

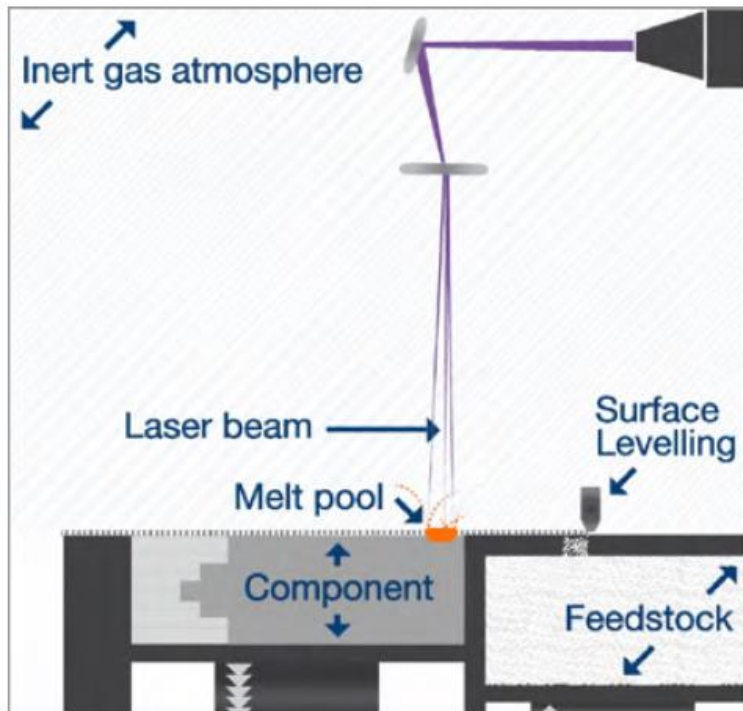


# INSIDE Metal AM

# AM Technologies

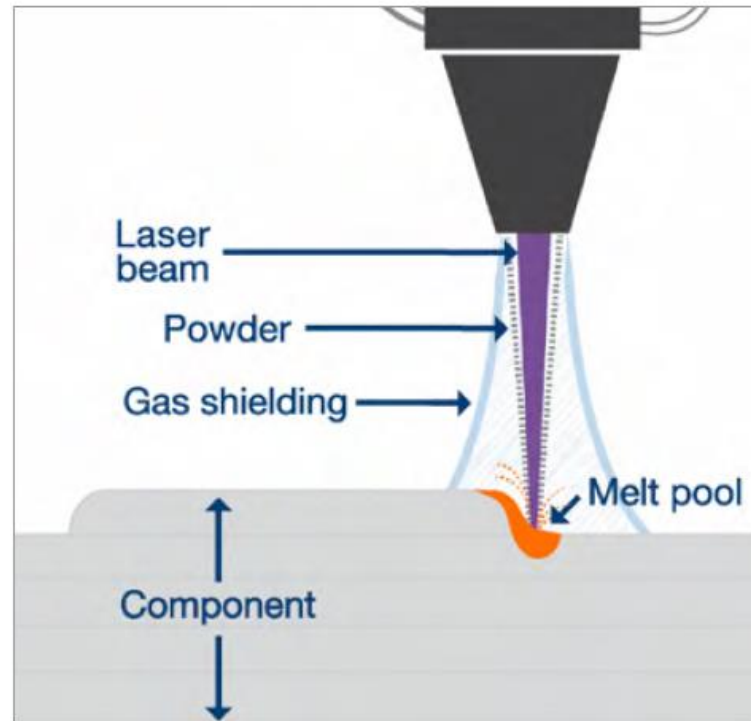
## SLM

Powder Bed Fusion by Laser (PBF-LB)



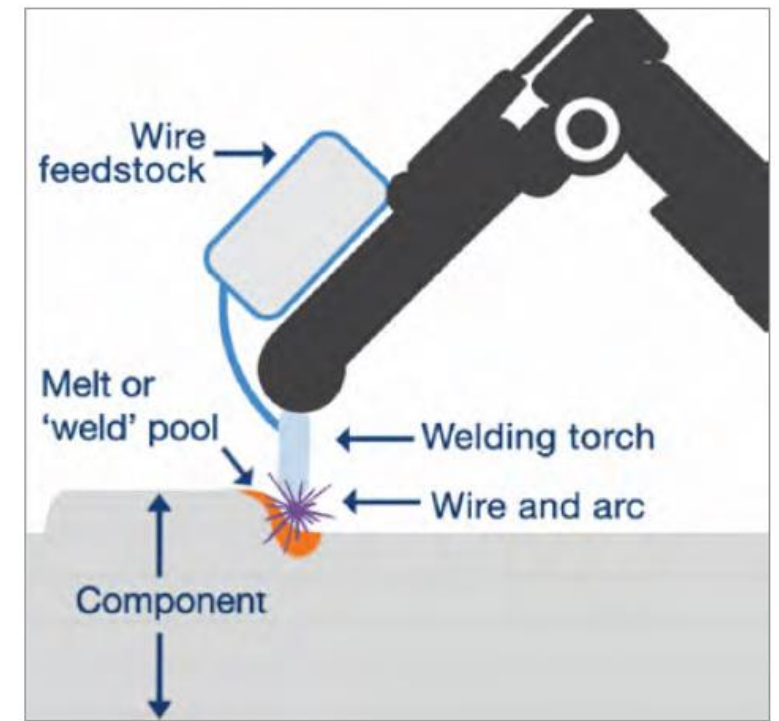
## LMD

Directed Energy Deposition by Laser (DED LB)



## WAAM

Directed Energy Deposition by Arc (DED Arc)

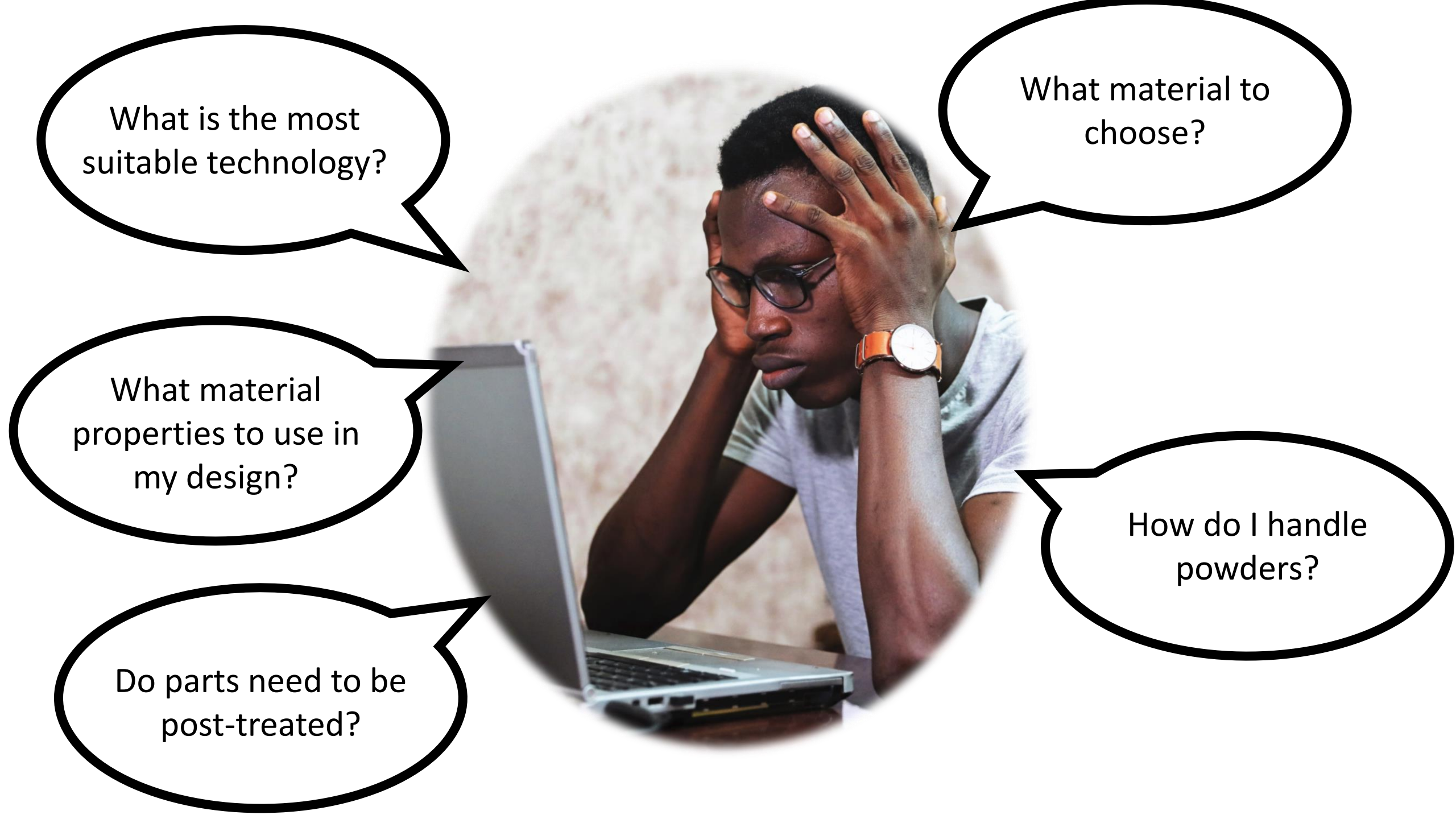


*You have an idea to  
use a 3D printed part.*

*What now?*



SLM 250<sup>HL</sup>



What is the most suitable technology?

What material to choose?

What material properties to use in my design?

How do I handle powders?

Do parts need to be post-treated?



## Idea :

Protection  
Anteriority  
AM suitability



## Manufacturing :

Monitoring solutions  
Follow up procedure  
Quality assessment



## Post-Treatments :

Bulk (Heat, UV,...)  
Surface (polish, coatings)  
Cavities cleaning  
Machining advices



## Material :

characterization  
Handling procedure  
Testing & development



## Optimization :

Topological optimization  
Simplify assembly  
Textures, labeling  
Function integration



## Characterization :

Dimensions (3D scan)  
Surface quality  
Density  
Mechanical properties  
Aging



## Technology :

Selection  
Future trends  
Advice  
Process chain integration



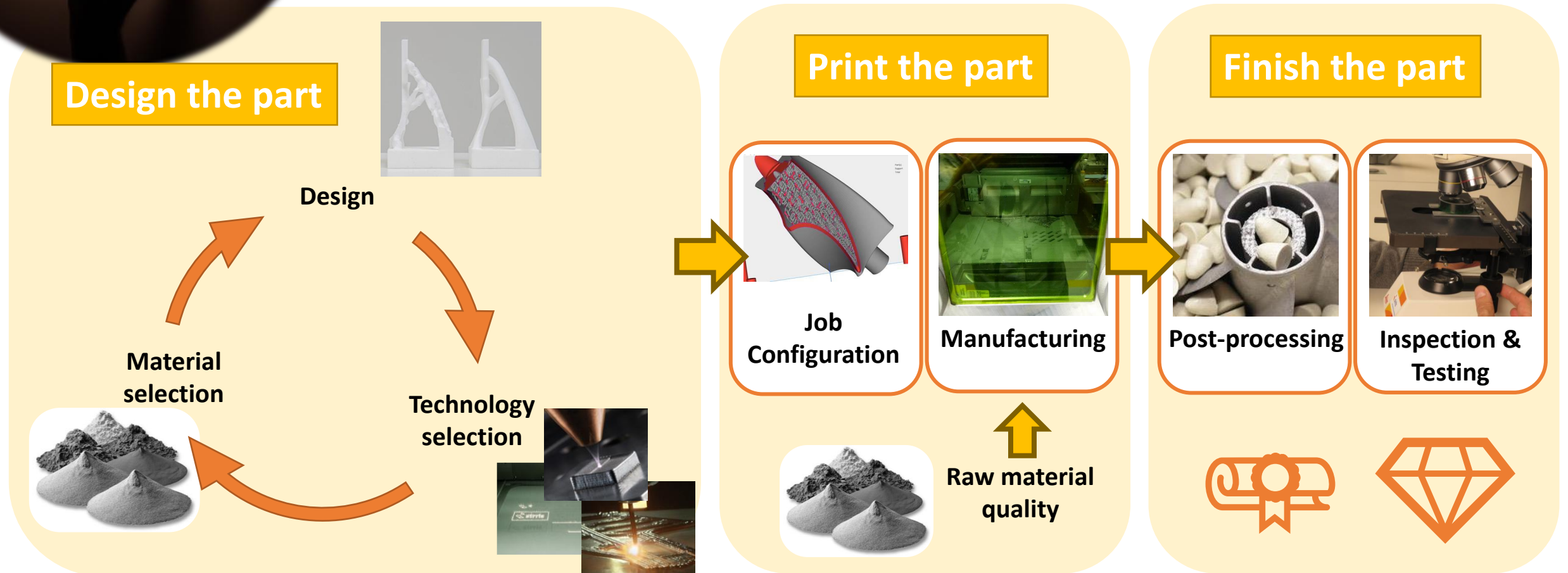
## Processability :

Reduce wastes  
Define orientation  
Integrate post-treatments  
Process simulation

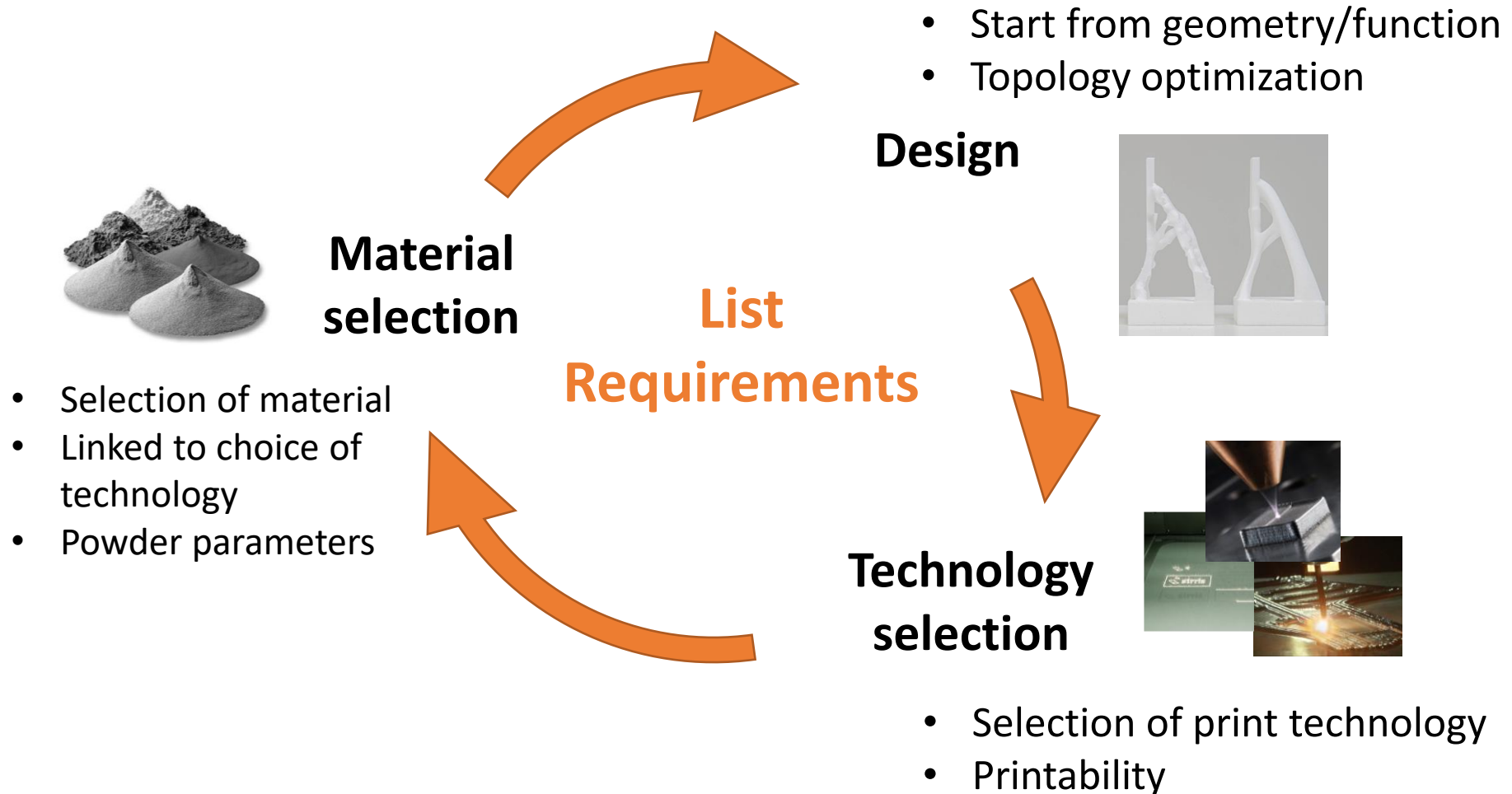




# AM Process Flow



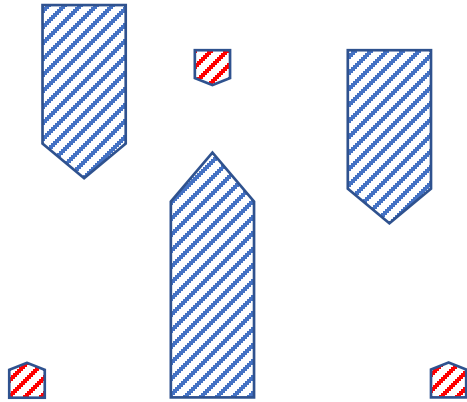
# Design the part



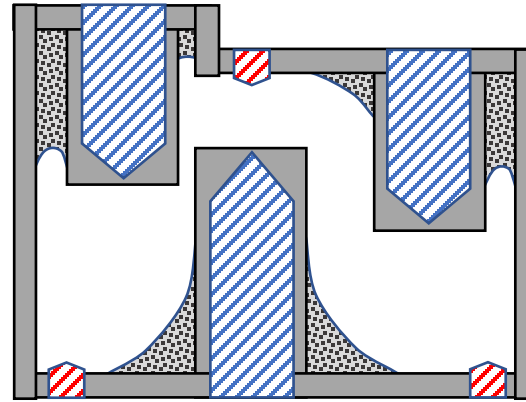
# Design

Start from part functions

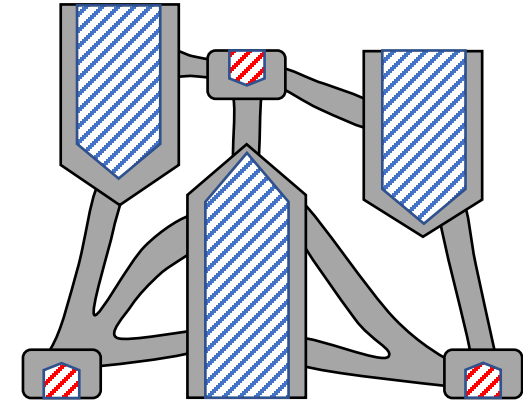
## Functions



## Traditional light design



## Functional light design

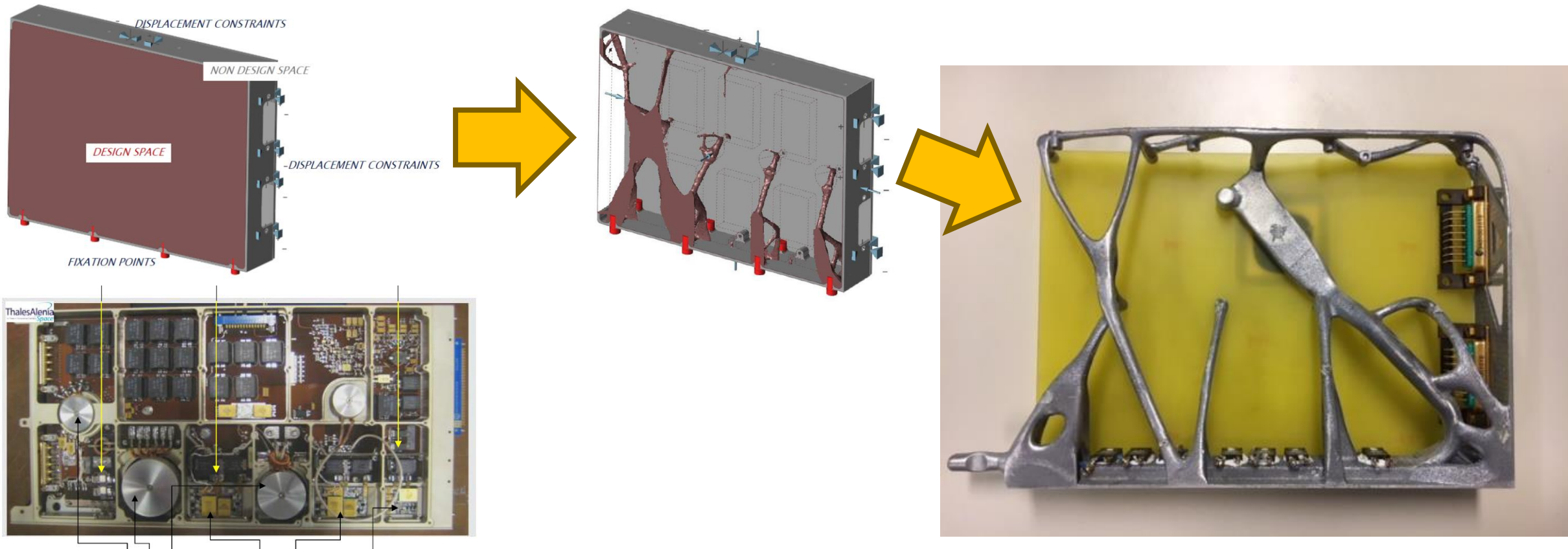


-  Slots for other devices
-  Fixtures => potential cavity outlets

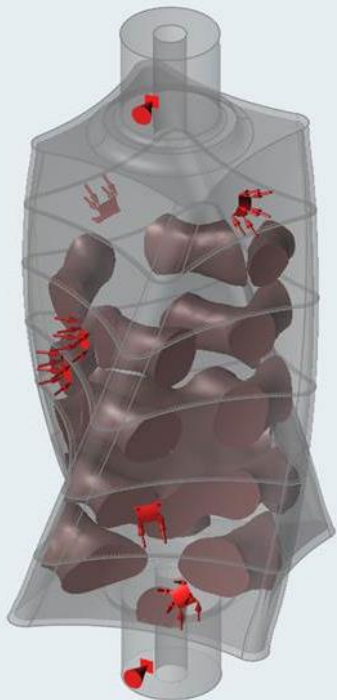


# Design

## Topology optimization

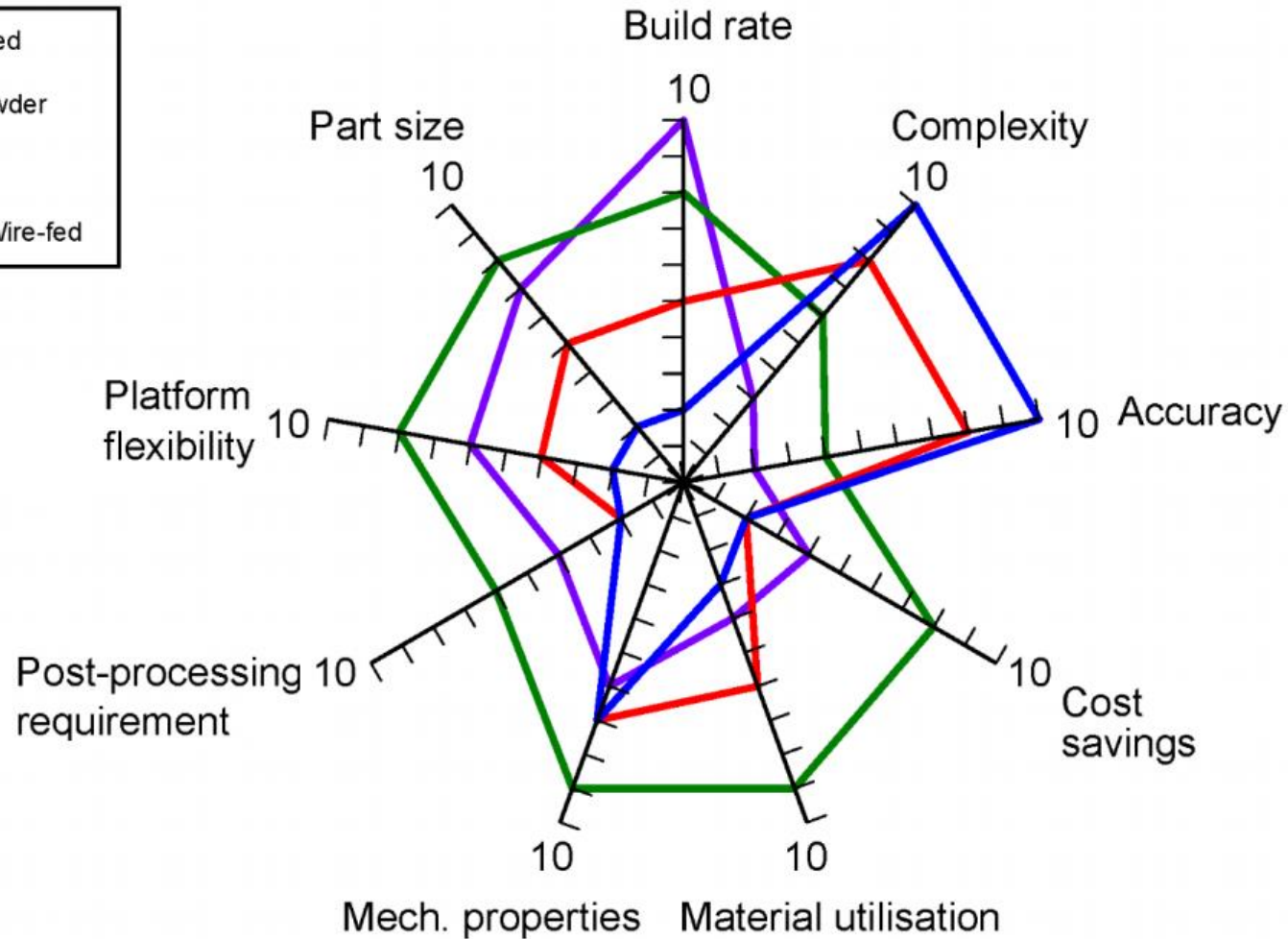
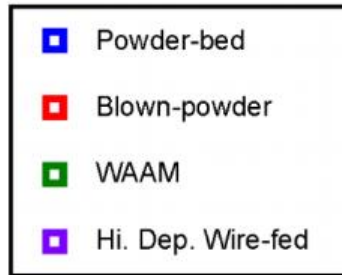


## Topology optimization



1. Topology optimization linked to part orientation in AM machine
  2. Requires realistic load case
  3. Importance of boundary conditions
  4. Lattice vs. topology optimization
-

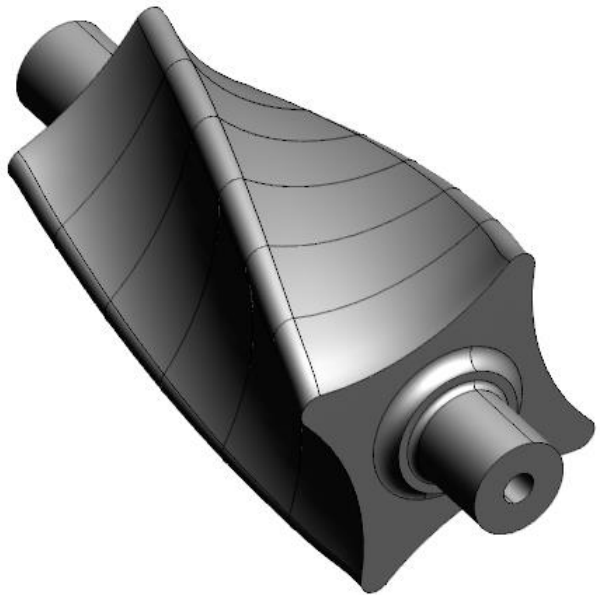
# Technology Selection



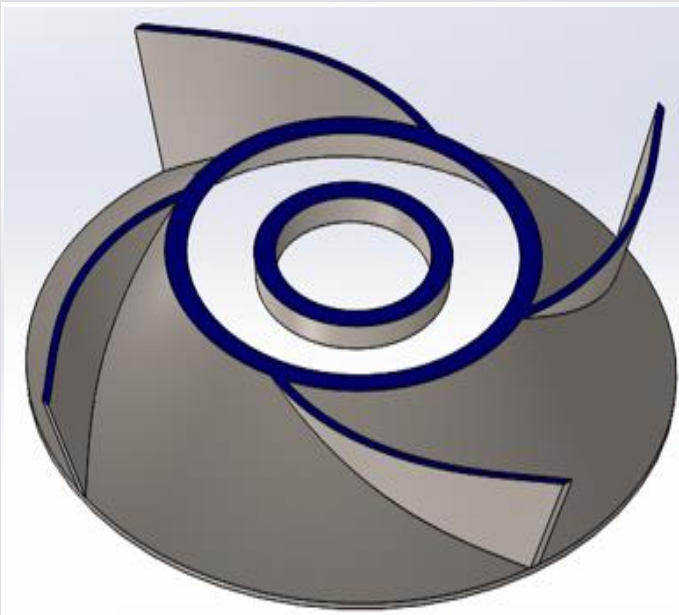
# Technology Selection



## SLM/LMD



## WAAM/LMD



1. Printing of small features/large parts
  2. Free hanging sections (supports?)
  3. Inclined walls
  4. Need for powder removal
  5. Required accuracy
  6. What post-processing and when
-

# Technology Selection



Topic	L-PBF	EBM	Binder Jetting	FDM	DED-LB	DED-WAAM	Sheet lamination
Feedstock	Metal powder < 60 µm	Metal powder < 80 µm	Metal powder up to 100 µm	MIM feedstock, wire or pellet	Metal powder < 150 µm or wire	Metal wire ø 0.8-1.6 mm (multi-wire)	Metal sheets
Bonding means	Laser	Electron beam	Polymer binder	Extruded in heated nozzle	Laser	Electric arc	Friction, mechanical
Part size	Std : 250 mm Max : 1000 mm	Std : 200 mm Max : 380 mm	Std : 100 mm Max : 800 mm	Std : 100 mm Max : 300 mm	Up to several m (robot vs CNC)	Up to > 10 m (robot on rail config.)	Up to 4m
Min wall thickness	0.3 mm	0.8 mm	1 mm	1.2 mm	1 - 2 mm (focal spot, material)	2 - 3 mm (ø wire, material)	Depends
Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accuracy</li> <li>- Surface finish</li> <li>- Fine details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited stress</li> <li>- Handle bulky parts</li> <li>- Low contamination</li> <li>- Manufacturing speed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited stress</li> <li>- Atm. Conditions</li> <li>- High speed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited stress</li> <li>- Clean</li> <li>- Affordable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medium size ...</li> <li>- AM on existing part</li> <li>- Multi-material and FGM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High deposition rate</li> <li>- Lower investment/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>- Integrate substrate</li> <li>- Good density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheet mech. properties</li> <li>- As-built accuracy</li> <li>- Sensor embedded</li> <li>- Multimaterials</li> </ul>
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supports removal</li> <li>- Internal stresses</li> <li>- Post process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Powder cake removal</li> <li>- Limited material range</li> <li>- As-built roughness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs sintering (Shrinkage 20% )</li> <li>- OR Infiltration (weakness infiltrant)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shrinkage 20%</li> <li>- Needs sintering</li> <li>- Slow technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No supports</li> <li>- Limited overhang and precision</li> <li>- Surface finish (waviness)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low part complexity and surface finish</li> <li>- High HI, residual stresses and distortions</li> <li>- Under development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slow process</li> </ul>
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large range of thin, accurate parts</li> <li>- Parts with cavities, channels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small to medium bulky organic structural components without cavities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small parts, with quite thin walls in huge quantities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small parts, with quite thin walls in small quantities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parts of medium ...</li> <li>- Cladding, repair</li> <li>- Customization of existing parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large structural parts (aerospace, marine)</li> <li>- Large machine parts, tooling (machining)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quite uncommon</li> </ul>
Suppliers	SLM Solutions Concept Laser 3D Systems EOS Trumpf AddUp	Arcam (GE) EBAM (Sciaky)	Digital metal ExOne Desktop Metal HP	Markforged Desktop Metal 3DVigo AIM3D Pollen	Optomec Trumpf DMG Mori Seiki BeAM Hornet (modular)	Gefertec Prodways Hornet (modular)	Stratoconception

# Material Selection



## D2.1 – Aanbod en selectie van printmaterialen

Project titel: VIS INSIDE Metal AM  
Project Type: Speerpuntcluster-VIS-project  
Projectduur: 01/04/2018 – 31/12/2020

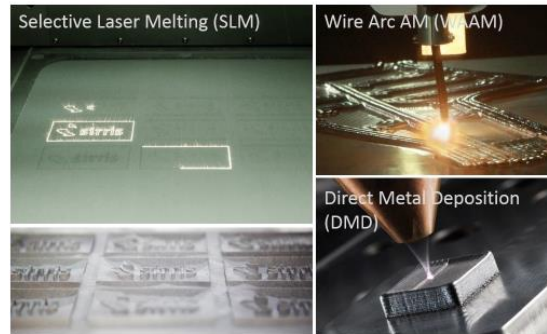
Dit project werd mogelijk gemaakt door de steun van het Strategisch Initiatief Materialen (SIM Flandres) en het Vlaams Agentschap voor Innoveren & Ondernemen (Vlaio).

Projectpartners: Sirris, CRM, BIL, SIM

Type document: project rapport  
Versies: v1.2, 23/06/2020  
v1.3, 14/08/2020  
Auteur: Jeroen Tacq, [jeroen.tacq@sirris.be](mailto:jeroen.tacq@sirris.be), 0493 31 06 44

Een beknopte versie van dit verslag verscheen in Metallerie op 30/06:  
Selectie van printmaterialen en beschikbare staalsoorten – 3d-printen met Metaalpoeders, Metallerie nr. 2005, 30/06/2020.

Meer informatie over dit project kan u terugvinden op: <https://www.sirris.be/node/50468>



<https://www.sirris.be/nl/inside-metal-additive-manufacturing>

- Material selection (steel) linked to implemented technology
- Doesn't need to be the same as conventional part

## SLM/LMD

- Limited material choice

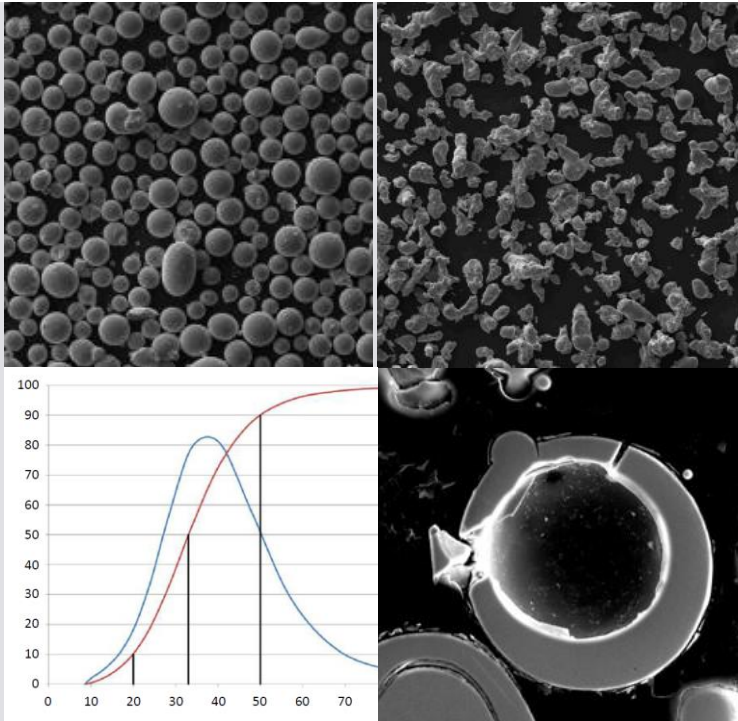
## WAAM

- Mostly welding consumables

316L
304
H13
M300
15-5PH
17-4PH
CL 91RW
CX
BLDRmetal L-40
M789
M3
Invar36

# Material Selection

## Powder quality features



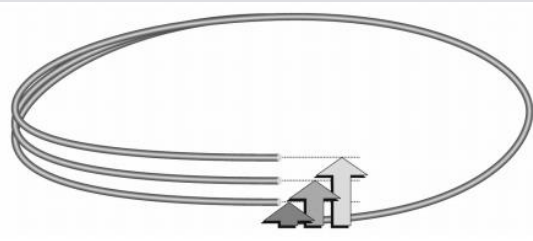
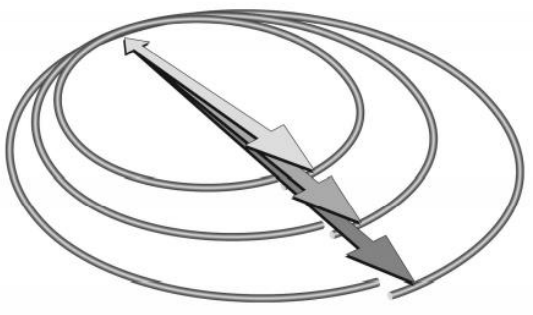
- ✓ Particle size and distribution
- ✓ Shape
- ✓ Flowability
- ✓ Entrapped gas

SLM vs. LMD

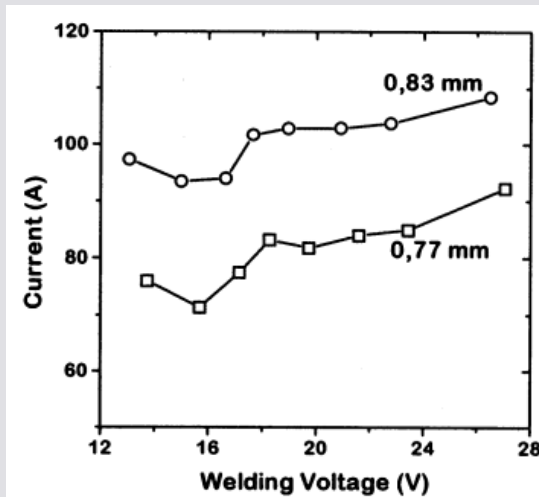
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# Material Selection

## Wire quality features



Source: National Standard



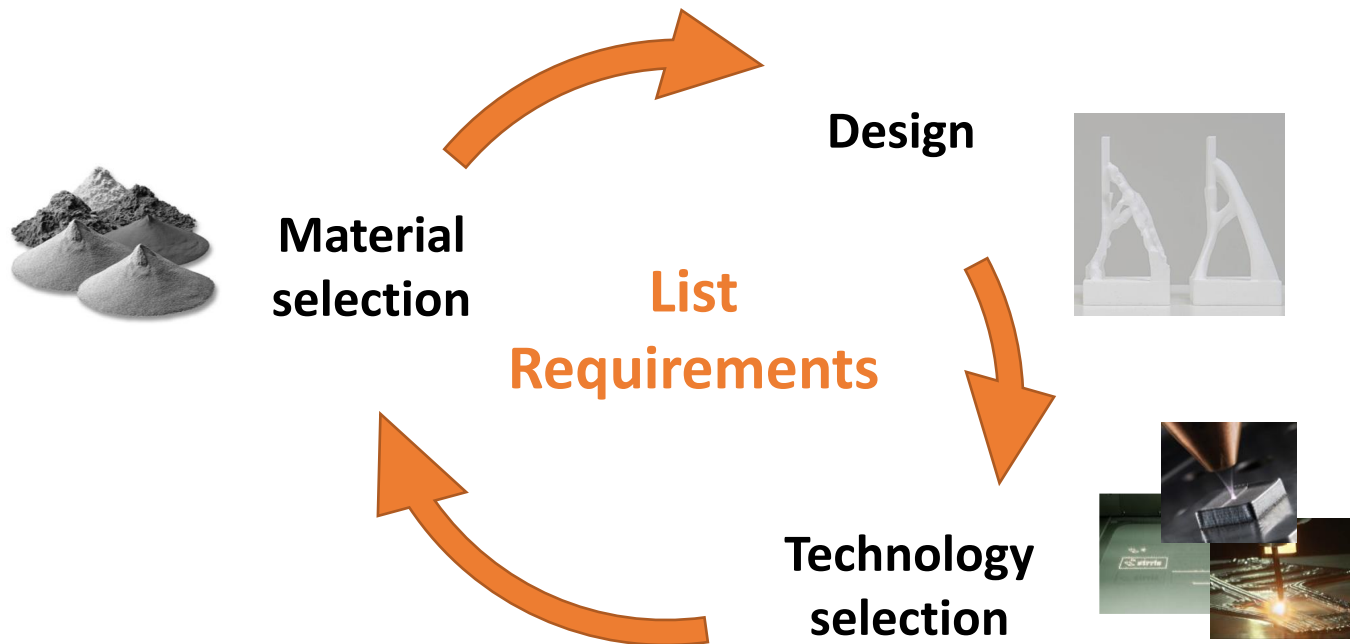
Source: Modenesi & de Avelar  
*JoMPT 86, 226-232 (1999)*

- ✓ Cast and helix (feedability, arc stability)
- ✓ Diameter tolerance (mechanical, electrical)
- ✓ Chemical composition
- ✓ Surface condition (contamination/defects)
- ✓ Internal condition (homogeneity/defects)

### Welding vs. WAAM/WLAM/EBAM

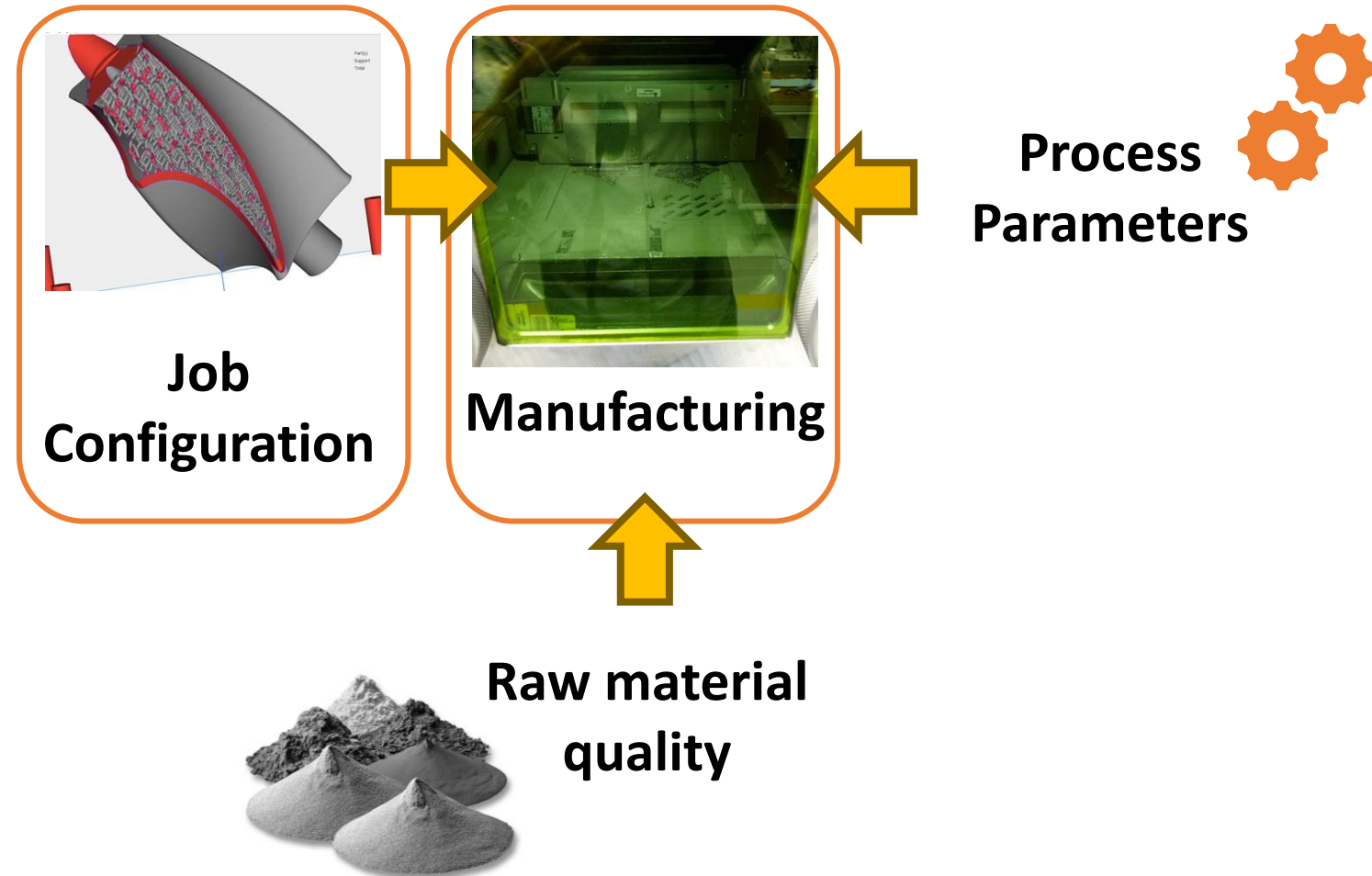


# Design the part



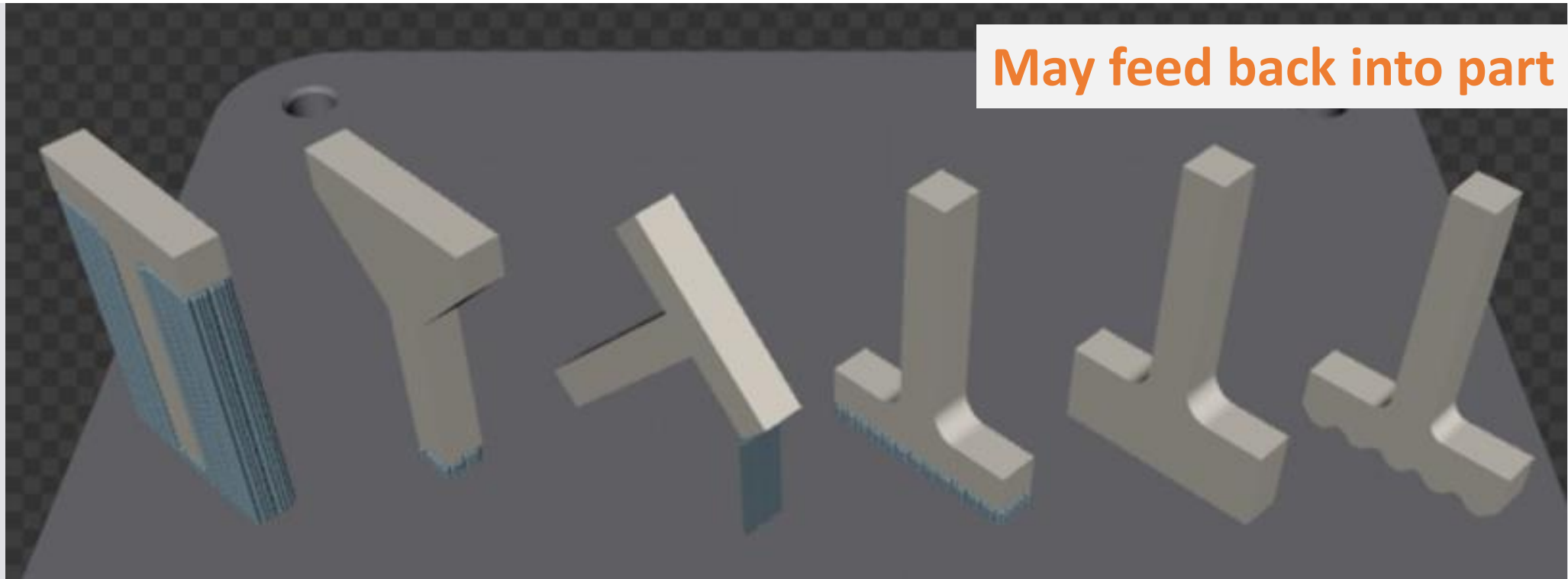
- Requires collaboration between an application expert and a 3D printing expert.
  - Keep in mind post-processing steps!
-

# Print the part



# Job Configuration

## Printability



May feed back into part design

# Job Configuration

## Lessons learned from demonstrators - SLM

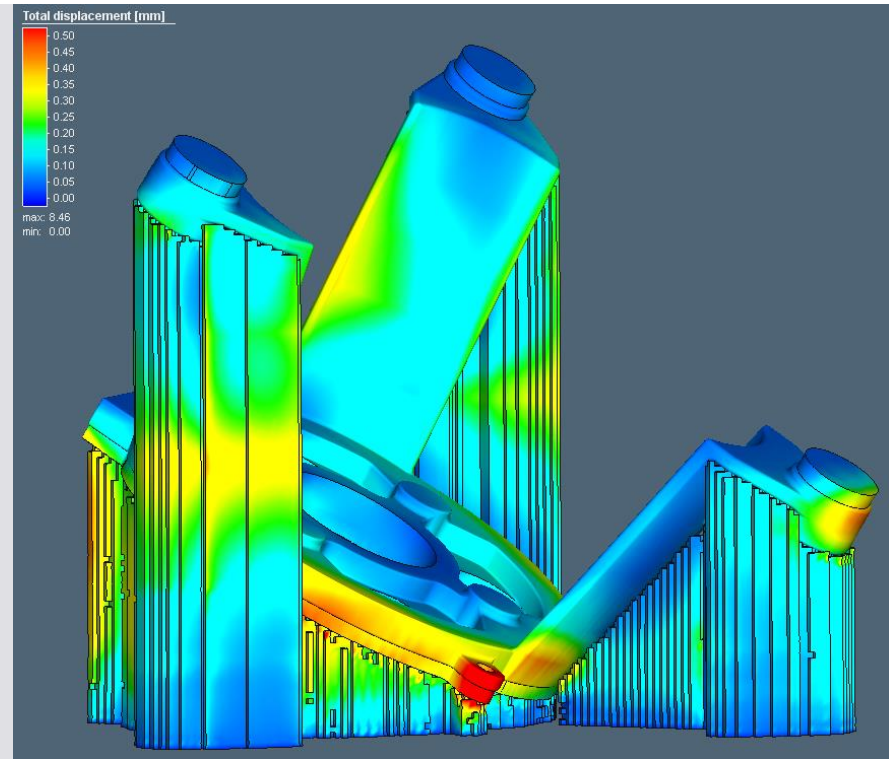


1. Reduce overhang
  2. Avoid surface orientation close to the limit
  3. Avoid large and long horizontal sections
  4. Take care about thermal dissipation
  5. Take care of powder removal
  6. Powder spreading
-

# Job Configuration

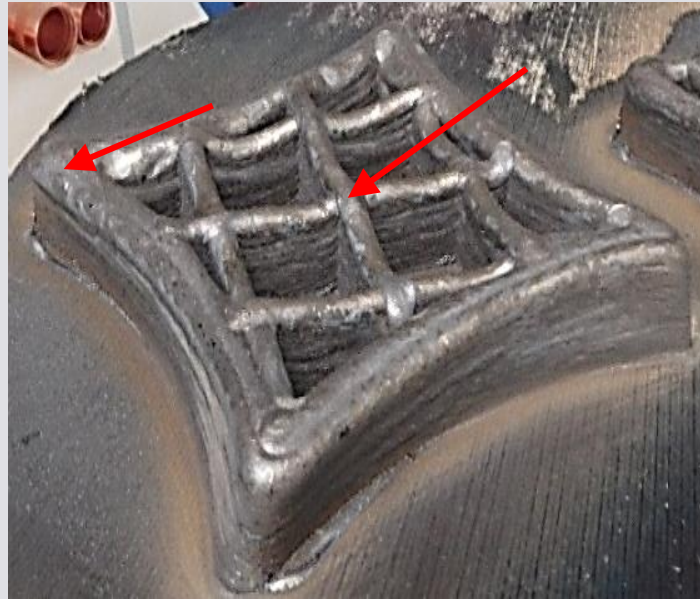
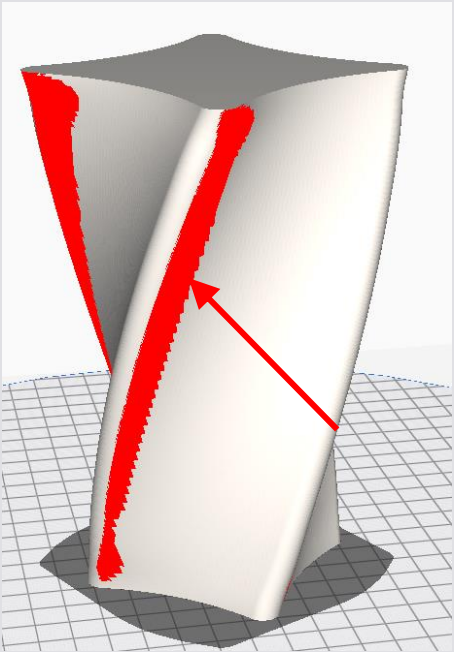
## Process Simulation, SimuFact

*Shorten the road to a successful build*



# Job Configuration

## Lessons learned from demonstrators - LMD

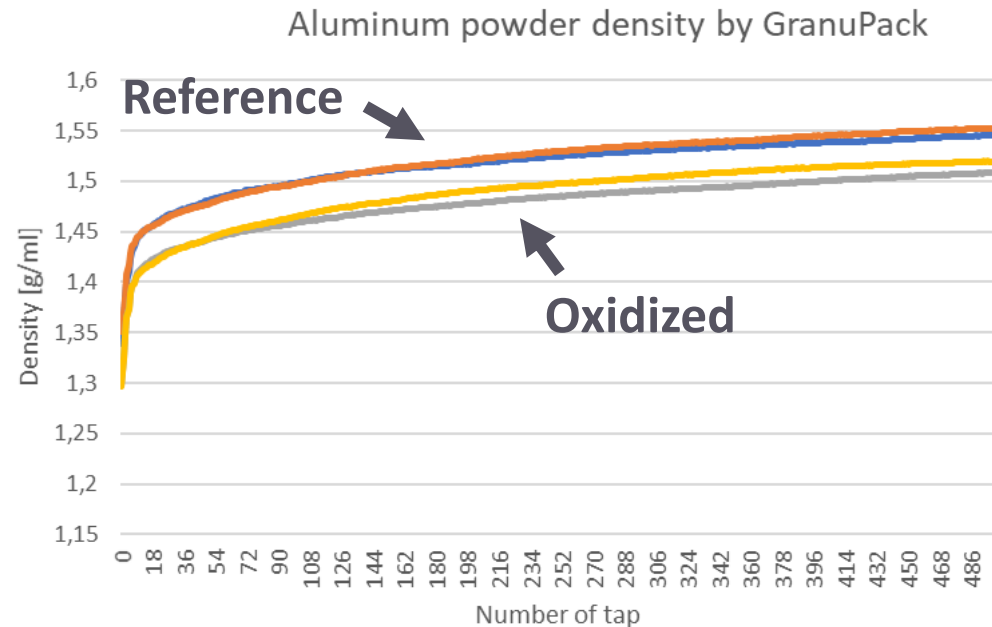


1. Reduce overhang (e.g.  $15^\circ$  if 2D positioning)
2. Avoid “hot spots” (start positions, speeds...)
3. Optimize paths for intersections/filling
4. Optimize “cold” displacements to minimize powder waste

# Powder Quality



## Process oriented powder analysis



- ✓ Oxidation
- ✓ Humidity
- ✓ Size distribution
- ✓ Spreadability
- ✓ Segregation

Build up a history for your printing equipment in your environment and define a threshold for powder acceptance



# Process Parameters

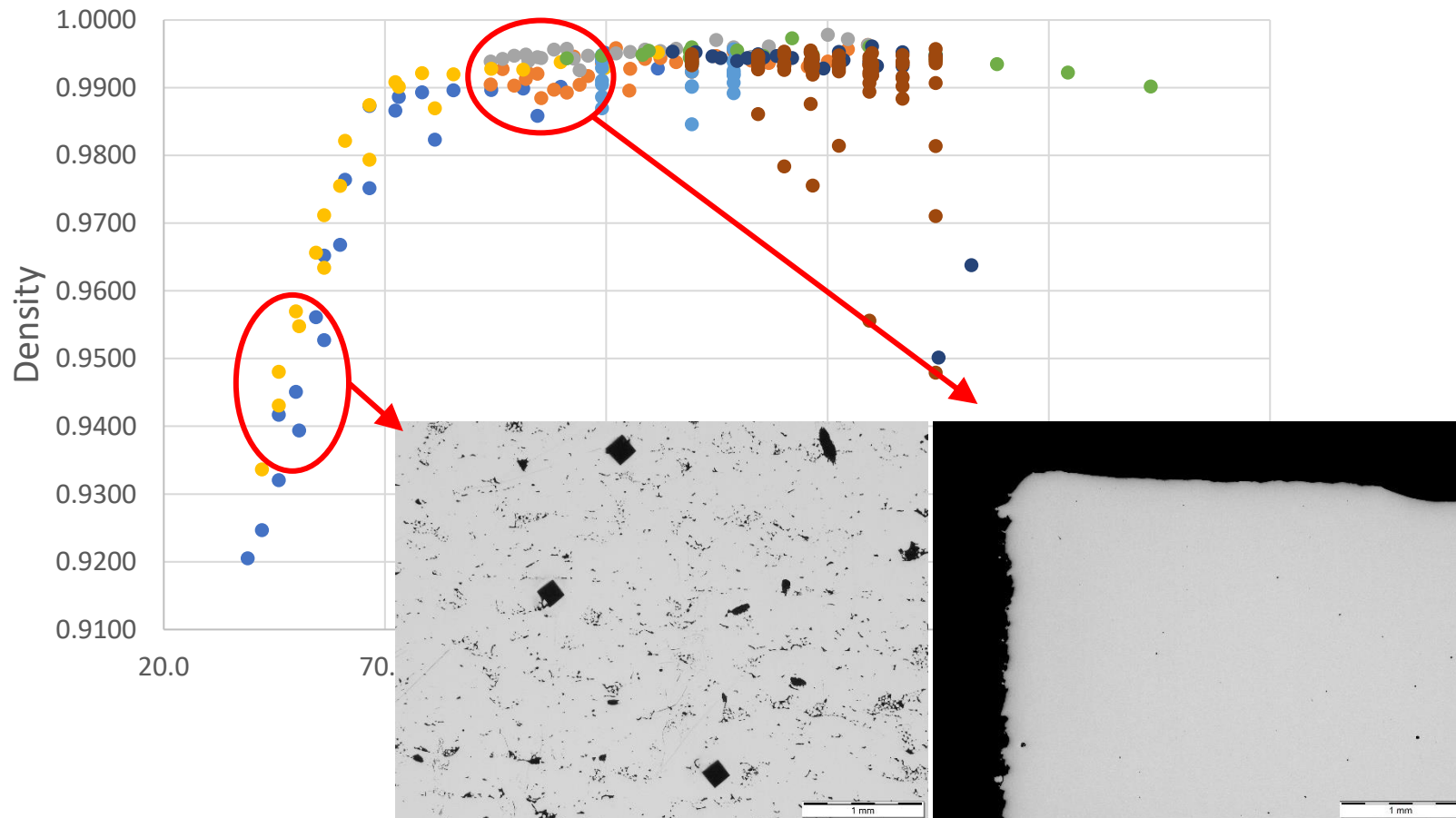


What are good settings *for your machine*?  
What *material properties* do you get?



# SLM - Process Parameters (17-4PH)

Density vs. Energy Density



*At low Energy Density*

Energy Density 

Material Density 

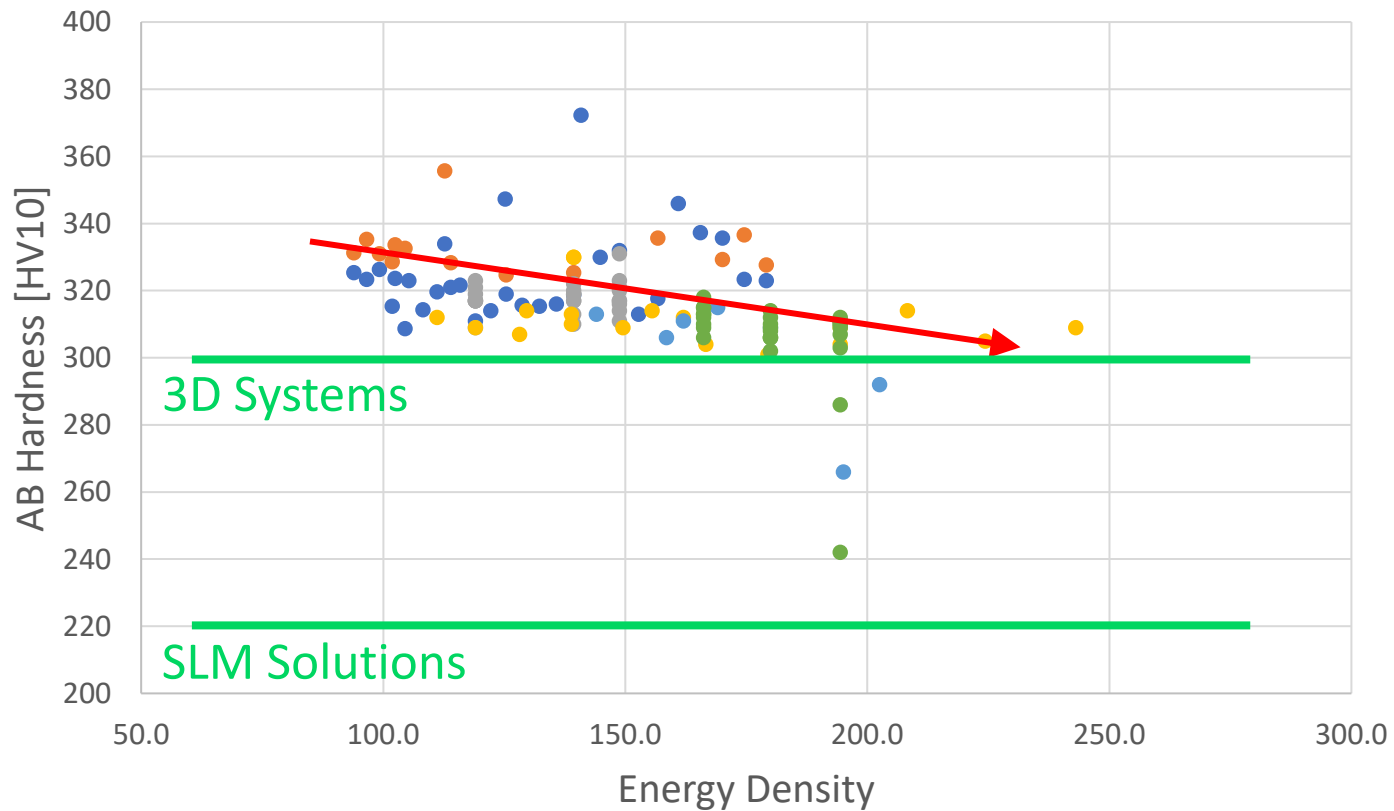
*At high Energy Density*

Energy Density 

Material Density 

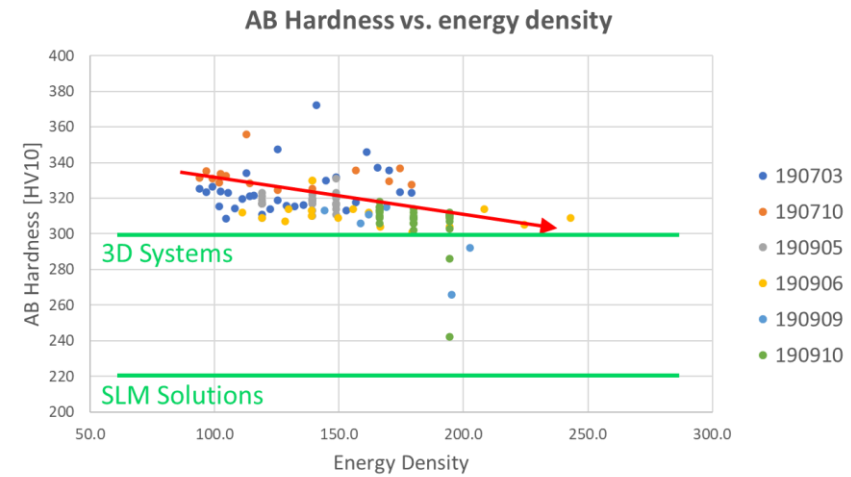
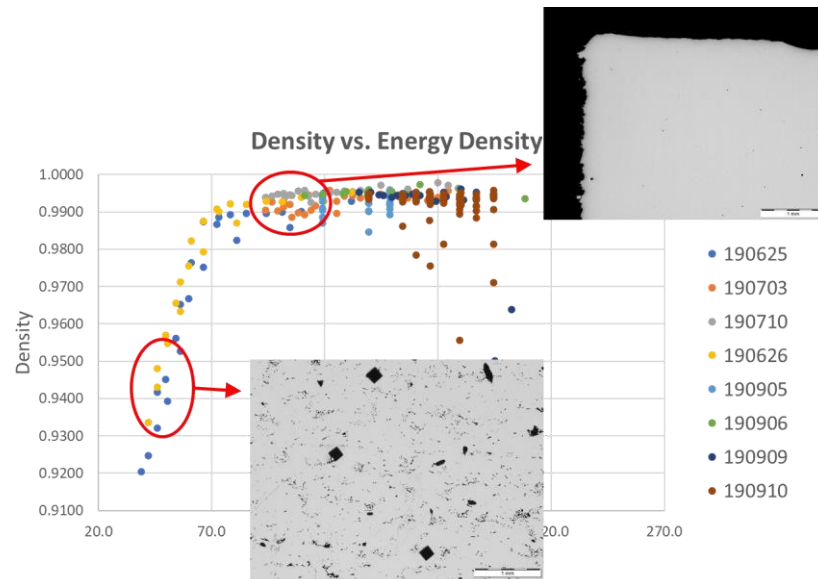
# SLM - Process Parameters (17-4PH)

AB Hardness vs. energy density



	Job 190710	Job 190906
Scan speed	700-1200	200-900
Laser Power	355-395	175
<b>Av. Hardness [HV10]</b>	<b>333 (~35 HRC)</b>	<b>309 (~32 HRC)</b>

# SLM/LMD - Process Parameters (17-4PH)



## SLM:

- Step 1: optimize for density
- Step 2: optimize for speed
- (Step 3: optimize for hardness)

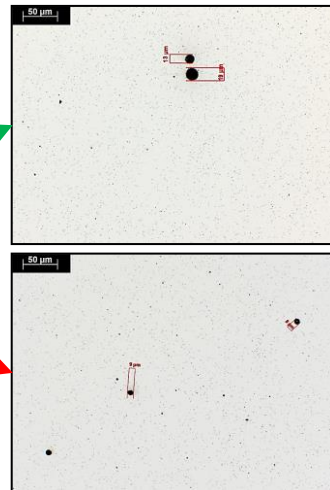
## LMD: (similar to SLM)

- Step 1: optimize for density (99.95%)
- Step 2: optimize stability/HI control

# LMD - Process Parameters (17-4PH)

Test	P-laser	V-laser	P/V	Powder flow	Wall height
1	2000	1	2	40	6.77
2	2500	1	2.5	40	6.55
3	3000	1	3	40	7.64
4	2500	1	2.5	40	8.32
5	2000	0.75	2.7	30	7.15
6	2000	1.2	1.7	50	4.4
7	2500	1.2	2.1	50	4.4
8	3000	1.2	2.5	70	10.2

Test 17-4PH	Porosity (%)
1	0.03
2	0.05
3	0.06
4	0.05
5	0.05
6	0.13
7	0.05
8	0.04



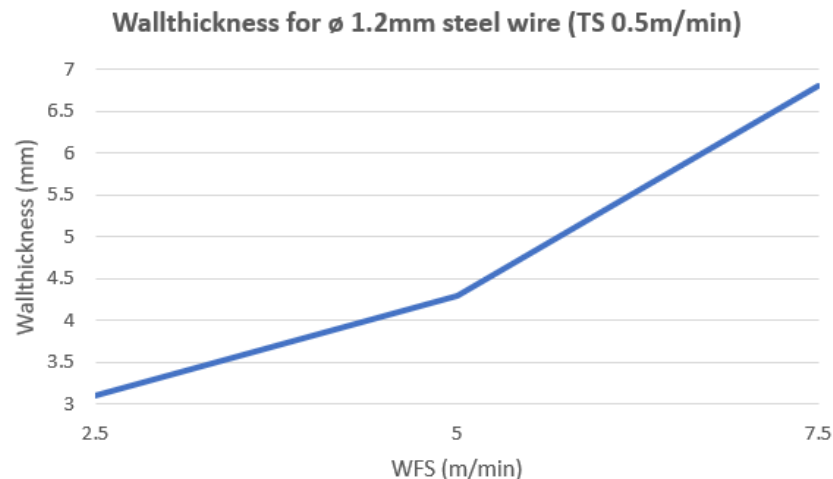
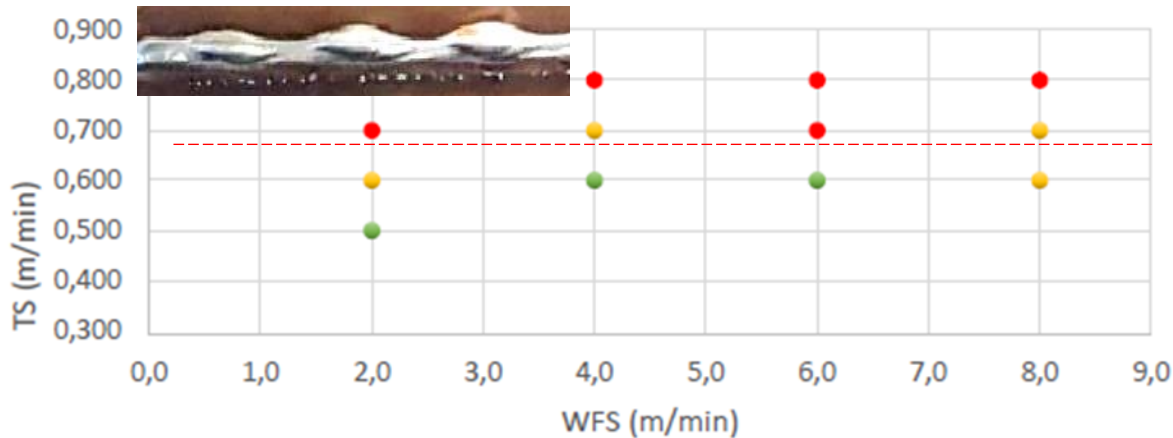
HV2 of 17-4PH in AB condition (LMD)  
Center: 343-352 (1) vs 361-396 (7)

## *For steels & stainless steels*

- Set average power/flow rate and change speed for modifying layer height (\*)
- Repeat (\*) for various power/flow rate for screening processing window (stability & porosity)
- Track width mainly acc. to focal spot
- Typically 30% overlap (multi-pass)
- Optimized paths & HI control (acc. features)

# WAAM - Process Parameters

G3Si1 Ø1,2mm



## *For steels & stainless steels*

- Select wire  $\phi$  for wallth. & productivity
- $\neq$  synergic curves & advanced U/I control  
→  $\neq$  width & height for same WFS/TS
- Typically limit TS to avoid humping
- Respect WFS/TS for approx. constant HI
- Optimized paths & overlap (multi-pass)

# Process Parameters

- SLM - **Variation in hardness** as a function of print parameters, but less significant as compared to **variations in part density**.
- Properties can deviate from those in **powder data sheets**.
- LMD/WAAM - Hardness values in 'as-built' condition are **fluctuating along the build direction**.
- **Anisotropy**.
- Influenced by **post-build heat treatments**.

## Keep track in an internal database

- ✓ Machine
- ✓ Date
- ✓ Parameters
- ✓ Material
- ✓ Build configuration
- ✓ Properties
- ✓ ...

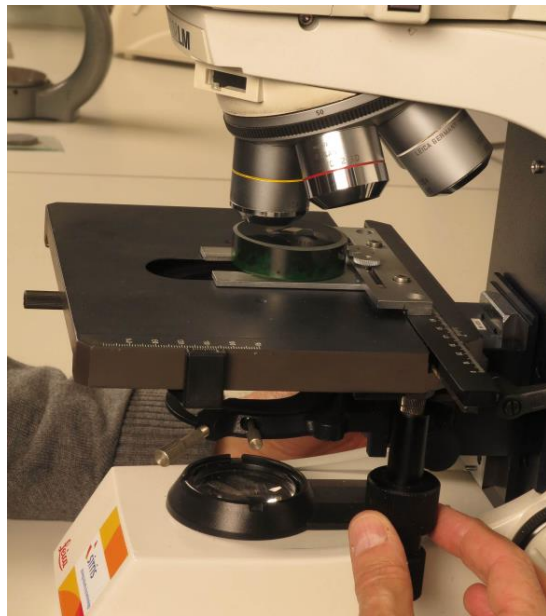
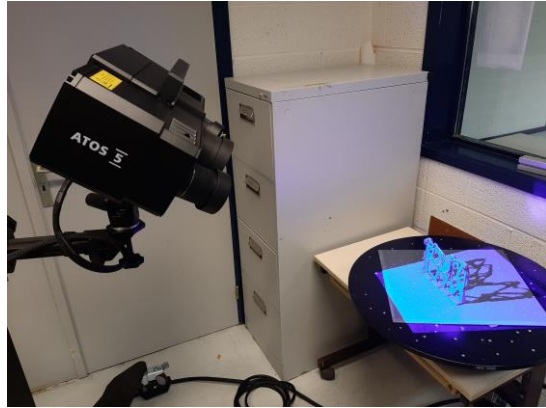
What are good settings *for your machine*?  
What *material properties* do you get?

*Feedback on material properties to use in design phase.*

# Quality Check

- Destructive testing
- Non-destructive testing
- ✓ Dimensional tolerances
- ✓ Material properties
- ✓ Tomography

Perform a first check prior to finishing to avoid unnecessary costs.

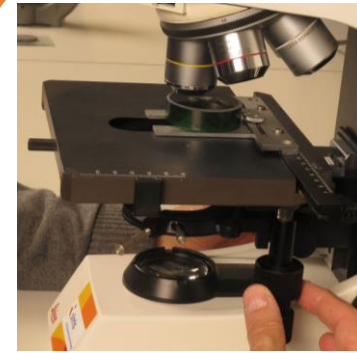


# Finish the part

- Locally vs globally
- Bulk (Heat, HIP,...)
- Surface (polish, coatings)
- Cavities cleaning
- Machining



**Post-processing**



**Inspection &  
Testing**

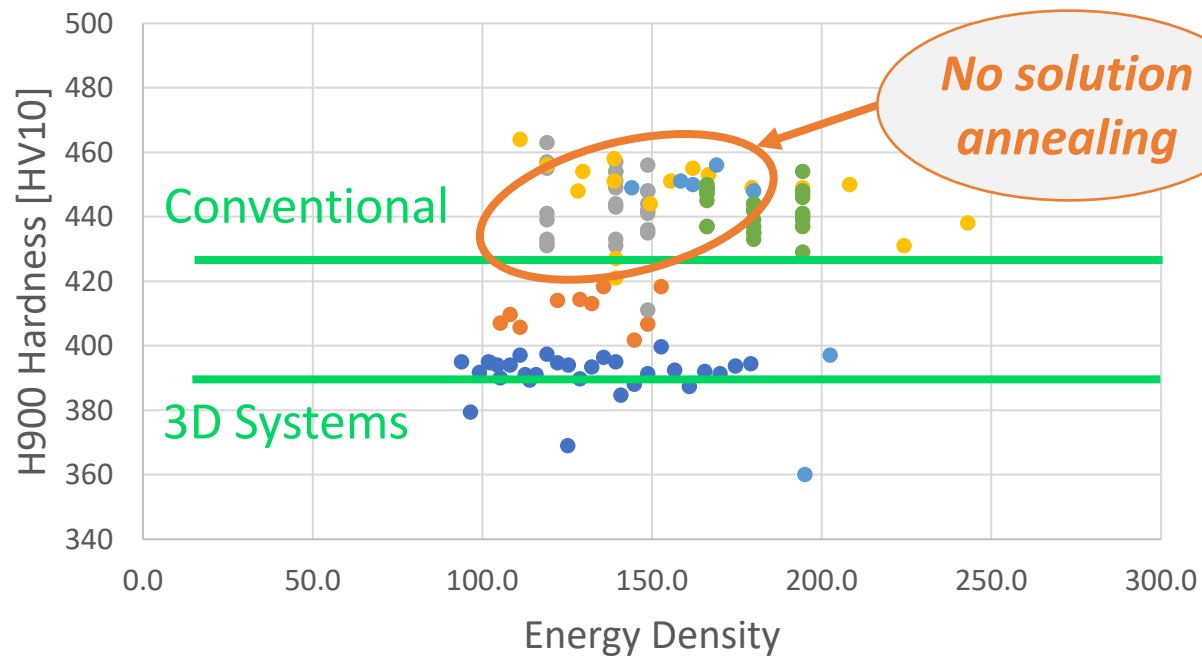




# Heat Treatment (17-4PH SLM)

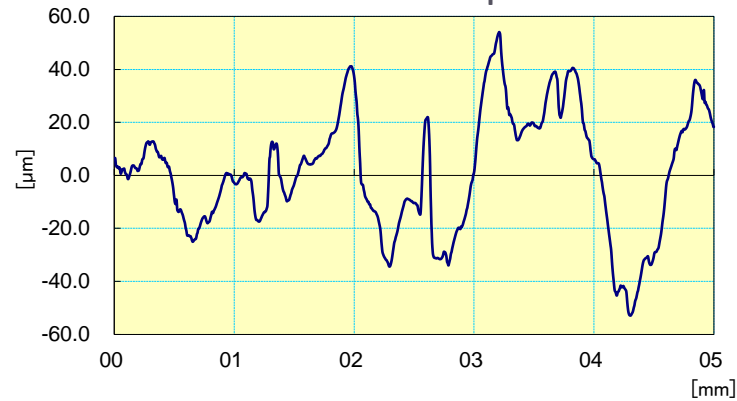
- Tune material properties: What properties do you want?
- Reduce residual stresses

H900 Hardness vs. energy density



# Surface Finish

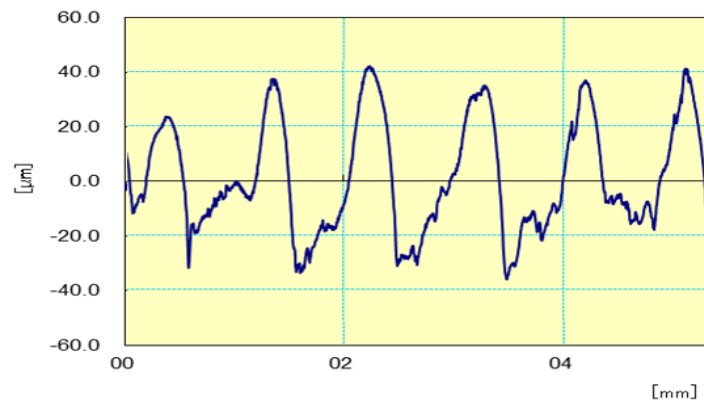
SLM: Ra 8-18 $\mu\text{m}$



WAAM wall surface



LMD: Ra approx. 20 $\mu\text{m}$



Which surface finishing method to apply?

- AM technology (roughness vs waviness)
- Application (abrasion, aesthetic ...)
- Material & geometry (cavities, edges...)
- Environmental (disposal chemicals, slurry...)

Specifications?

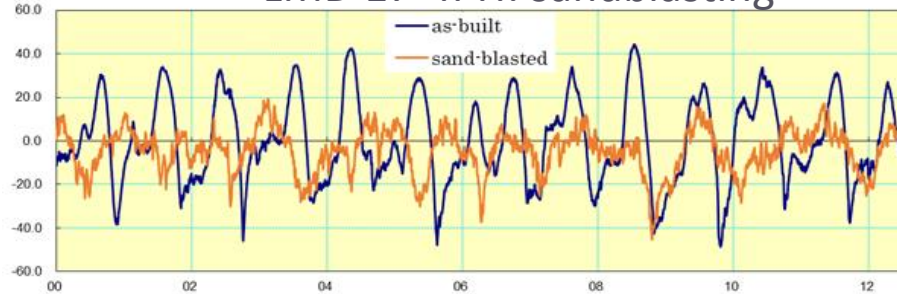
- Roughness/waviness vs peaks/valleys
- Achievable Ra 4-8 $\mu\text{m}$  (SLM), 10-15 $\mu\text{m}$  (LMD)

Pronounced WAAM waviness reduced by :

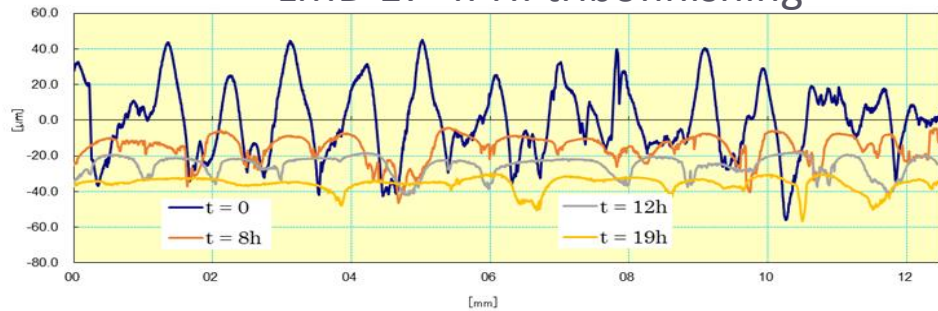
- *Shielding gas (couple % He)*
- *Wire composition (melt pool viscosity)?*

# Surface Finish

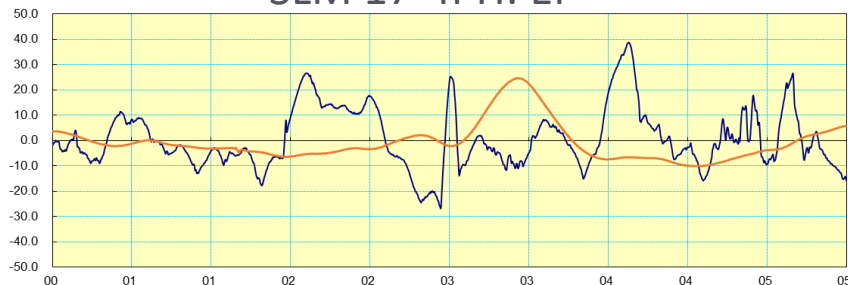
LMD 17-4PH: sandblasting



LMD 17-4PH: tribofinishing



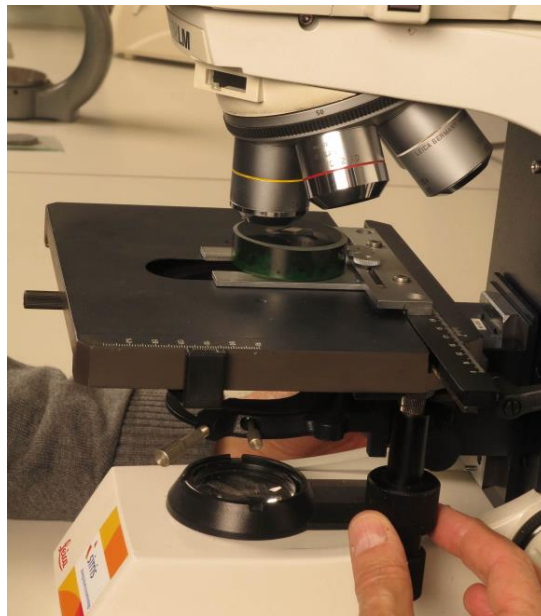
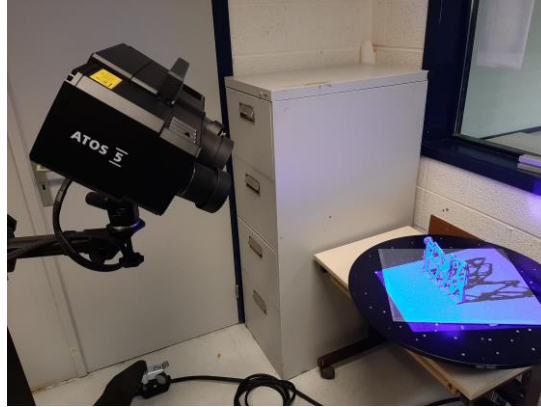
SLM 17-4PH: EP



- Comparison on SLM and LMD wall surfaces
  - Sand blasting (good preparation, Ra 16μm)
    - *mainly peaks removed*
  - Tribofinishing (fixed sample & ceramics)
    - *slow, smoothens entire topology*
  - Electrolytic polishing (EP)
    - *organic electrolyte works best, mainly high freq. roughness removed*
  - Chemical polishing (CP)
    - *slower than EP for 17-4PH*
- **No significant difference between AB and H900!**
- **Typical finishing cycle 1-2h**
- **For WAAM typically local or general machining**

# Quality Check

- ✓ Dimensional tolerances
  - ✓ Material properties
  - ✓ Tomography
  - ✓ Surface Quality
  - ✓ Residual stresses
- ✓ *Potentially also to be done before post-processing*





**You don't have to make  
this journey on your own.**

**Knowledge and  
experience is available  
within Belgium to support  
you in your journey.**



# What's next – INSIDE AM project

You'd like to discuss a specific topic with us ?

Request a personal meeting and mention your topic: [jeroen.tacq@sirris.be](mailto:jeroen.tacq@sirris.be)

Recording & slides will be made available through mail

Don't miss out on our final event! (foreseen January 2021)

<https://www.sirris.be/nl/inside-metal-additive-manufacturing>

How to contact us:



[fleur.maas@bil-ibs.be](mailto:fleur.maas@bil-ibs.be)



[frederik.hendrickx@crmgroup.be](mailto:frederik.hendrickx@crmgroup.be)



driving industry by technology

[jeroen.tacq@sirris.be](mailto:jeroen.tacq@sirris.be)