PRESS RELEASE

Fraunhofer Additive Manufacturing Alliance at the Formnext Fair:

Additive Manufacturing Alliance turns 20

This year the Additive Manufacturing Alliance looks back on 20 years of history. Started as the Rapid Prototyping Alliance, the continuously increasing cooperative alliance of Fraunhofer institutes has become well-established among experts.

Today the Additive Manufacturing Alliance comprises 18 Fraunhofer institutes, which makes it a competent partner for a wide variety of topics regarding additive manufacturing (also known as generative manufacturing or 3D printing). At the Formnext at the booth of the Additive Manufacturing Alliance, various exhibits on diverse topics of additive manufacturing will be presented for interested visitors, ranging from e.g. multi-material processing to additive manufacturing of ceramic and metal components up to impressive colored 3D representations.

This year's highlight will be a miniaturized machine that will use selective laser sintering to perform live manufacturing of test components for material development and material testing. In spite of its small dimensions it can represent all process conditions in the same way as a commercial 3D printer. However, significantly less material is consumed due to its small size. Moreover, the machine is easy to clean and highly flexible. The other two main exhibits show the possibilities offered by multi-material 3D printing. A partially transparent anatomical model and the reproduction of a human head impressively illustrate the possibilities of this technology.

Formnext is the international leading exhibition and conference on additive manufacturing. It offers global enterprises a platform featuring all matters of design and product development, industrial tool and mold making, manufacturing solutions, technology for quality management, and measurement technology. Furthermore, the fair includes an exhibition by leading suppliers from the fields of materials and component construction.

Editorial notes
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The **Fraunhofer Additive Manufacturing Alliance** represents the entire process chain of additive manufacturing. It encompasses four areas of research: engineering (application development), materials (plastics, metals, ceramics), technology (powder bed based, extrusion based, print based), and quality (reproducibility, reliability, quality management). The alliance has the goal of driving application oriented developments forward and of setting trends in additive manufacturing.

Translucent head model: multi-material 3D printing using the universal 3D printer drive Cuttlefish. | © Fraunhofer |

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