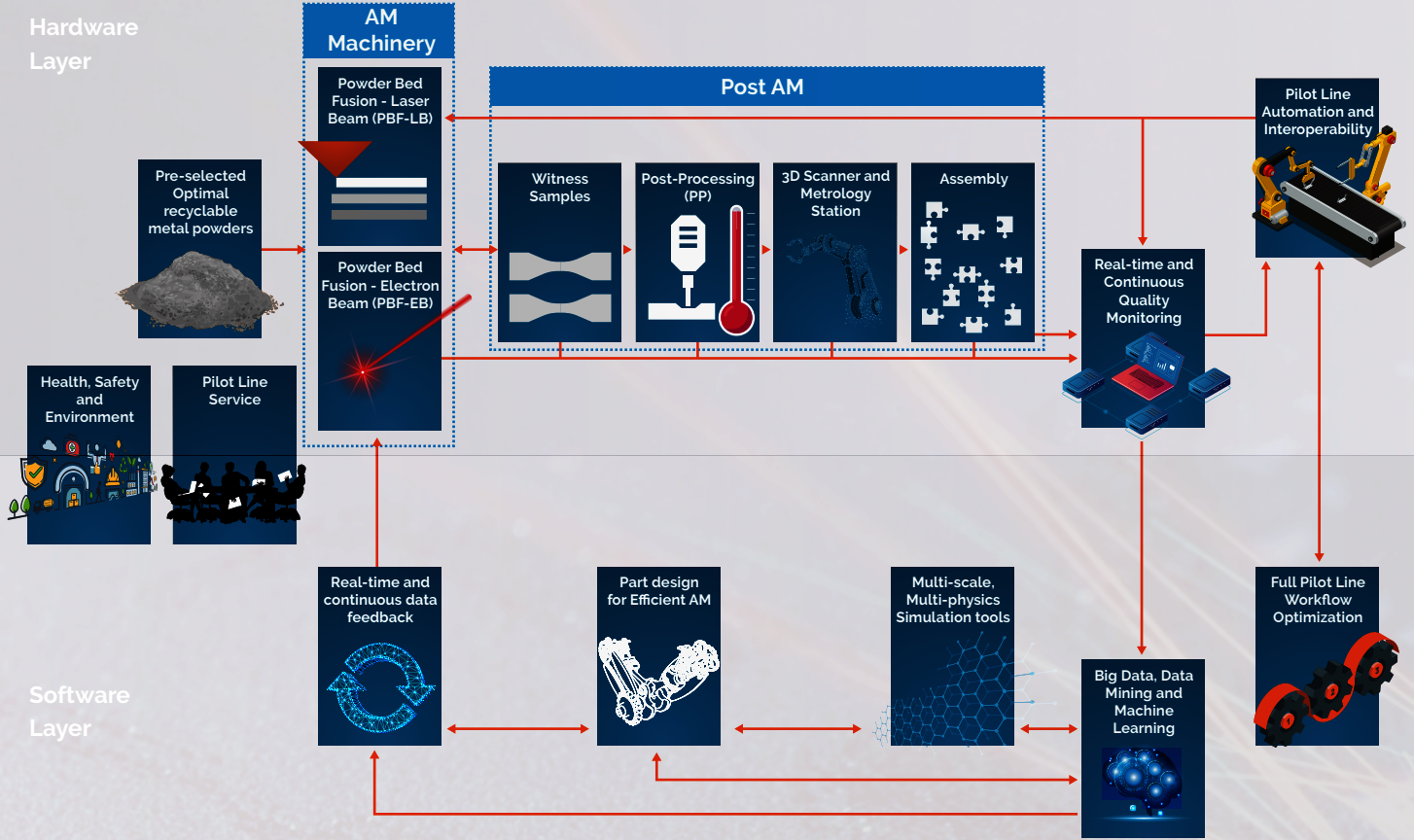
~25%	Time to market reduction
~30%	Manufacturing cost reduction
~20%	Subsequent machining reduction
~30%	Production speed increase
~25%	Increased turnover

ROCKER FOR MOTORSPORT COMPETITION

~30%	Time to market reduction
~20%	Manufacturing cost reduction

GAS TURBINE FUEL NOZZLE

SERVICES


Hardware Layer
AM Machinery
Powder Bed Fusion - Laser Beam (PBF-LB)
Powder Bed Fusion - Electron Beam (PBF-EB)
Post AM
Witness Samples
Post-Processing (PP)
3D Scanner and Metrology Station
Assembly
Pre-selected Optimal recyclable metal powders
Pilot Line Automation and Interoperability
Real-time and Continuous Quality Monitoring
Health, Safety and Environment
Pilot Line Service
Software Layer
Real-time and continuous data feedback
Part design for Efficient AM
Multi-scale, Multi-physics Simulation tools
Big Data, Data Mining and Machine Learning
Full Pilot Line Workflow Optimization

HOW TO APPROACH THE PILOT LINE?

CHALMERS INDUSTRITEKNIK

Chalmers Industriteknik (CIT) acts as single point of entry for the future customers to the MANUELA Pilot Line.

CHALMERS INDUSTRITEKNIK WILL PERFORM ALL FRONT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MARKETING, CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP, EVALUATION OF OPPORTUNITIES, REQUIREMENTS, OFFERS, MANAGEMENT AND SOURCING OF COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES, QUALITY CONTROL, INVOICING, AND CONTINUATION OF ECOSYSTEM BUILDING.

The Pilot Line will provide Open Access services according to the following flow:

CLIENT

BRINGS IDEA AND REQUIREMENTS TO CIT

CIT

PROVIDES DESIGN, MODEL, SIMULATION, 3D PRINTED PRODUCT WITH CHARACTERIZATION, AS WELL AS OPTIMIZED PROCESS BASED ON ONLINE MONITORING AND MACHINE LEARNING BASED DATA PROCESSING.

In case you are interested to learn more about the MANUELA project or post-project operations, please contact:
Paul Häyhänen - paul.hayhanen@chalmersindustriteknik.se or Karolina Kazmierczak - karolina.kazmierczak@chalmersindustriteknik.se

SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Powder Bed Fusion – Laser Beam

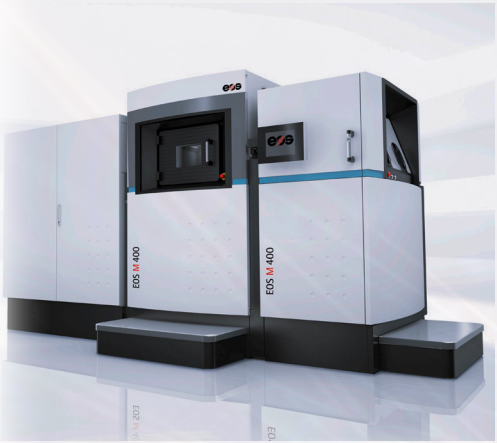
M290 medium-sized system

Equipped with next generation quality monitoring systems for manufacturing of the component with focus on small to medium-size components with high requirements to the component quality and process robustness.

M400 large system

For AM fabrication of components requiring high manufacturing speed where in-situ quality assurance is not required.

MANUELA UTILIZES TWO PBF-LB SYSTEMS:



SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Powder Bed Fusion – Laser Beam

For PBF-LB, MANUELA´s concept is based on three main improvements:

OPTIMIZATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE ADVANCED IN-SITU MONITORING SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE PROCESS ROBUSTNESS

DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE TAILORED PROCESS PARAMETERS WITH FOCUS ON IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

UTILIZATION OF THE DIFFERENT HARDWARE, ALLOWING TO IMPROVE PROCESS SPEED BY UTILIZATION OF THE DIFFERENT THICKNESS OF THE POWDER LAYER DURING PROCESS AS WELL AS HIGH POWER ENERGY SOURCE.

For a number of materials and applications, the build speed will be effectively increased by optimisation of processing parameters to achieve between 2-4 faster build cycle. Secondly, having the capability to monitor and control variation in the powder layer thickness at different built height in combination with respective exposure strategy (e.g. larger energy input in case of larger powder bed thickness) will allow also to tune build speed and build strategy to features and design needs without compromising requirements to the component and its functionality. Exploitation of the on-line quality assurance tools will allow to assure robustness of the PBF-LB process and hence minimize or totally avoid the need for expensive post-AM quality assurance. The process monitoring system at Chalmers involves three parallel systems for on-line acquisition and monitoring, powder-bed imaging, thermal imaging melt pool monitoring and optical tomography imaging providing input from laser-material interaction across the whole build.

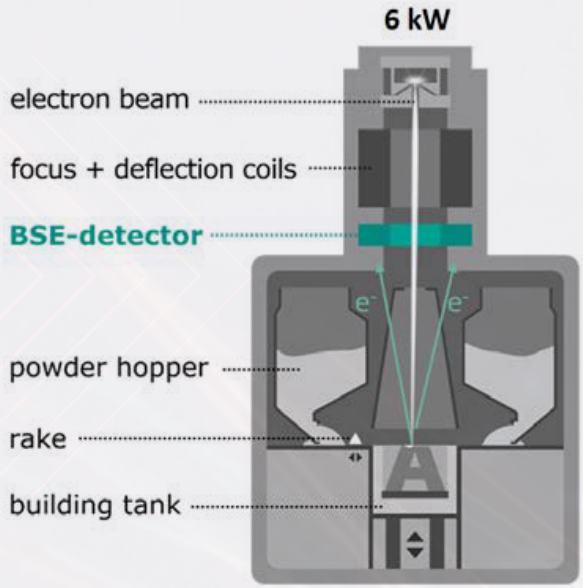
SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Powder Bed Fusion – Electron Beam

The PBF-EB is particularly interesting to process high performance materials due to vacuum conditions and working temperatures of up to 1100˚C. The electron beam consolidates the powder and in parallel heats the powder bed to maintain it at a pre-defined building temperature. The maximum beam power available in conventional EBM machines is about **3 kW** and only used for maintaining the building temperature whereas powder consolidation works at much lower beam power. The MANUELA pilot line uses the EBM system Athene refurbished with a **6 kW** electron beam gun and a new control system.

Typically, half of the building time is spent for powder bed preheating in order to maintain the processing temperature within the build tank. First tests with titanium demonstrate a possible strong reduction of the preheating time from originally **30s down to 7s**, which nearly halves the layer fabrication time.

Thus, the process speed will be approximately doubled by using this new system with doubled power available.

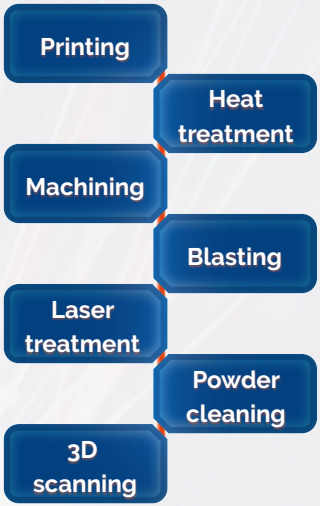


MANUELA

SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Post-AM processing with automated workflows

MANUELA WILL CREATE AN AGILE, SCALABLE, ROBUST, SAFE AND AUTOMATED WORKFLOW WHICH CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO BOTH SMALL AND LARGE-SCALE AM USERS. THE CONCEPT IS BASED ON USING THE EXISTING WORKSHOP ENVIRONMENT OF A USER, THUS REQUIRING MINIMUM NEAR FUTURE INVESTMENT TO IMPLEMENT AM. THE SOLUTION IS INTEROPERABLE TO BE ABLE TO SERVE MULTIPLE SYSTEMS INDEPENDENT OF AM MACHINE BRAND OR TYPE.



The post-processing for each build job and individual part will be set already in the design, optimization and preparation phase.

Automated Guided Vehicle will be used to remove and transport build jobs from the 3D printers to a pick-and-place station.

The post-treatment sequence of each build job and/or part is defined during the build job preparation.

Product and process data will be stored and tied to the unique ID of the part to allow traceability, analytics and feedback into the design/simulation platform of the pilot line.

SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Quality monitoring

MANUELA CONCEPT RELIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART ON-LINE QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEMS INTO THE PBF-LB AM PROCESS TO ASSURE CONTROLLED AM MANUFACTURING AND HENCE AVOID UNCONTROLLED DEFECTS, IMPROVE PROCESS ROBUSTNESS, STABILITY AND REPEATABILITY.

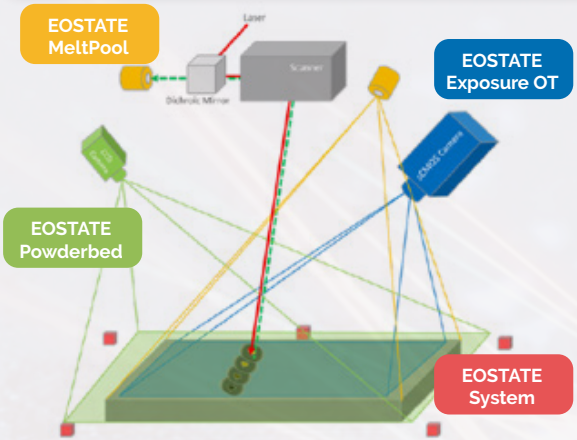
FOR PBF-EB, ELECTRON OPTICAL OBSERVATION WILL BE USED FOR THE DETECTION OF FUSION DEFECTS (TOO LOW ENERGY INPUT) OR MATERIAL HUMPING (TOO HIGH ENERGY INPUT) ALONG WITH MELT POOL MONITORING TO DETECT CRITICAL DEFECTS.

Powder bed monitoring for even and complete recoating of the building platform in each layer.

Energy distribution monitoring enabling overall fusion and cooling behaviour detection and hence avoid/minimize unpredictable microstructure defects.

Melt pool monitoring enables control of part critical defects through thermal imaging.

Advanced process atmosphere control to assure constant composition of the atmosphere and avoid or minimize contamination of the AM component by secondary phases as e.g. oxides or nitrides.



SERVICES – HARDWARE LAYER

Testing | Health & Safety

NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

- Computed tomography (for fault analysis)
- Resonance frequency analysis (for determination of the elastic modulus)
- Laser flash analysis (for determination of the thermal diffusivity of copper-based materials)
- Metallography and microscopy analysis

MECHANICAL TESTING OF SAMPLES

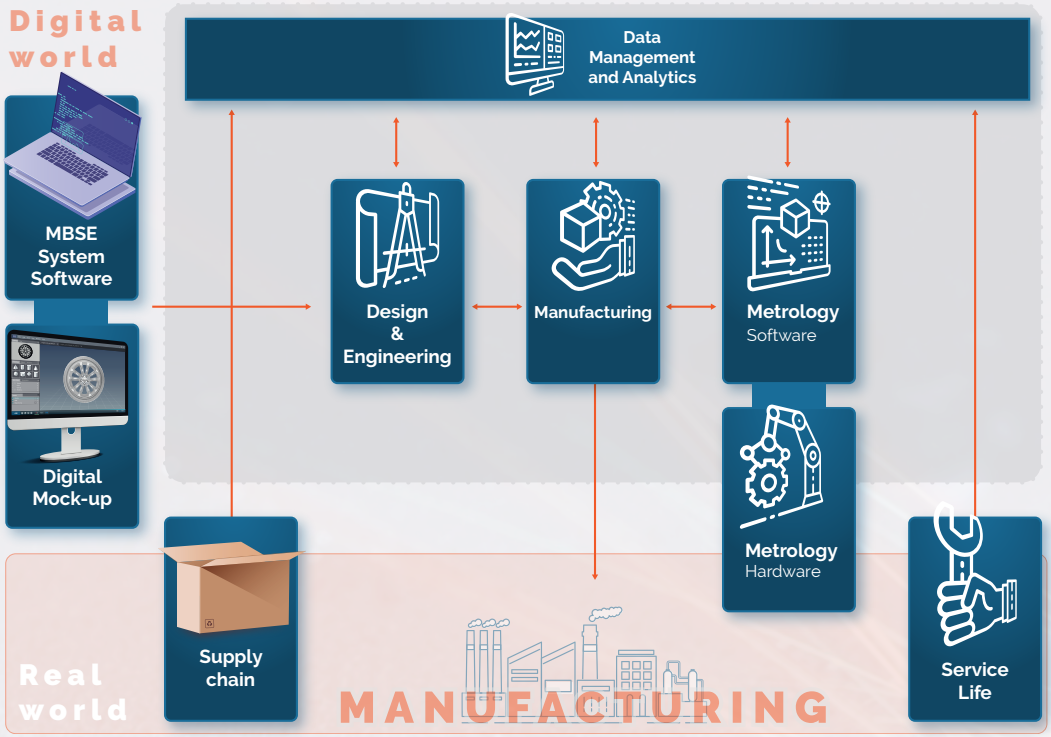
- Tensile strength
- Impact tests
- Hardness tests

Hazards to operator health & safety will be minimized through automation of the entire process. An assessment and minimization through design and regular inspection of all possible dust generation areas of the pilot line will be done. The monitoring and control with respect to PM10 and PM2.5 will constitute important parts of the measures.

SERVICES – SOFTWARE LAYER

MANUELA Dashboard

THE DASHBOARD IS A COMPREHENSIVE, GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE ENABLING EASY ACCESS TO THE PILOT LINE SOFTWARE CAPABILITIES



SERVICES – SOFTWARE LAYER

Big data, data mining and machine learning

MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS WILL BE APPLIED TO THE AM PROCESS IN ORDER TO ADAPT ITS PARAMETERS AND SUGGEST DESIGN CORRECTIONS CONSIDERING THE ENTIRE PILOT LINE PERFORMANCE OVER ITS LIFETIME.

- Data mining of the big data will enable better understanding of the obtained parts by identifying causal relations by means of clustering of process parameters and obtained part specifications.

- Big data consists of process, material and part parameters. These parameters are obtained from an initial material database, real time and continuous quality monitoring of the pilot line and multi-scale and multi-physics simulation tools.

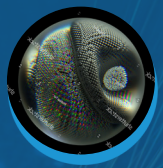
SERVICES – SOFTWARE LAYER

Multi-scale and multi-physics simulation tools

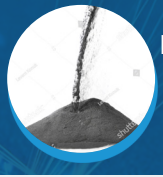
The simulation tools combining the big data with machine learning will include all relevant physics

CHEMICAL | MECHANICAL | OPTICAL | PLASMA | THERMAL

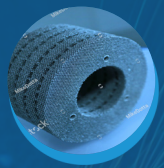
and apply them on multiple scales



Cellular solidification structure
[1 µm scale]

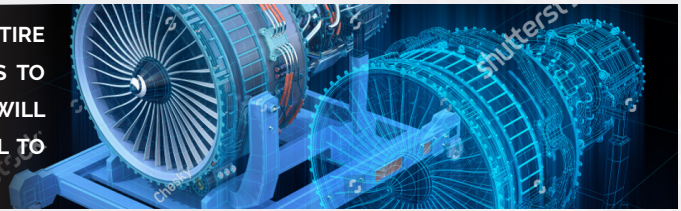


Metal grains and melt pool size
[100-500 µm]



Scale and part level
[10-400 mm]

THE COMBINATION OF ALL SIMULATION TOOLS MIMICKING THE ENTIRE PILOT LINE IS ITS DIGITAL TWIN, ENABLING DIGITAL ITERATIONS TO ACHIEVE RIGHT-FIRST-TIME MANUFACTURING. THIS DIGITAL TWIN WILL BE ADAPTIVE AND WILL INCREASE IN EFFICIENCY PROPORTIONAL TO THE DATA ACQUIRED OVER THE LIFE OF THE PILOT LINE.



SERVICES – SOFTWARE LAYER

Part design for efficient AM

The part design for efficient AM provides all relevant information enabling users to judge the feasibility and economic advantages of changing the manufacturing of a part or assembly of parts to an AM equivalent.

USER PROVIDES

- CAD FILE
- QUESTIONNAIRE
- ASSEMBLY INTERFACES
- APPLICATION SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS

DATA MINING & MACHINE LEARNING

SIMULATION WORKFLOW

OPTIMIZATION TOOLS

- MANUFACTURABILITY ANALYSIS
- PART SPECIFIC PROCESS FLOW
- PART OPTIMIZATION MINIMIZING DISTORTIONS AND WEIGHT
- SUPPORT STRUCTURES SUGGESTIONS

USER GETS

OPEN CALL

A SELECTION OF 10 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CASES UTILIZING THE MANUELA OFFERING WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING AN OPEN CALL IN 2021.

Implementation

Project plan including user requirements, process flow charts, resource allocation and budgeting. All costs related to the project, such as process engineer hours, equipment time and consumables will be tracked and funded from MANUELA project.

Proposal evaluation

Identification of business development cases that address market needs using a novel approach that yields a step change, creates significant market value whilst enabling Europe to progress towards a resource-efficient economy and are competitively positioned to compete and succeed in the global Marketplace.

Assessment and learning

The business development cases will become the starting point for larger projects going towards mass manufactured AM products. Such trajectory will be guided by the pilot production service following the experience gained from running the use cases towards a trajectory outside MANUELA and into the pilot production service. Learnings from these cases will be incorporated in future pilot production services.

MANUELA
TEAM

Visit

www.manuela-project.eu

to learn more
about the project
and how to get involved.

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