
3D Printing of Maritime Spare Parts

Results and follow up pilot project

3D Printing of Maritime Spare Parts

3D Printing for maritime & offshore?



Maritime



Offshore

Opportunities:

- Offshore: High 'downtime' costs
- Maritime: long lead time spare parts

Strengths:

- Positive business cases for AM in case of reduced lead times
- Just In Time production by AM

Weaknesses

- Lack of knowledge by maritime industry about:
 - Different AM technologies
 - Available materials
 - Advantage of redesigns
 - How to redesign for AM
- Technological limitations

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Initiative



Support



Service providers (12)



e-Manufacturing Solutions



Partners (11)



MERWEDE



Focus: printing metal spare parts

Consortium:

- Maritime Industry
- Classification Officers
- 3D Providers
- Software provider
- Logistics (digital warehouse)
- Aerospace Industry (Fokker and NLR)

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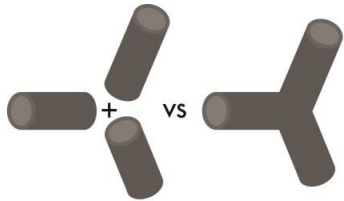
Project structure



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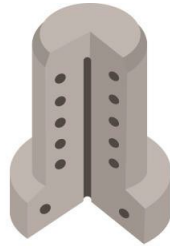
What part has potential?

Product design



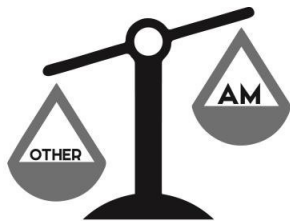
Part consolidation

AM allows production of unified parts, eliminating the need for assembly of multiple parts and it's associated costs.



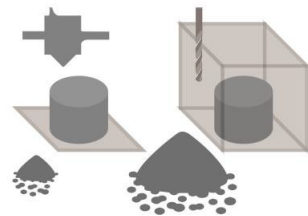
Integrated functionality

AM allows integrated functionality by use of complex geometries and interior structures such as cooling channels.



Weight reduction

AM allows applying internal structures and topology optimization, this efficient design leads to weight reduction.



Less waste

The additive production process opposed to traditional subtractive processes leads to less material being wasted.

Supply Chain



Lead times

AM requires less steps in the production process, often leading to a decrease in lead time and costs.



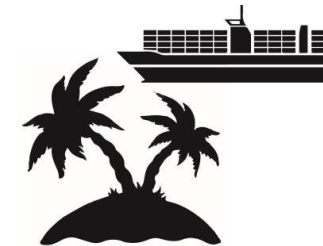
Inventory

The local and short production time of AM allows for on-demand production, which decreases need for inventory.



Supplier risk

By qualifying a part for AM, you will no longer be completely reliant on your current supplier.



Location based costs

AM shows potential to overcome transport and import/export related costs by local production possibilities.

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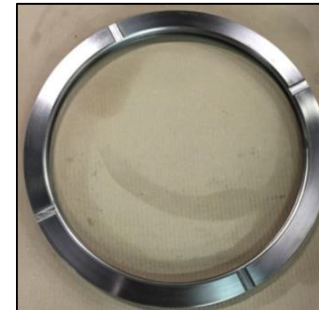
T-connector



Cooled valve



Hinge



Spacer ring



Propeller



Jig

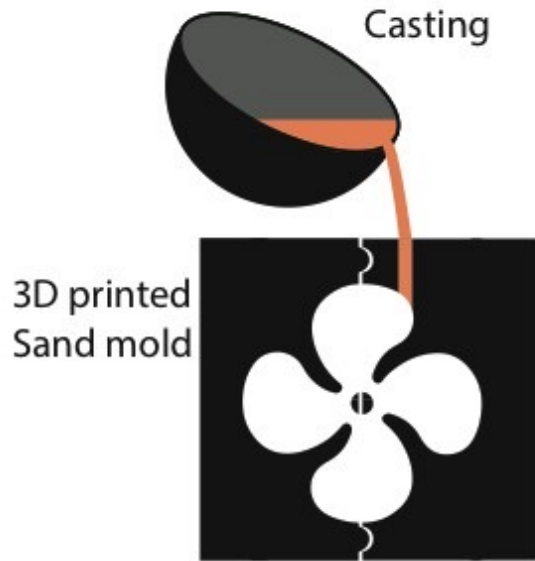


Manifold

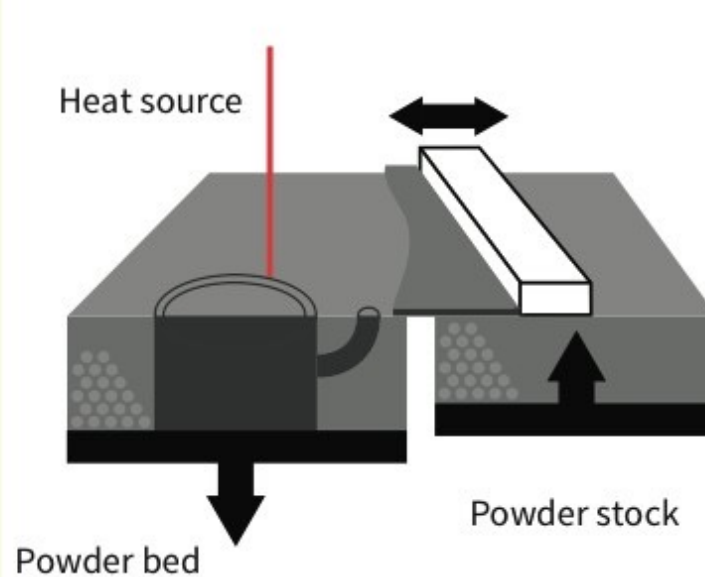


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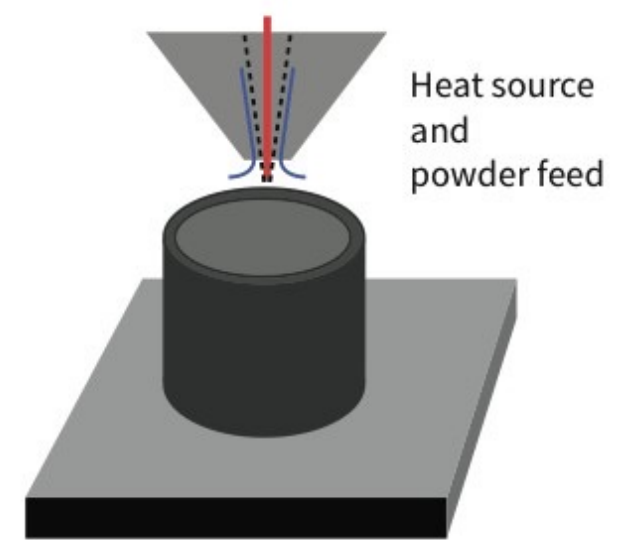
Which 3D printing production process?



Sand Casting



Powder Bed Fusion

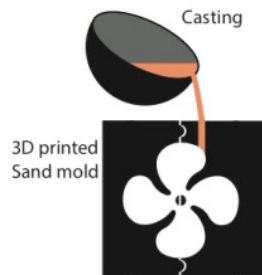


Directed Energy Deposition

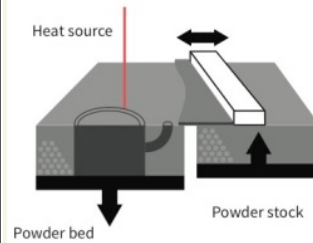
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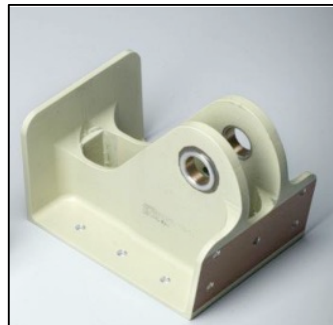
T-connector



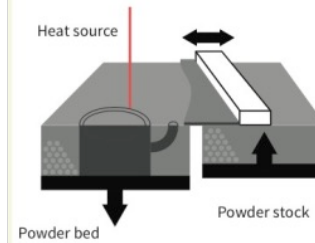
Cooled valve



Powder Bed Fusion



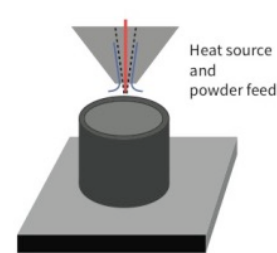
Hinge



Powder Bed Fusion



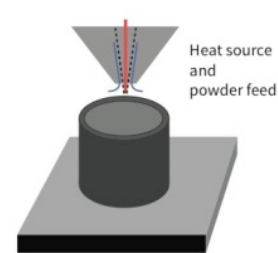
Spacer ring



Directed Energy Deposition



Propeller



Directed Energy Deposition




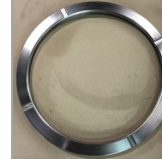








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Which material to use?

Theory: Powder bed and powder fed machines can process a wide range of powders than those offered by the machine manufacturers.

Practice: Materials selection based on alloys already being offered by machine manufacturers

				
T-connector	Cooled valve	Hinge	Spacer ring	Propeller
				
DUPLEX	PH1	TI-6AL-4V	316L + Metco 42C	316L

<i>EOS materials</i>	<i>DMG materials</i>	<i>Casting materials</i>
316L, 1.452 (GP1), 1.4540 (PH1) 1.2709 (MS1) AlSi10Mg DirectMetal 20 IN625, IN718, HX (UNS NO6002) Ti64, Ti64ELI High Alloys Concrete Plastics	316L, 316L+Si, 304 1.2344 Cu8Al IN625, IN718, Tungsten Stellite 21,6 High Alloys Concrete Plastics	Stainless steels Iron Aluminium High Alloys Concrete Plastics

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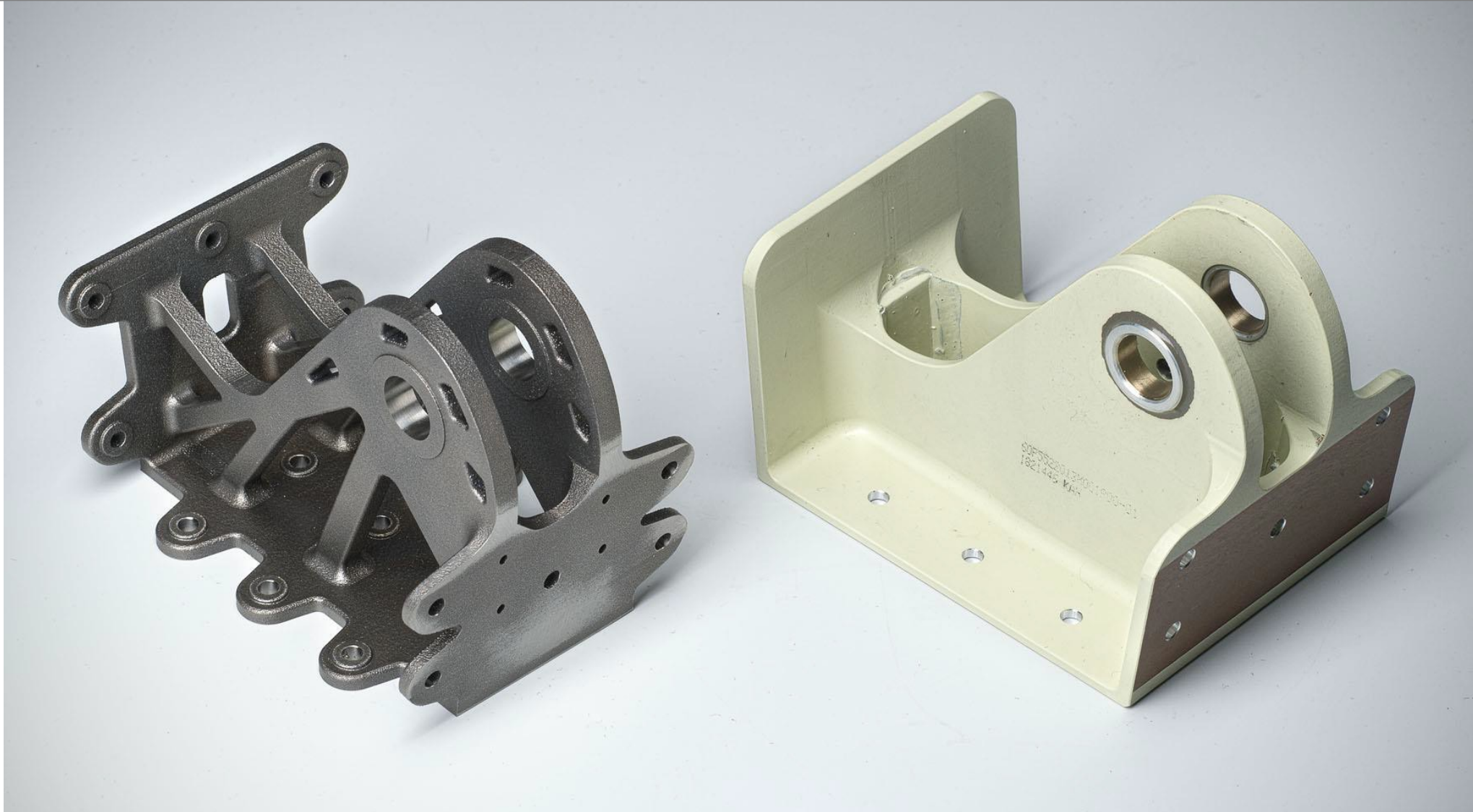
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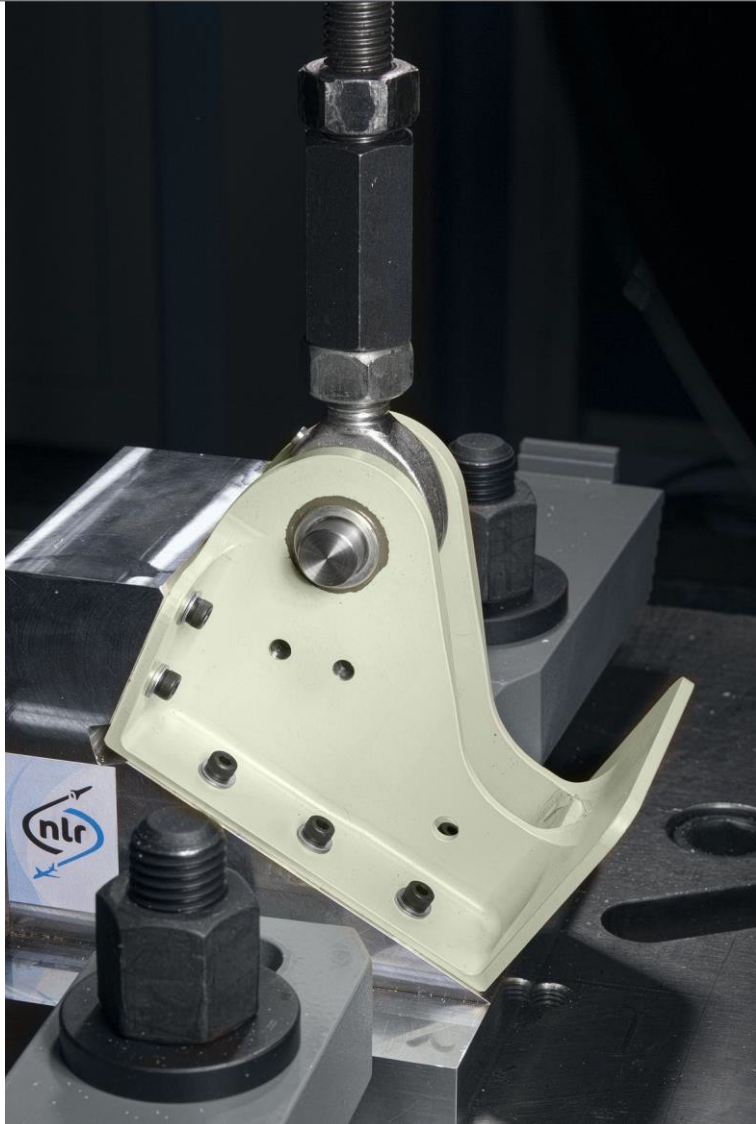
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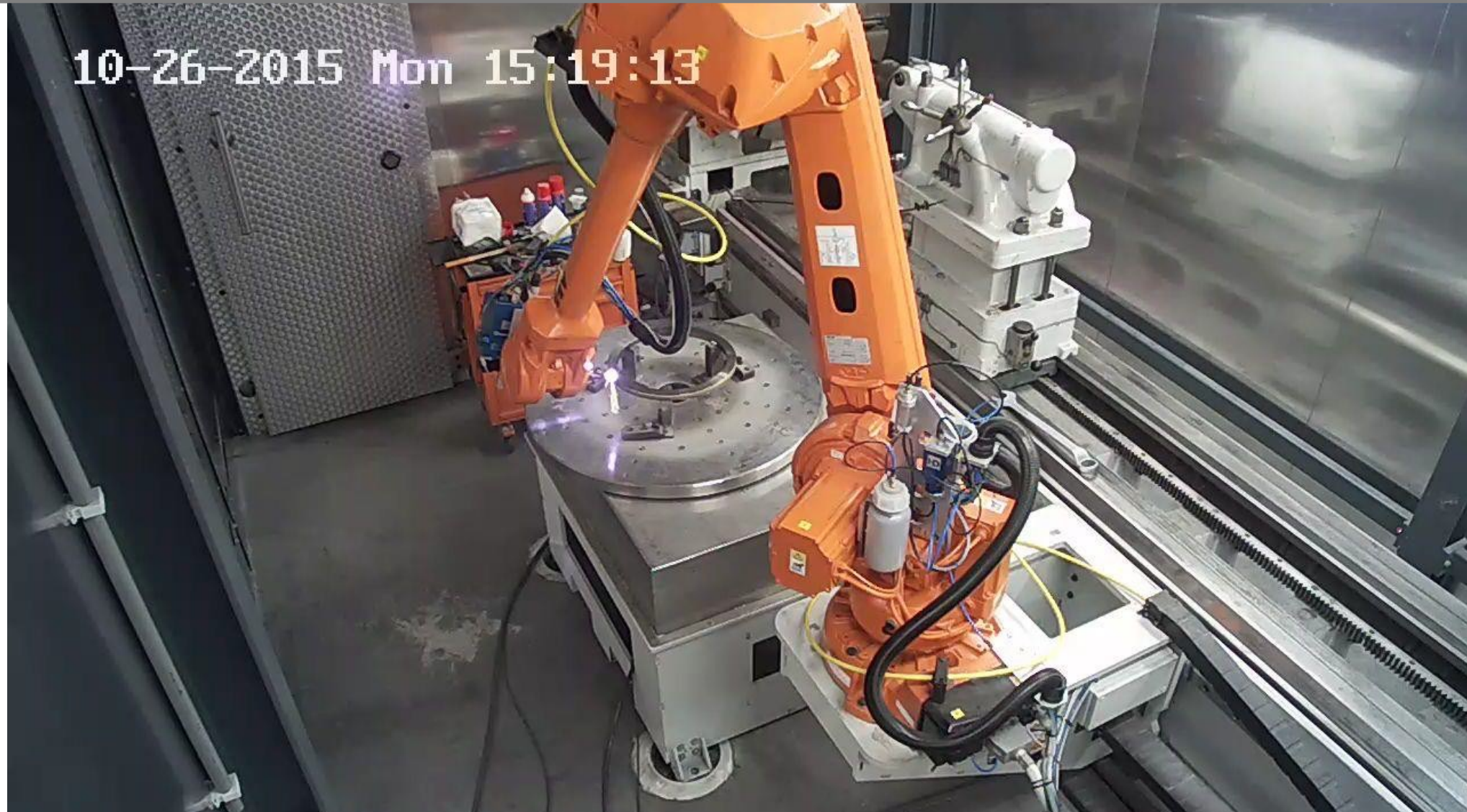
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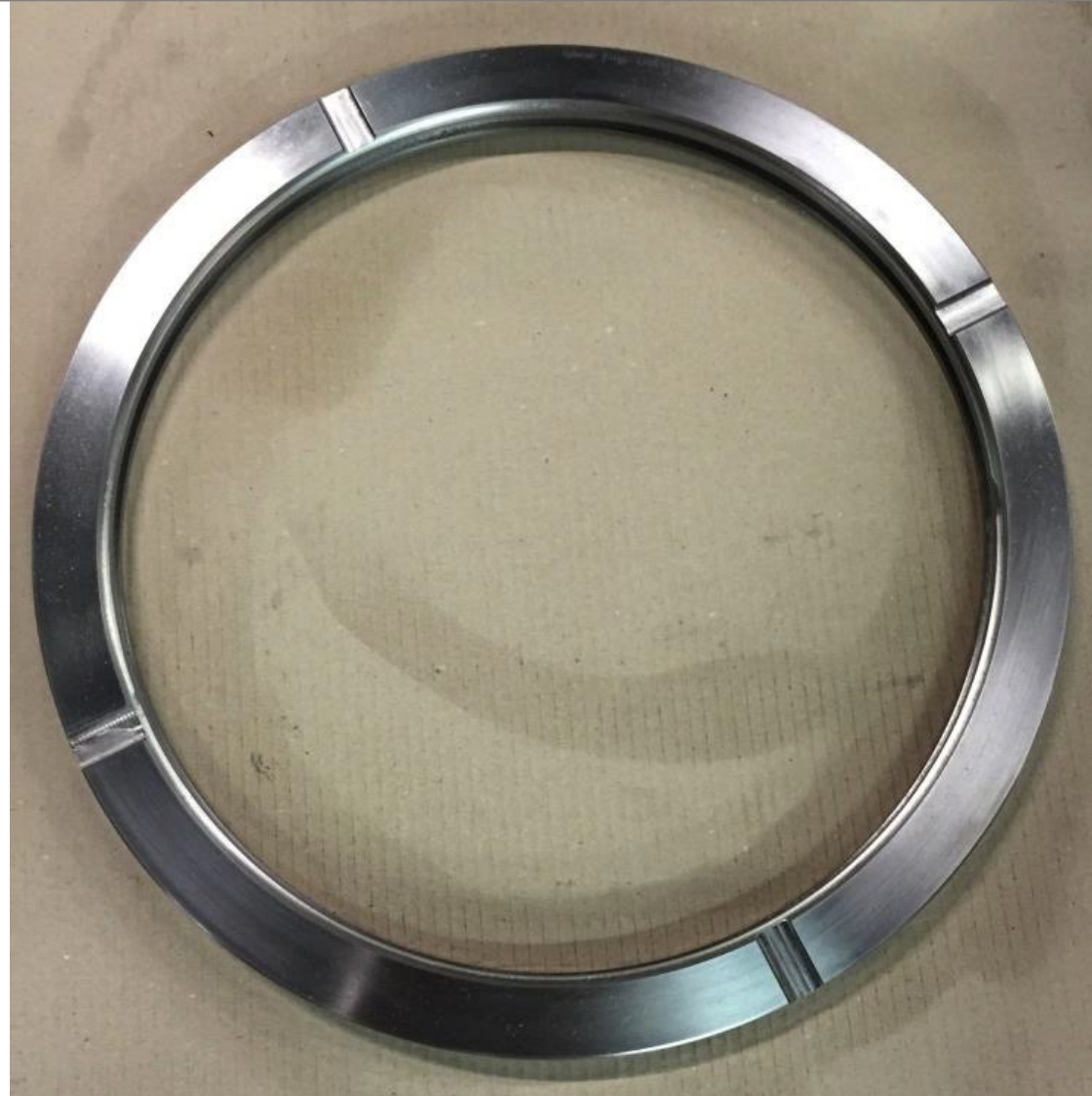
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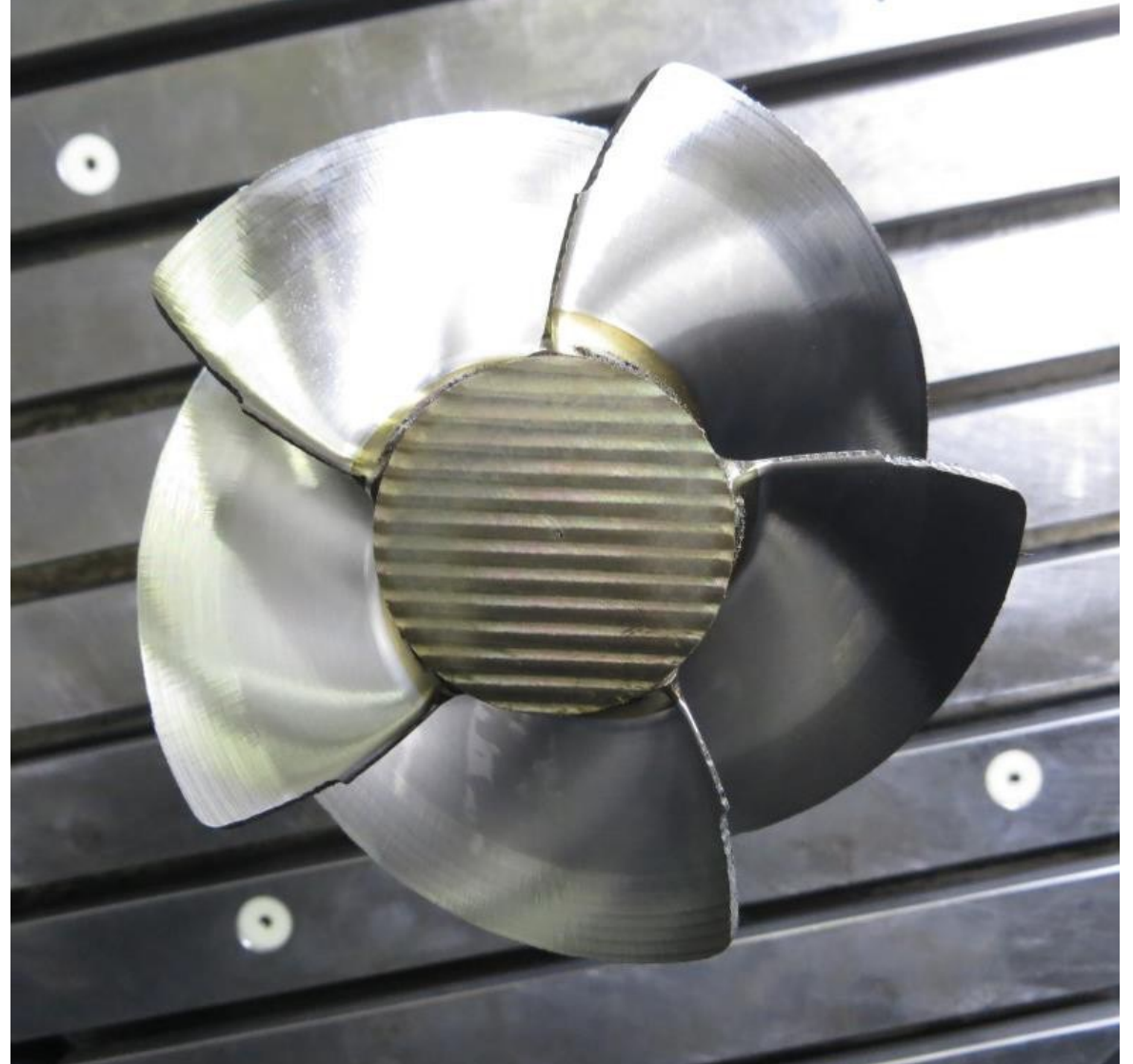
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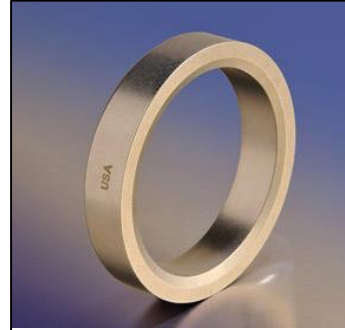


T-connector



- + Reduced lead time
- + Form freedom

- Traditional is cheaper > 5 pieces
- Quality of forging vs. casting



Cooled valve



- + Reduced lead time

- Traditional part cheaper (minimum batch of 80 pieces)

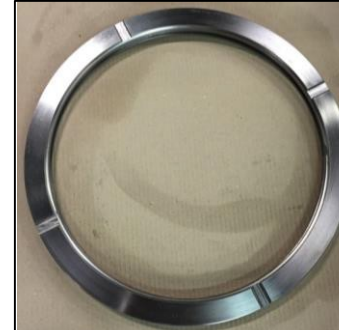


Hinge



- + Weight reduction

- + Lead time reduction
- Room for optimization



Spacer ring



- + Reduced inventory risk

- Traditional part cheaper at the moment



Propeller



- + Part consolidation

- + Reduced lead time
- Lasertec still in research phase

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Conclusions

From an economic perspective currently only applicable for:

- Nominally “unmanufacturable” components
- High added value, long lead time items
- Adding features to low yield castings and forgings
- Repair applications

Also...

- Costs of AM are going down exponentially
- Total cost of operation should be taken into consideration for fair comparison

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Downtime costs

A standard northwestern European jack oil rig has average daily rates of \$150.000. * “For estimation purposes, a reasonable value (operating costs) can be had by simply taking the rig's day rate, and doubling it for transportation services, rentals, communication services, drilling services, support services, security services, shore-based support etc. [2]”.

So an oil rig in the North Sea could have a downtime cost of ($\$150.000 * 2 / 24 =$) **\$12.500 per hour of not being operational.**

*<https://www.ihs.com/products/oil-gas-drilling-rigs-offshore-day-rates.html>

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Rise to the Challenge

- **Design:** Designers must be taught the performance and economics of 3D printing
- **Quality control:** standards are needed to assure that every part meets requirements
- 3D printing processes must be much more productive
- **Supply Chains:** (maintenance) companies need help to commercialize new 3D printing technologies
- Threshold to start innovating with 3D printing is high due to high initial investments ... but this is changing rapidly

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Full report available at

<https://www.portofrotterdam.com/sites/default/files/report-3d-printing-marine-spare.pdf>