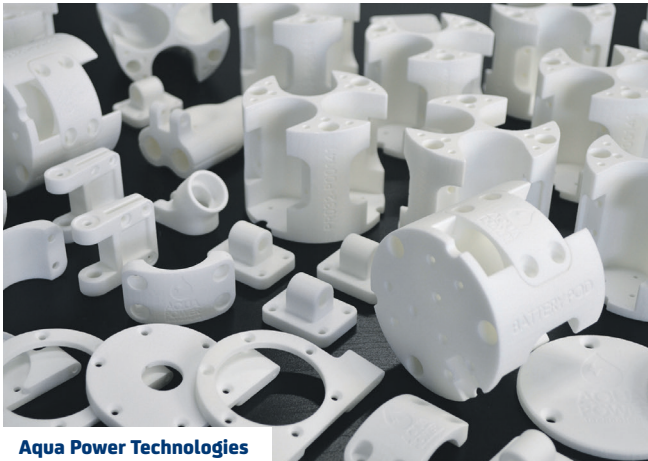


3DPRINTUK: From Prototypes to Low Volume Batch Production

Here at Industry Update, we are incredibly pleased to announce that 3DPRINTUK have been specially selected to receive our highly commended 3D Printing Company of the Year award as a result of their outstanding services which are helping smaller and medium sized companies with their manufacturing needs.

3DPRINTUK is a relatively new company but have already grown to become one of the UK's favourite providers of 3D production. 3D printing is changing the way the manufacturing world sees prototyping, design and development and even mass production, offering a cheap and simply method for strong, accurate and cost-effective small parts and components, but with potential to grow far bigger.

Based in London, 3DPRINTUK is led by Director Nick Allen, a trained product designer and engineer with years of rich experience in the industry. Prior to 2011, he spotted a clear gap in the market for 3D plastic production, without the need for CNC milling or expensive injection moulding. Typically, injection moulding can be quite expensive due to the necessary tooling costs, resulting in both SME and multinational corporations opting for cheaper alternatives that are still high quality and durable.



Aqua Power Technologies

Nick stated, "Here at 3DPRINTUK, we are bridging the gap between injection moulding and prototyping, able to offer clients a high quality service that offers a quick turnaround, identical and accurate models, and even free polishing for a smoother finish. 3D printing has been booming over the past decade, and it's far and away the best tool for product development and low volume production, with massive potential to change a lot of things."

Today, his company specialises in additive manufacturing for low volume production runs and one off prototype production, working with all manner of companies across the UK but



Player Data



Nick Allen, Director at 3DPRINTUK holding the prestigious Company of the Year Award

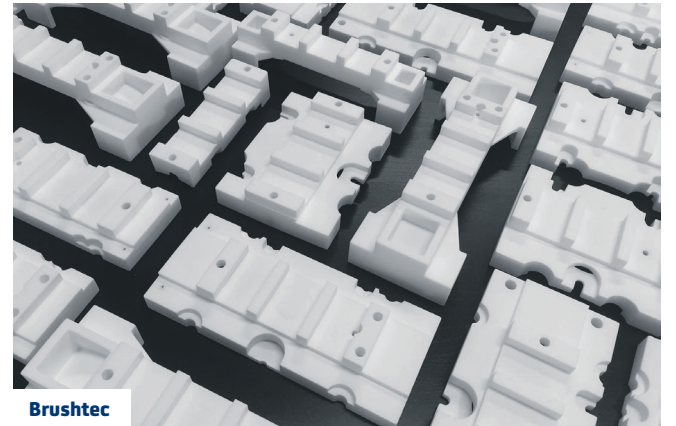
mainly SME's. Names they have worked with include Aston Martin, Merlin Magic Making, Brillopak and Brushtec. Using Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) machines, 3DPRINTUK are able to provide industry leading low volume and batch production runs, printing anywhere between a handful to a whole portfolio of plastic parts. This can be applied to almost any sector, whether for the production of technology, engineering parts, models and more. In fact, with the SLS 3D printers, the components created are often far superior in terms of functionality and resolution when compared to traditional resin printers.

Over a million 3D parts have been produced by 3DPRINTUK using SLS technology, with machines that they have invested hundreds of thousands into. Better yet, in order to ensure each client gets the exact part as intended, all their printers are recalibrated once a week and all printed components are visually checked before dispatch.

For those seeking prototyping, SLS is far and away the best method of production, though the machines themselves can be quite costly. With 3DPRINTUK, clients can rest assured knowing their highly confidential prototypes are in safe hands from concept design to finish. Some of their one off prints includes a 3D printed camera, a BARU coffee brewer, VR goggles, plus parts and components for bikes, jigs and clamps, specialist jewellery and much more.

Their low volume batch production includes 3D printed jigs and fixtures for Brushtec, a worldwide manufacturer and designer of innovative brushware; specialising in brushes for the industrial, municipal and agriculture markets. Brushtec choose SLS printing as, "A tactical solution to turn around an improved design quickly, without all the setup costs of injection moulding. For some parts we make, SLS was 55-75% cheaper than CNC milling. What convinced us was the speedy turnaround from 3DPRINTUK, along with the accuracy of the output which was far better than we had been able to achieve with other suppliers and also at a reasonable cost."

With the 3D part already down, 3DPRINTUK are now looking to improve upon the behind the scenes, investing in advanced order management systems that will improve their overall efficiency and service



Brushtec

provision. Nick added, "By furthering our organisational skills, we will be able to speed up our rate of production and turnover, increasing the amount of client projects we can take on, whether it's for low batch or one off models. Not only that, but we're also introducing transparent tracking so that clients can see exactly where in the printing process their components are. Finally, we are also looking into bettering the finishes of our components, bringing them to a high quality level more in line with injection moulding. This will make the parts we print on par with end user products, so no longer just prototypes!"



Kongsberg Maritime, Norway

Anyone who is interested in exploring 3D printing may be interested to know the team hold monthly facility tours where visitors can pose questions and concerns about 3DPRINTUK's services and the world of production in general. These open days are great for anyone, designers, students, business owners, investors, and even curious members of the public. For more information, you can always get in touch with 3DPRINTUK using the details provided. Alternatively, why not head over to the website for more details, case studies and updates.

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Bloc Blinds