



News Release

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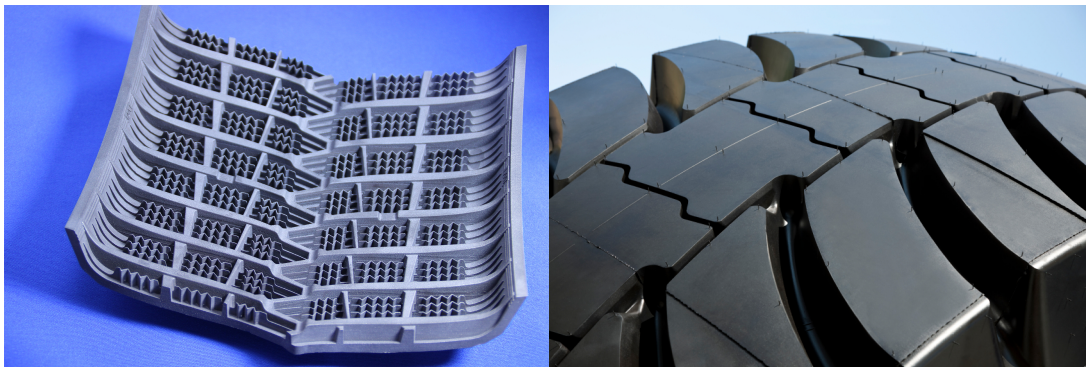
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3D Systems Ships Over Two Dozen Direct Metal 3D Printers to Redefine Tire Design and Manufacturing

- 3D printed metal tire tread molds revolutionize the transportation and automotive industry through higher performance and improved safety
- Adoption of direct metal 3D printers accelerates innovation of highly complex, 3-dimensional tire patterns and molds for manufacturing

ROCK HILL, South Carolina –April 30, 2014 – [3D Systems](#) (NYSE:DDD)

announced today that, over the past several periods, it has shipped over two dozen of its ProX™ Series Direct Metal printers to leading automotive tire manufacturers driving significant innovation in the development and manufacturing of highly complex tread molds. With the ProX series, the most intricate tread designs, that are simply not possible with traditional processes, can easily and quickly be printed as production tools for the manufacturing of tires that set new benchmarks in performance and safety.



Caption: A section of tread mold created for the tire industry using high-strength managing steel 1.2709, printed on a 3D Systems ProX 300 3D Printer. Image courtesy of 3D Systems.

Historically, tire manufacturers depended upon traditional metal castings that required significant lead-time and cost to produce even a simple tread pattern or to develop new tire tread geometries. With 3D metal printing, highly complex tread segments can be

designed, tested and rapidly produced on a DMP printer. Changes can be made quickly for re-testing before going into mass production. Tire sipes, the tiny slits within a tire's thread, can improve traction on wet surfaces, but if placed incorrectly, can worsen dry surface driving stability. Sipes represent one important design element of the many features that tire manufacturers constantly seek to balance in order to achieve certain performance targets, resulting in a wide variety of tread options and corresponding tire molds that the ProX 300 makes instantly possible. The use of 3D direct metal printers in this high volume design and manufacturing application cuts production time dramatically and enables new and complex, performance focused tread design geometries which provide improved braking, road performance and overall safety. The ability to provide precision part performance in fully dense and chemically pure metals establishes the ProX series as the must-have benchmark in tire manufacturing.

The ProX Direct Metal 3D printers are designed for the most demanding production applications requiring functional, fully dense metal parts with the performance, productivity and precision that rivals CNC. 3DS' direct metal printers deliver tire molds with the thinnest walls, sharpest edges, and most complex internal venting and details with a smooth surface finish that is unmatched by any competitive offering or traditional manufacturing processes. 3DS' ProX series also offers a choice of up to 15 metals including tool steel, stainless steel, super alloys, non-ferrous alloys, precious metals and alumina.

"Our ProX series is designed to support manufacturing innovation in aerospace, automotive, medical device and heavy machinery," said Kevin McAlea, Chief Impact Officer, 3DS. "Metal 3D printing for industrial applications – as our customers are experiencing with our proprietary tire tread manufacturing solution - offers enormous potential for businesses looking for complex end-use parts, as well as for rapid castings replacement for performance prototyping and final manufacturing."

Learn more about 3DS' commitment to manufacturing the future today at www.3dsystems.com.

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About 3D Systems

3D Systems is a leading provider of 3D printing centric design-to-manufacturing solutions including 3D printers, print materials and cloud sourced on-demand custom parts for professionals and consumers alike in materials including plastics, metals, ceramics and edibles. The company also provides integrated 3D scan-based design, freeform modeling and inspection tools and an integrated 3D planning and printing digital thread for personalized surgery and patient specific medical devices. Its products and services replace and complement traditional methods and reduce the time and cost of designing new products by printing real parts directly from digital input. These solutions are used to rapidly design, create, communicate, prototype or produce functional parts and assemblies, empowering customers to *manufacture the future*.

Today its comprehensive range of 3D printers is the industry's benchmark for production-grade manufacturing in aerospace, automotive, patient specific medical device and a variety of consumer, electronic and fashion accessories.

More information on the company is available at www.3DSystems.com.