

Utilising Computed Tomography in Additive Manufacturing (AM)

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Outline

CT Principle

Added Values of CT in Additive Manufacturing

Example CT Results on AM workpieces

Conclusion



Outline

CT Principle

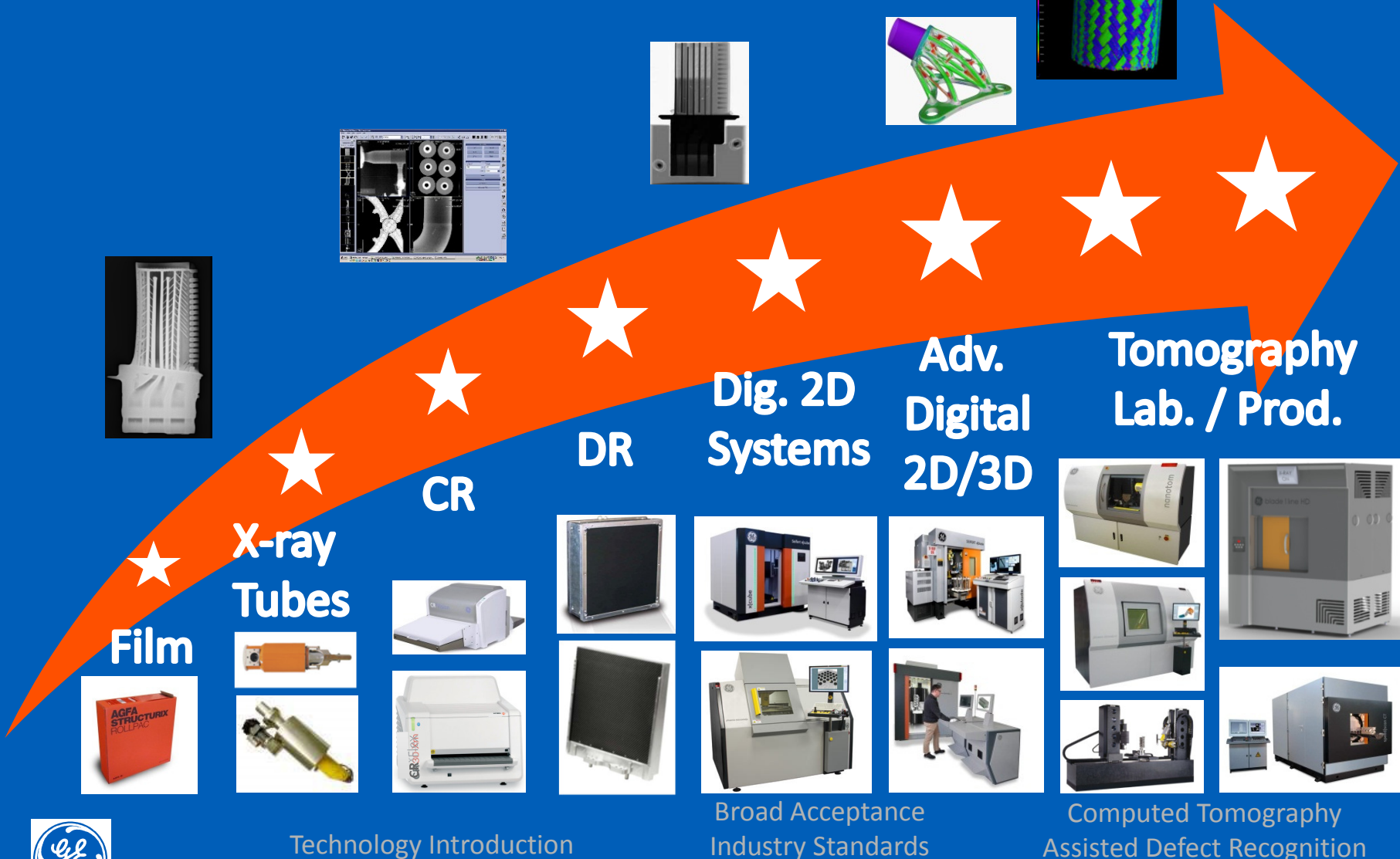
Added Values of CT in Additive Manufacturing

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Aero X-ray applications & solutions

Increasing X-ray inspection requirements driving change



New X-ray/CT Technologies: Highlights

X-ray detectors

GE
Inspection Technologies

Doubled CT resolution at same scanning time

dynamic 41|100 digital detector

GE's superior image quality X-ray detector for 2D radiographic inspection and high resolution CT

Key features & benefits

- 16" X-ray detector with 100 µm pixel size (16 MPixel) designed and optimized for long-term reliability at industrial high-energy use
- High-resolution images for easy detection of subtle indications (up to 50 µm feature detection with minifocus X-ray tube)
- Next generation photodiode design for up to 10x improved efficiency and sensitivity compared to state of the art 100 µm pixel detectors allows 2x resolution increase without cycle time impact
- Detection of 2x smaller defects without increase of geometric magnification allows imaging of large objects at higher resolution



X-ray sources

GE
Inspection Technologies

high-flux|target

For up to 2 times faster microCT scans or doubled resolution



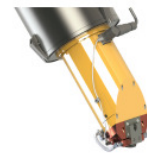
Innovative, patented composite target.

Key features & benefits

- GE patented advanced X-ray target design based on material properties, not on a mechanical rotating anode concept
- Higher flux density due to optimized thermophysical performance
- Works with all lab and production process control microCT applications

Today, throughput-optimized high-power CT scans require larger focal spots to prevent target material from melting. But the larger that focal spot becomes, the lower the image quality, and the precision.

The new GE proprietary high-flux|target makes CT scanning more efficient. Due to its high thermal conductivity properties, the new target allows higher power on a smaller focal spot. So users can maintain high image quality and scan much faster, or with improved accuracy.



X-ray Imaging

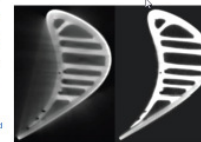
GE
Inspection Technologies

scatter|correct

Unique tool for high quality scatter reduced industrial CT scans acquired in significantly shorter scan time

Key features & benefits

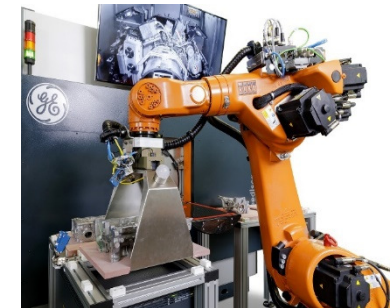
- Low artifact high precision performance of fan beam CT combined with up to 100 times faster* inspection speed of cone beam CT
- Provides significant quality improvement not only for high scattering materials such as steel and aluminum, but also for composites and multi-material samples
- Better material penetration length at same energy level or same CT quality with less complex CT equipment
- Proprietary GE technology - exclusively available as option for the industrial mini- and microCT scanner phoenix v|tome|x and in as well as upgrade package for installed on systems



Conventional cone beam CT with scatter reduction artifact. Advanced scatter|correct cone beam CT.

* While a typical fan beam CT scan of 1000 slices requires 2 minutes per view, a 1000-slice cone beam CT scan requires only 10 minutes.

Robotics & Automation

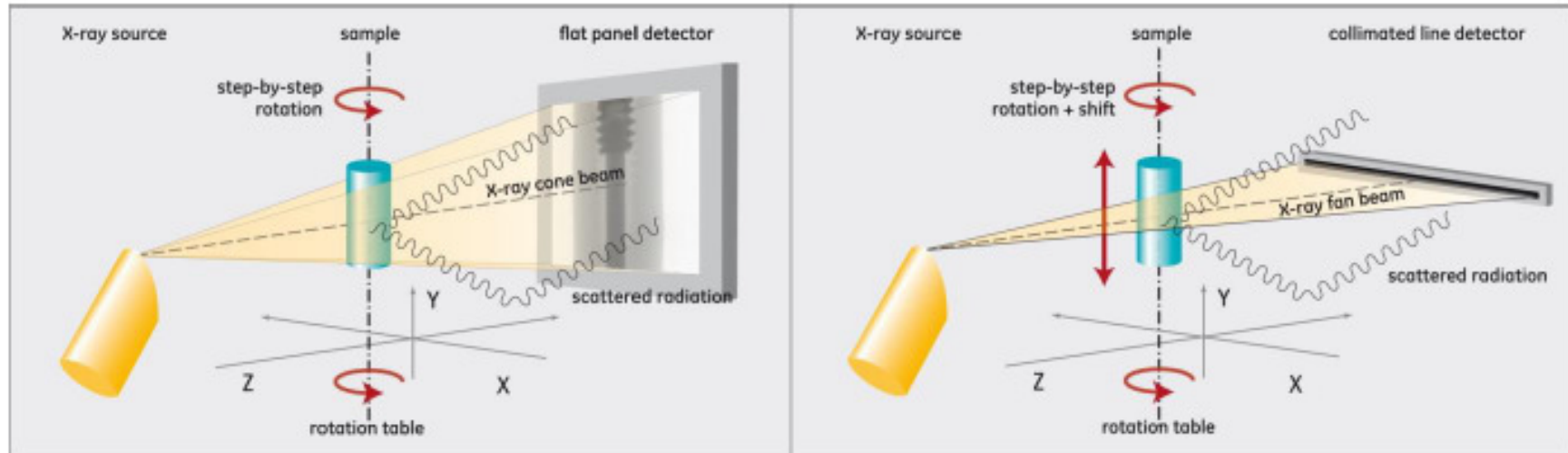


CT Principle – video sequence



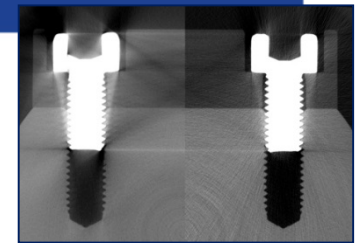
CT Principle

cone & fan beam, scatter|correct



- Cone beam CT (3D) is fast but scattered radiation can affect the image quality
- Fan beam CT is not affected by scattered radiation but is slow

GE's scatter|correct utilizes the advantages of both methods

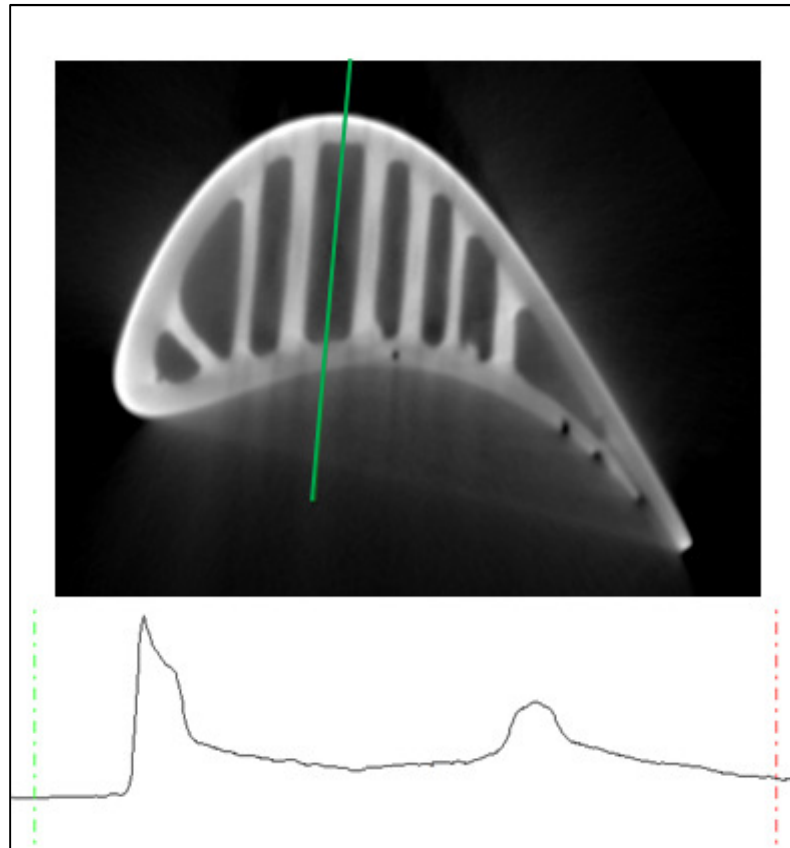


CT Principle

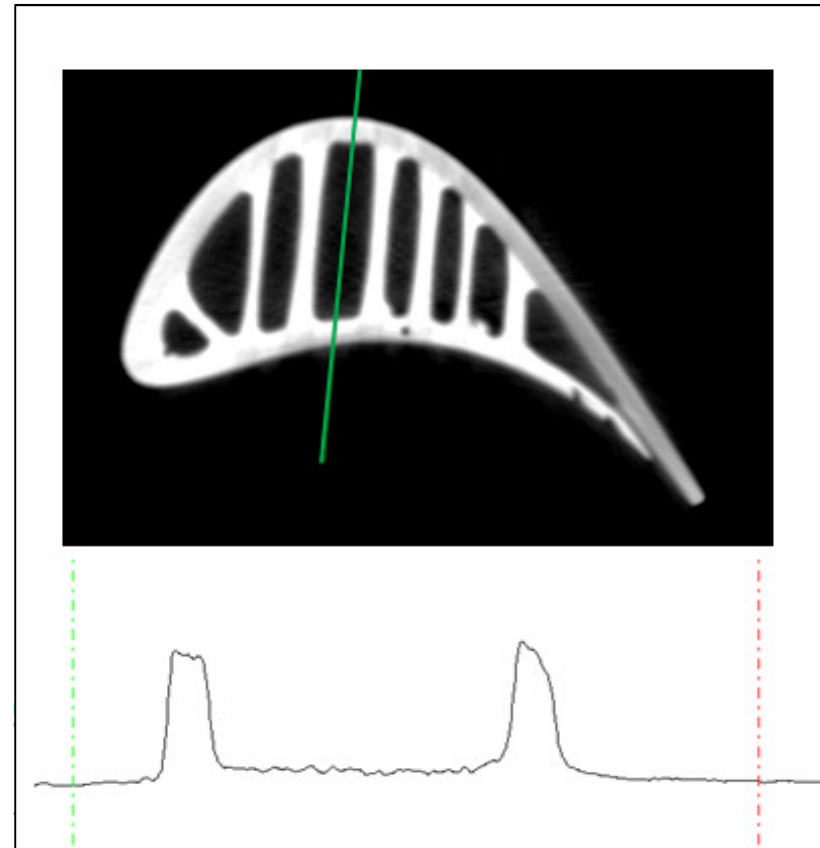
cone & fan beam, scatter | correct

scatter | correct application examples, turbine blade

CT slice without scatter | correct
thickness measurement NO



CT slice with scatter | correct
thickness measurement YES



CT Principle

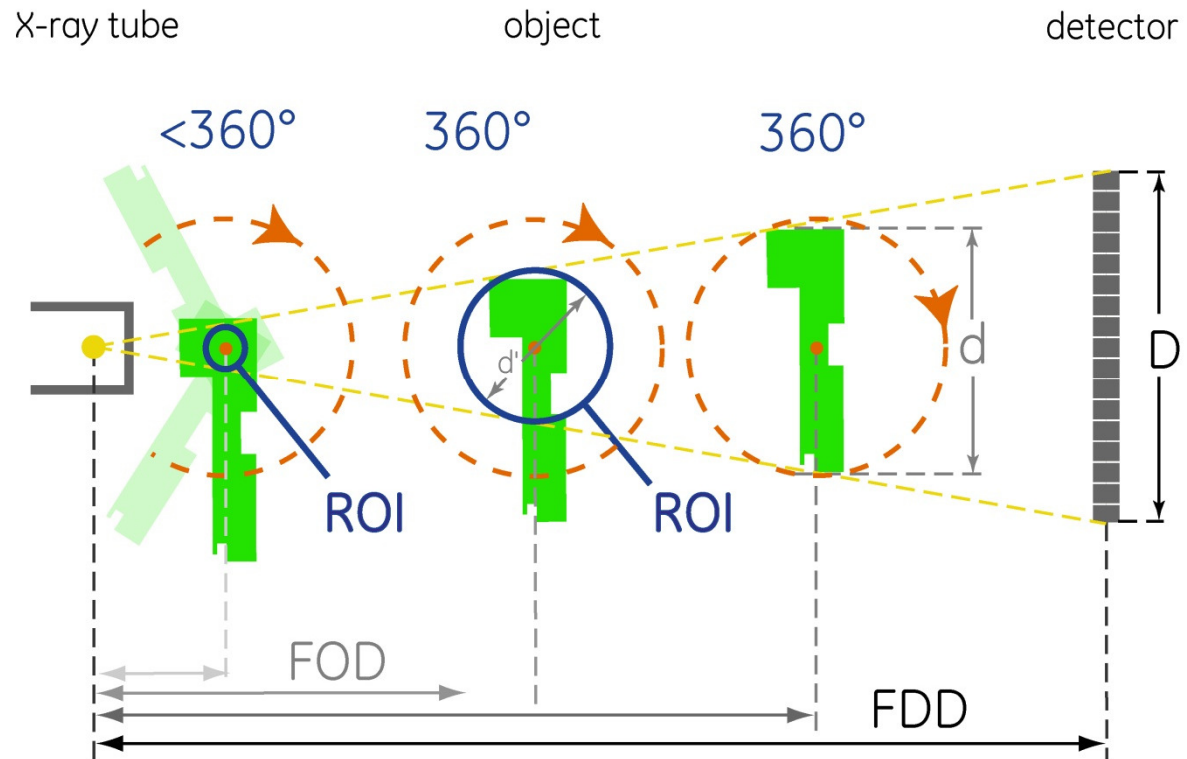
complete and ROI scan

If the entire sample diameter d is scanned with a detector D of N pixels the voxels size is limited to $V = \frac{d}{N}$

In an ROI (region of interest) scan only a cylinder of diameter d' is scanned, leading to a smaller voxel size and higher resolution (if the geometric unsharpness U_g allows this):

$$V' = \frac{d'}{N}$$

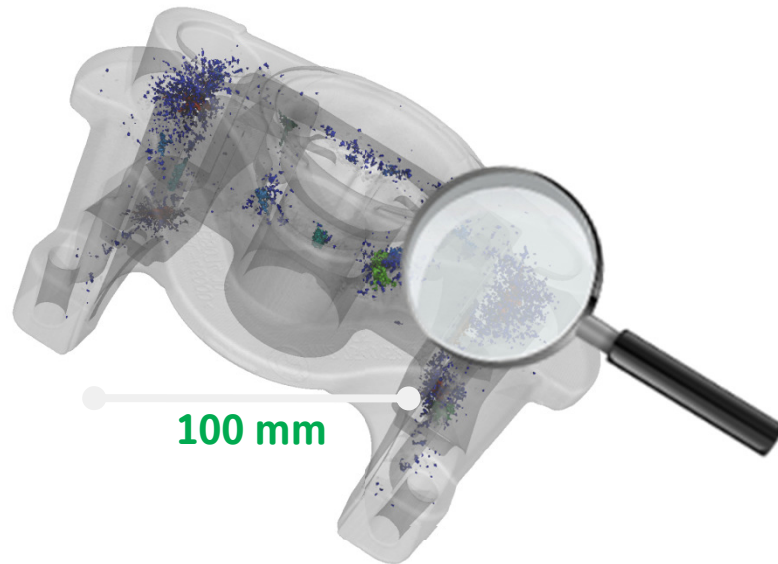
In case the sample is very broad the rotation angle might be restricted to less than 360° . Down to about 270° , a good image quality may still be expected.



CT Principle

critical parameter voxel resolution

- inspection on four different length scales, e.g. casting



Complete casting:

1) 150 μm Voxelsize, microfocus:

macroporosities, metrology

2) 30 μm Voxelsize, microfocus:

microporosities

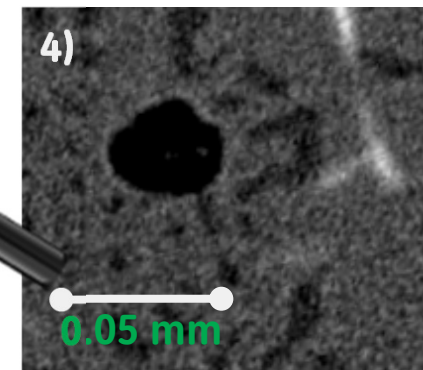
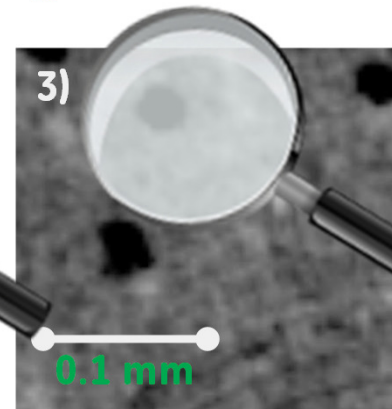
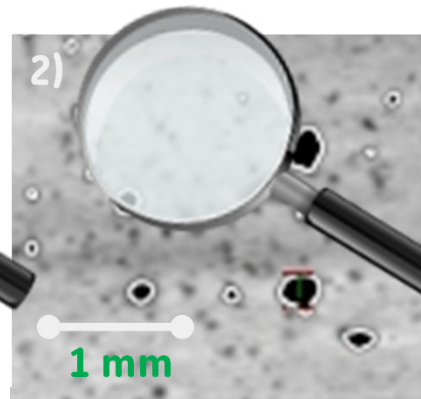
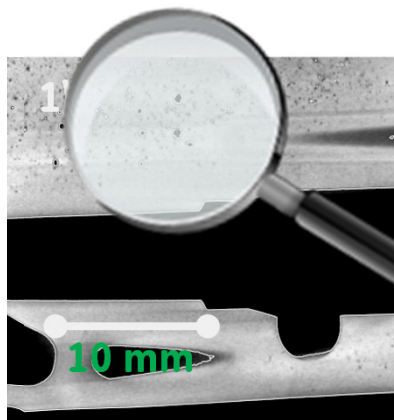
Subsection of casting:

3) 3 μm Voxelsize, microfocus tube:

detailed analysis of micropores

4) 0.5 μm Voxelsize, Nanofocus tube,,

high resolution 3D materialography





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Aerospace AM applications

Structurals, turbochargers, nozzles, brackets...



...blades, CMC workpieces

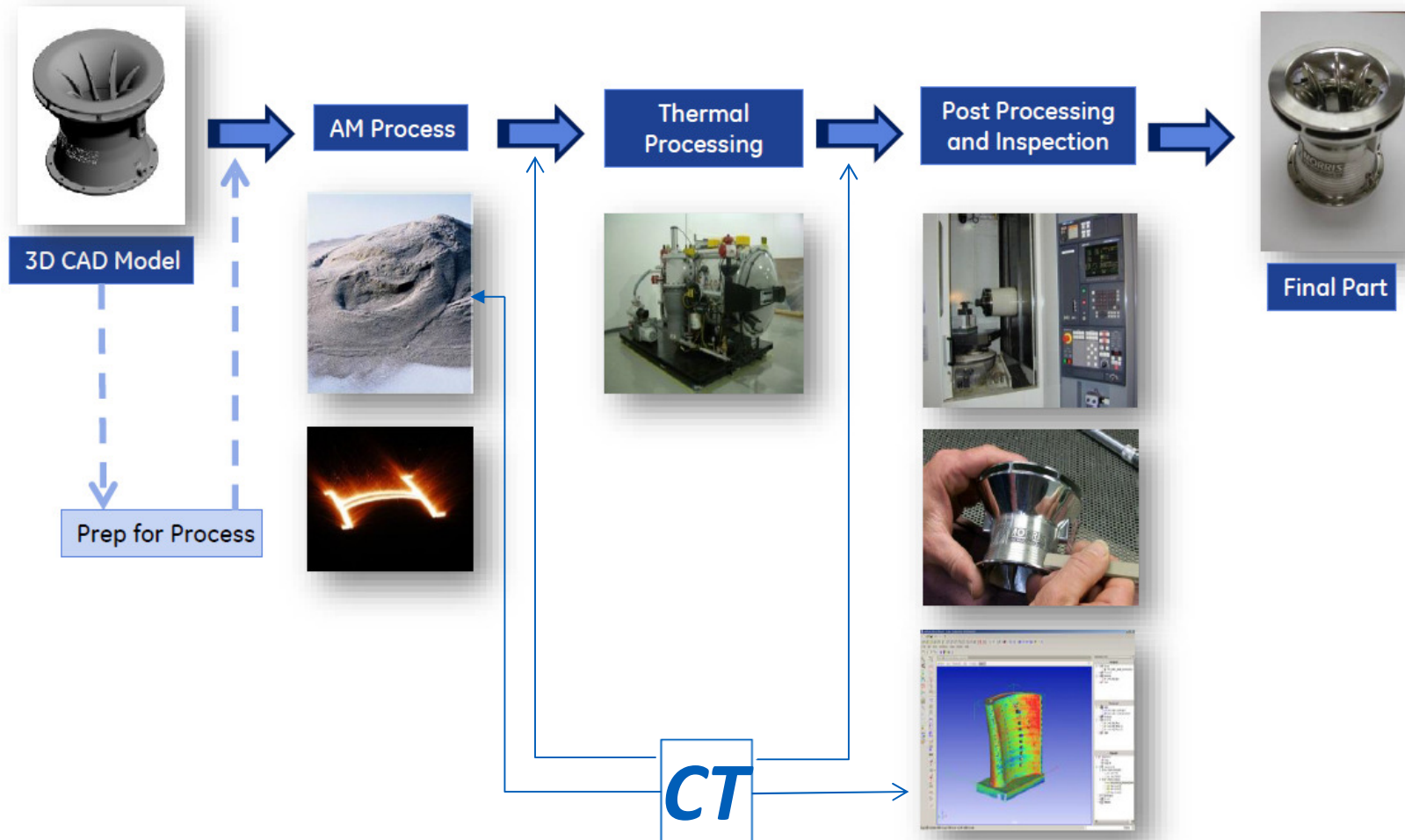


Additive Manufacturing – where and how computed tomography (CT) can add value

- 3D printing machine manufacturers:
 - > verify system performance, merge with in-situ monitoring
- printing powder manufacturers:
 - > check powder grain sphericity & size, distribution, porosity inside the grains, foreign particle contamination
- 3D print service companies/users:
 - > conduct rapid prototyping and QA (failure analysis, dimensional measuring and pre-machining test) of printed workpieces
- standardisation organisations:
 - > perform CT measurements to help defining guidelines in volumetric inspection, complementing to standard NDT techniques for surface and below surface inspection (eg. UT, EC)

Additive Manufacturing – Principle - Workflow

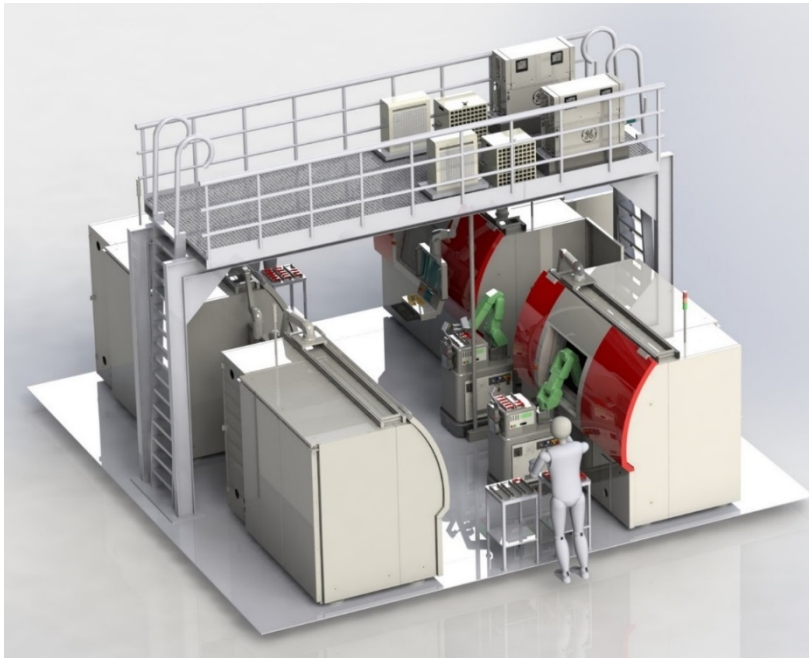
Much more than just printing!



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Additive Manufacturing – Principle - Automation

Showcase: collaborative robot with CT scanners



- Flexible and extendable for up to 4 automatic CT Systems
- Robot based part handling with Automated Guided Vehicles
- Compact for optimized floor space
- Flexible interface to Brilliant Manufacturing IT system



Additive Manufacturing – applicable standards (ASTM)

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards

ASTM International Technical Committee F42 on AM Technologies is a non-profit organization working on AM. The scope of the committee is to promote knowledge, stimulate research and implement technology through the development of standards for additive manufacturing technologies. Standards developed by F42 are:

- F2792 Standard Terminology for Additive Manufacturing Technologies
- F2915 Standard Specification for Additive Manufacturing File Format (AMF)
- F2921 Standard Terminology for Additive Manufacturing--Coordinate Systems and Nomenclature
- F2924 Standard Specification for Additive Manufacturing Titanium-6 Aluminum-4 Vanadium with Powder Bed Fusion.

A proposed new ASTM International standard will serve as a guide to determine specific mechanical properties of materials made with an AM process. WK43112, Guide for Evaluating Mechanical Properties of Materials Made via Additive Manufacturing Processes, is being developed by Subcommittee F42.01 on Test Methods, part of ASTM International Committee F42 on AM Technologies.

In addition to WK43112, F42.01 is currently developing two other proposed standards:

- WK30107, Practice for Reporting Results of Testing of Specimens Prepared by Additive Manufacturing
- WK40419, Test Methods for Performance Evaluation of Additive Manufacturing Systems Through Measurement of a Manufactured Test Piece.



Outline

CT Principles

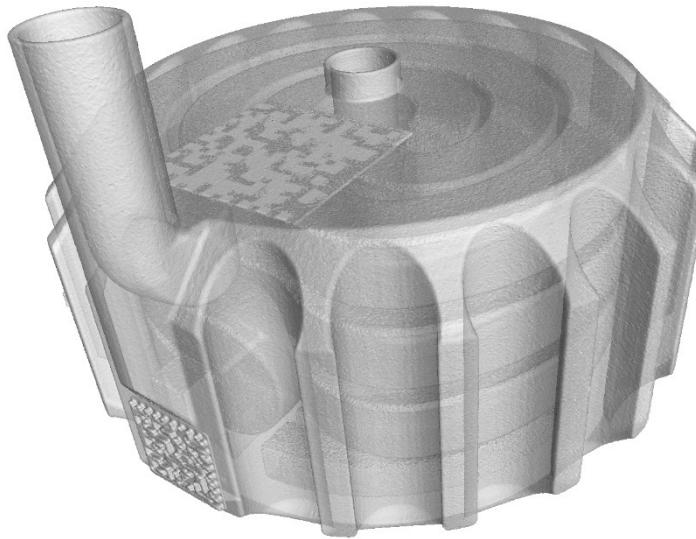
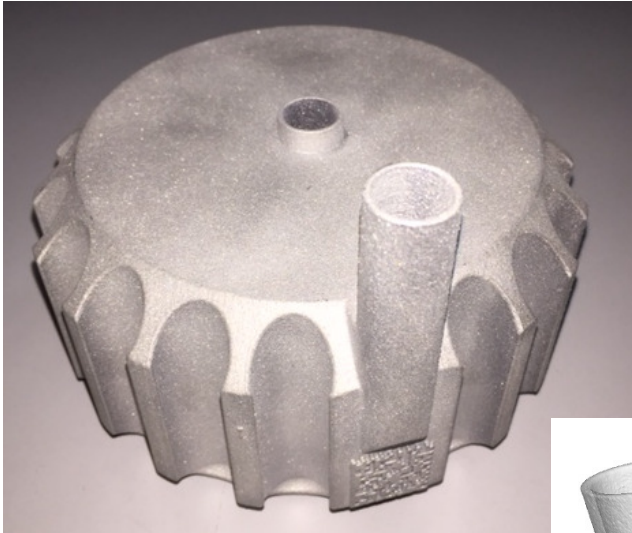
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Example CT Results on AM workpieces

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Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method



Workpiece #1:

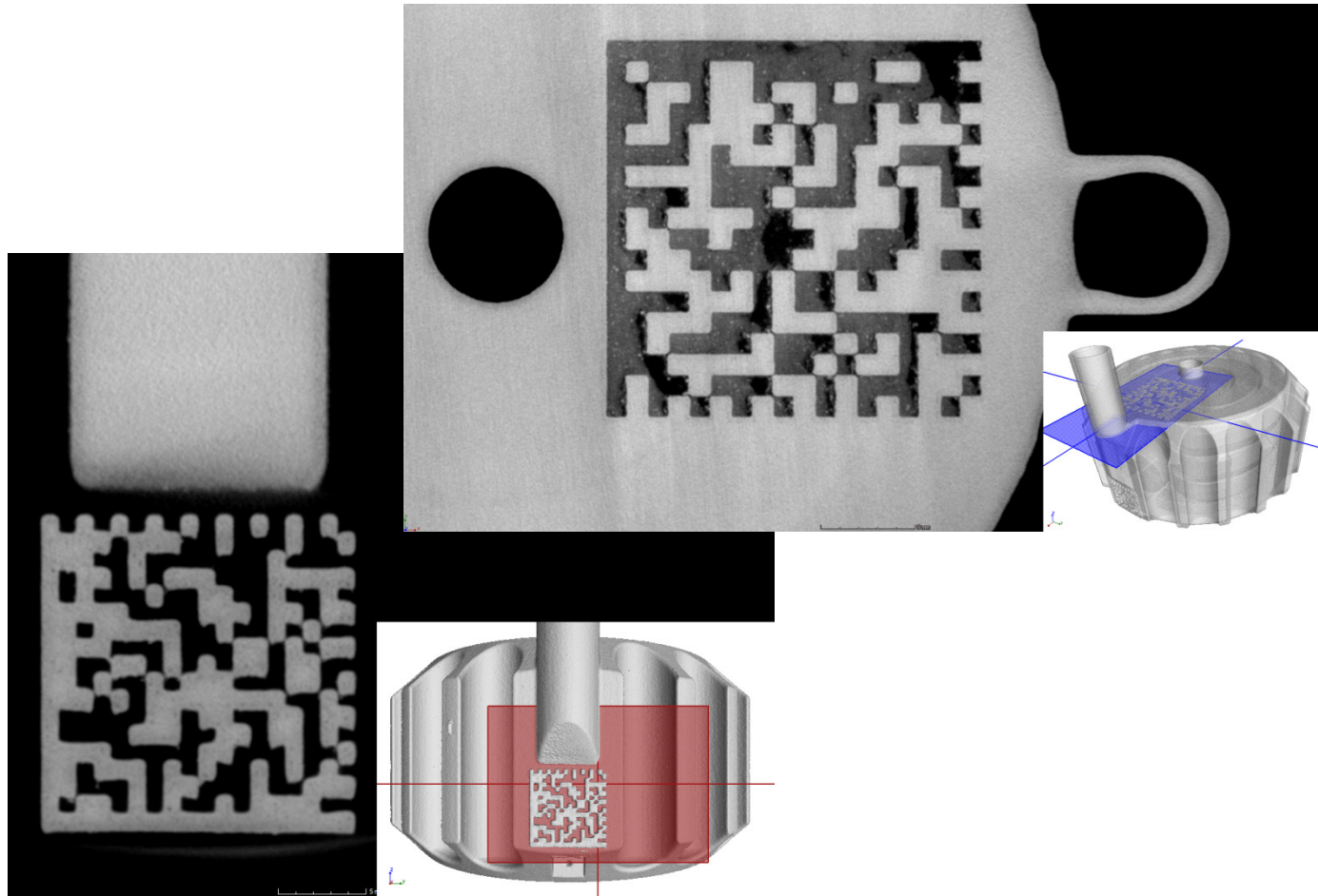
Medical rotary
carousel for test
tubes

Material: AlSi10Mg

Dimensions (LxWxH):

Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

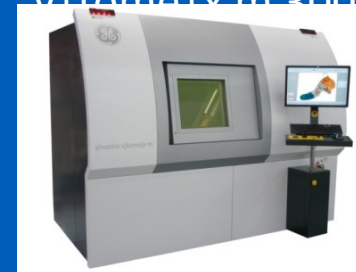
SLM method



2D slices and 3D rendered image:

Visualisation of QR code and powder entrapments

Used μ CT system:
vltomex m 300



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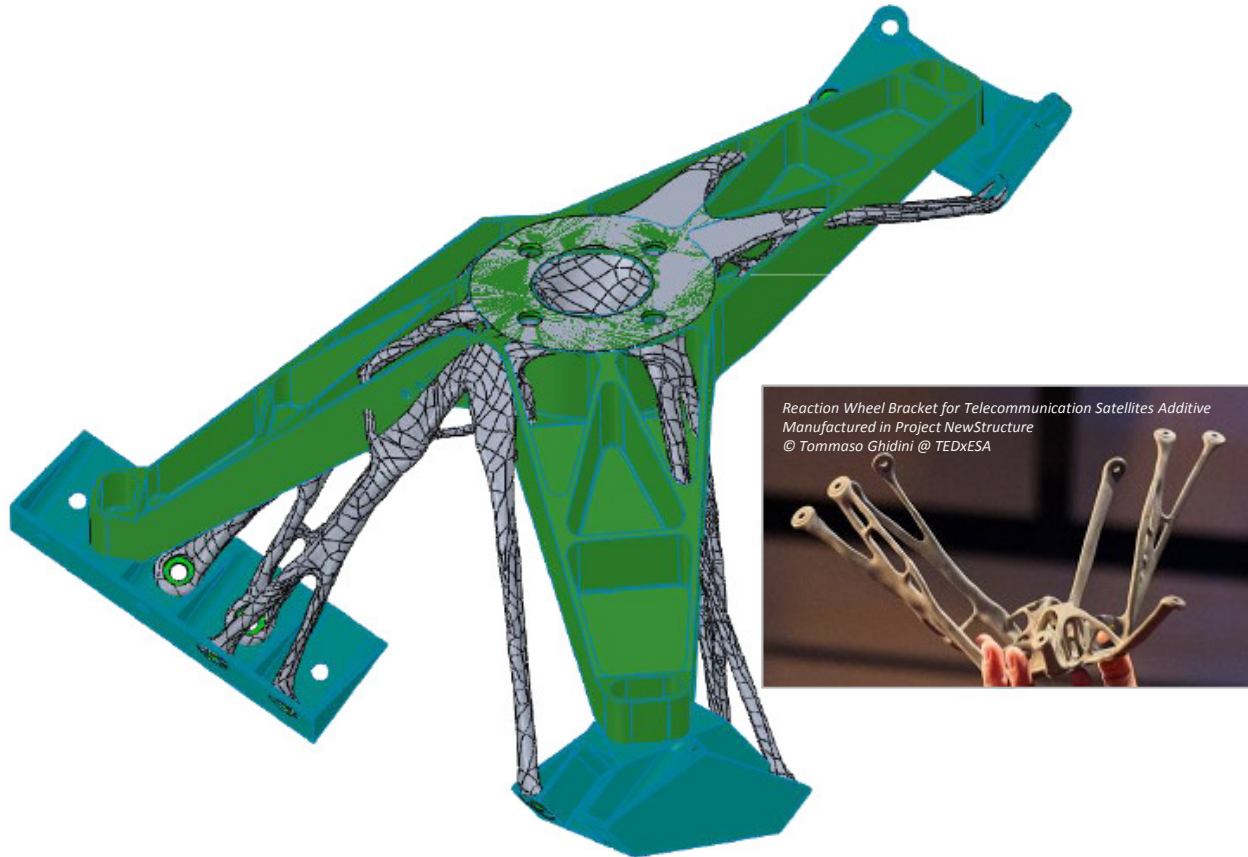
By courtesy of



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Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method



Workpiece #2:

Reaction wheel
bracket (ESA)

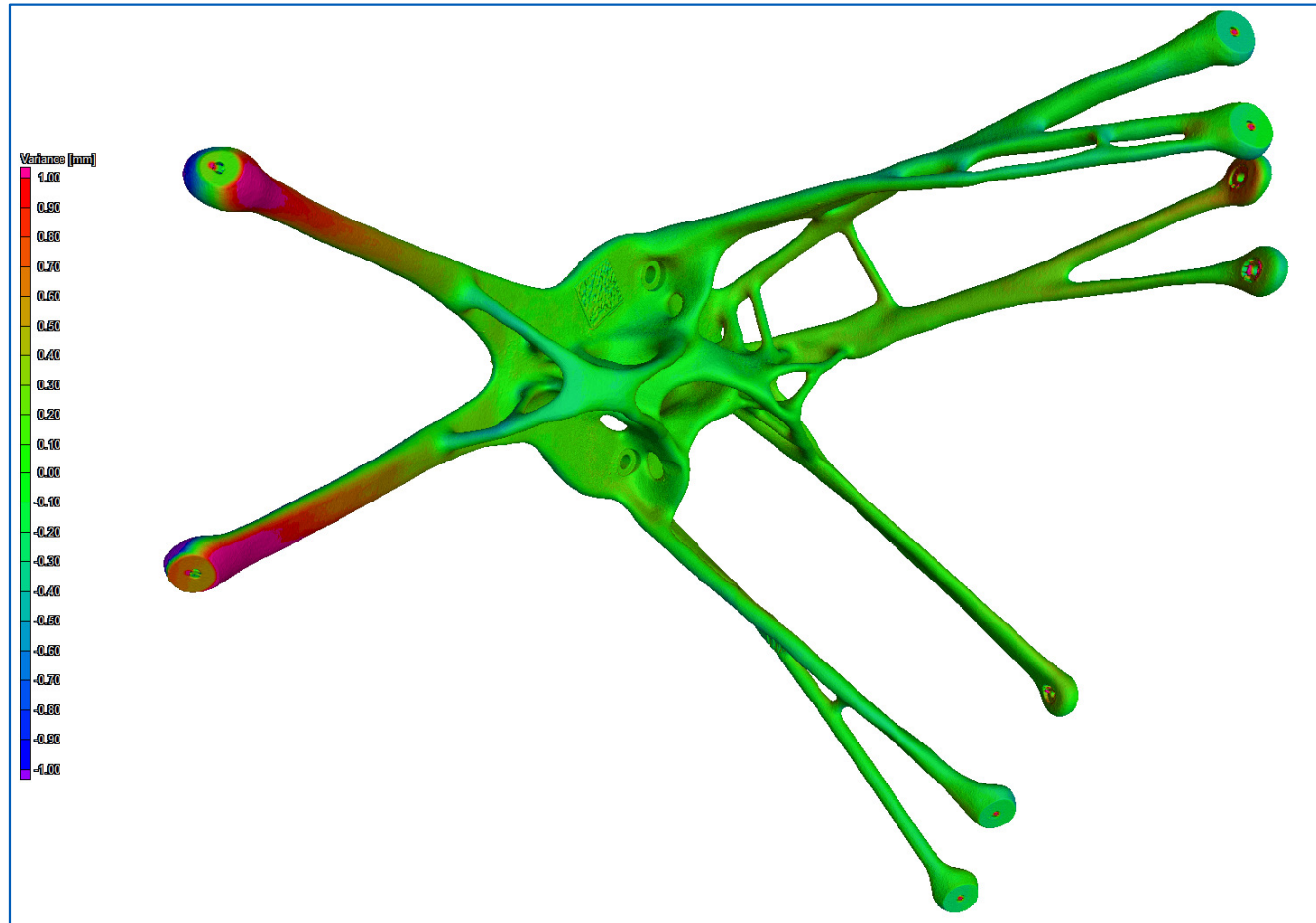
Material: AlSi10Mg

Motivation to
implement AM:

weight reduction
(-60%), optimised
topology

Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method



3D image:

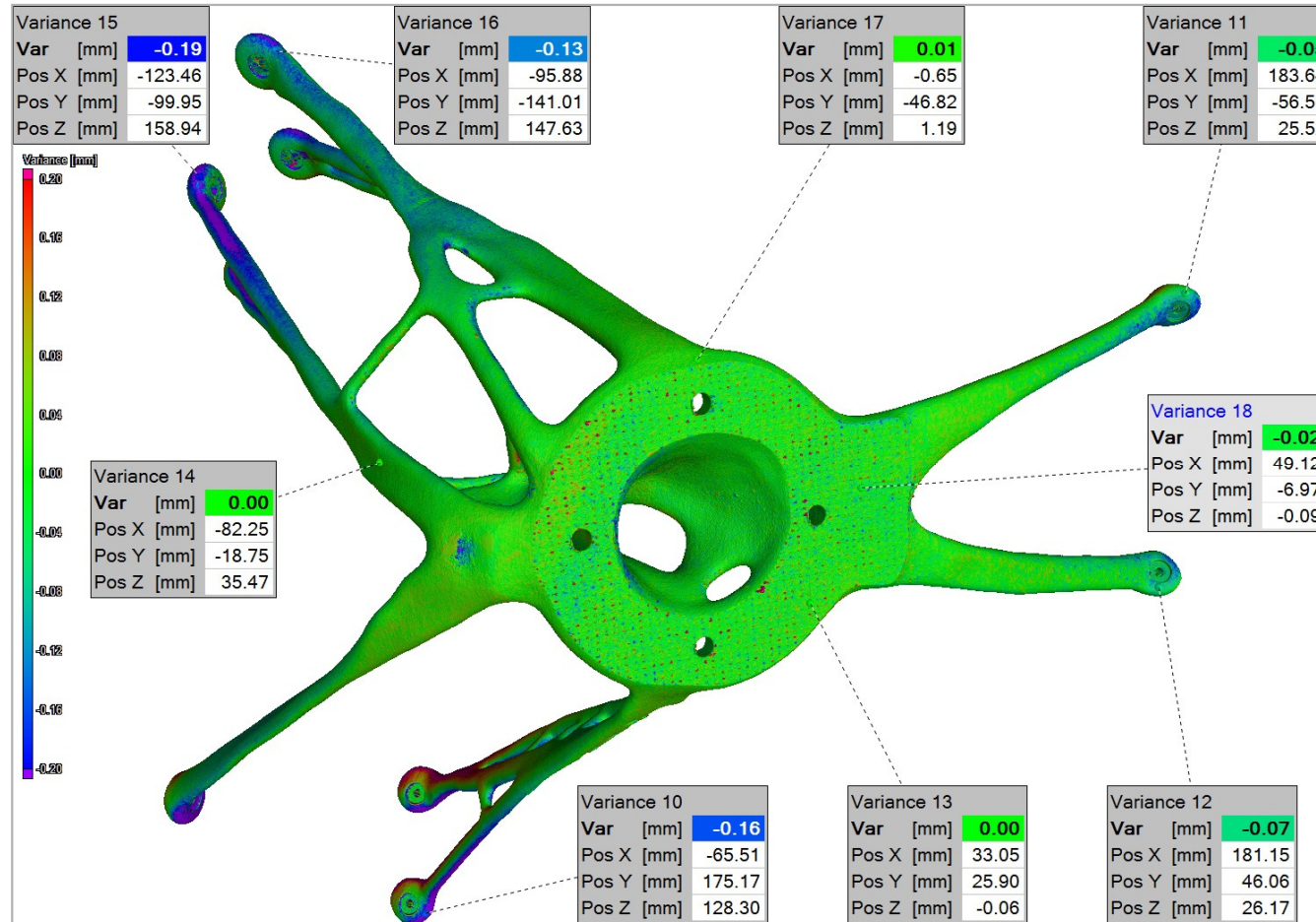
nominal-actual
comparison
(part vs. CAD)

Used μ CT system:



Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method



3D image:

nominal-actual
comparison
(partA vs. PartB)

Used μ CT system:



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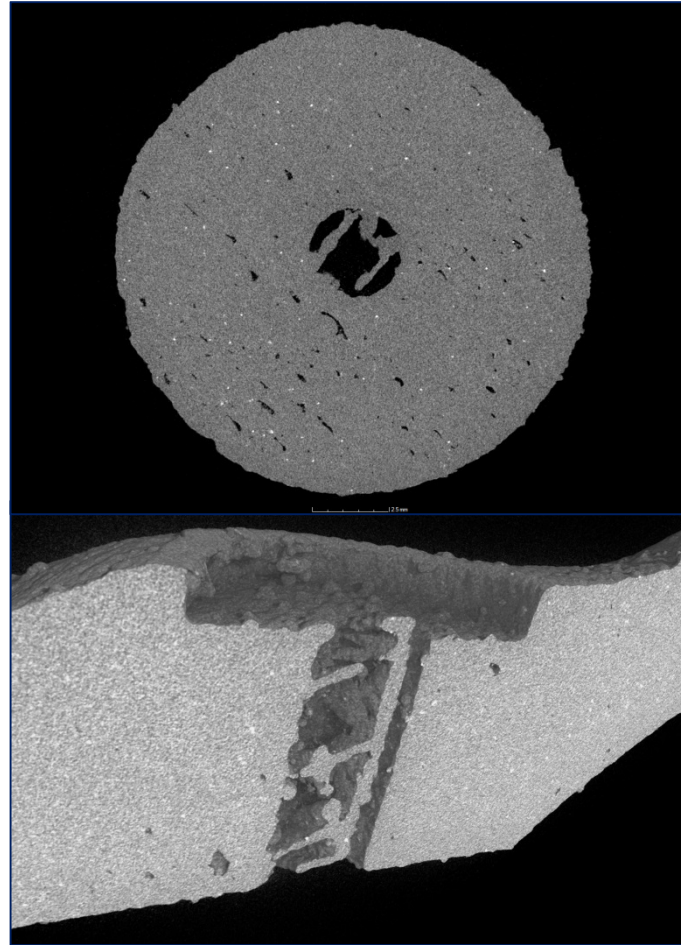
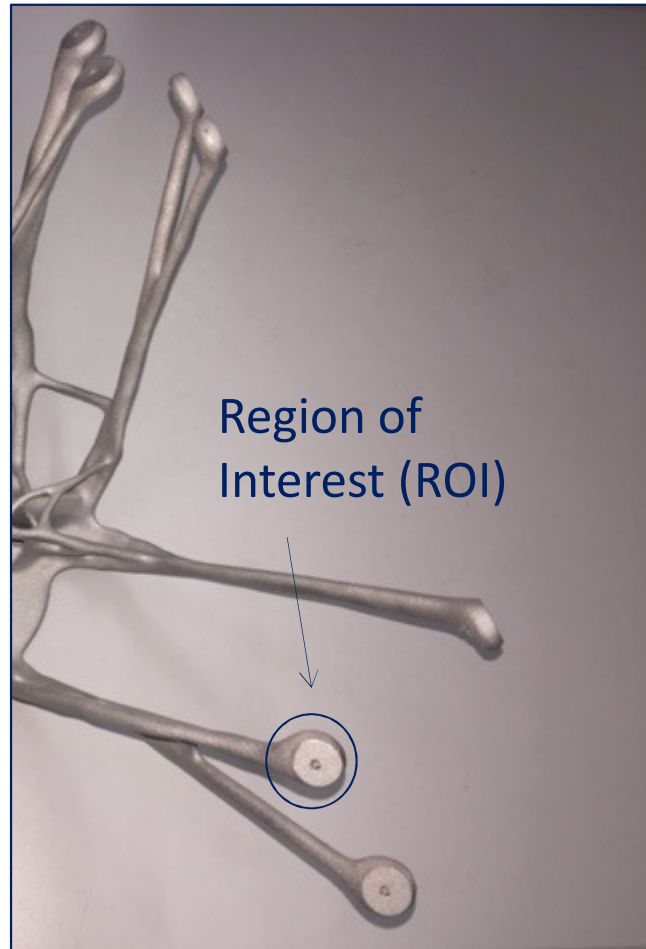
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Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method – ROI scan



2D slice and 3D
rendered image:

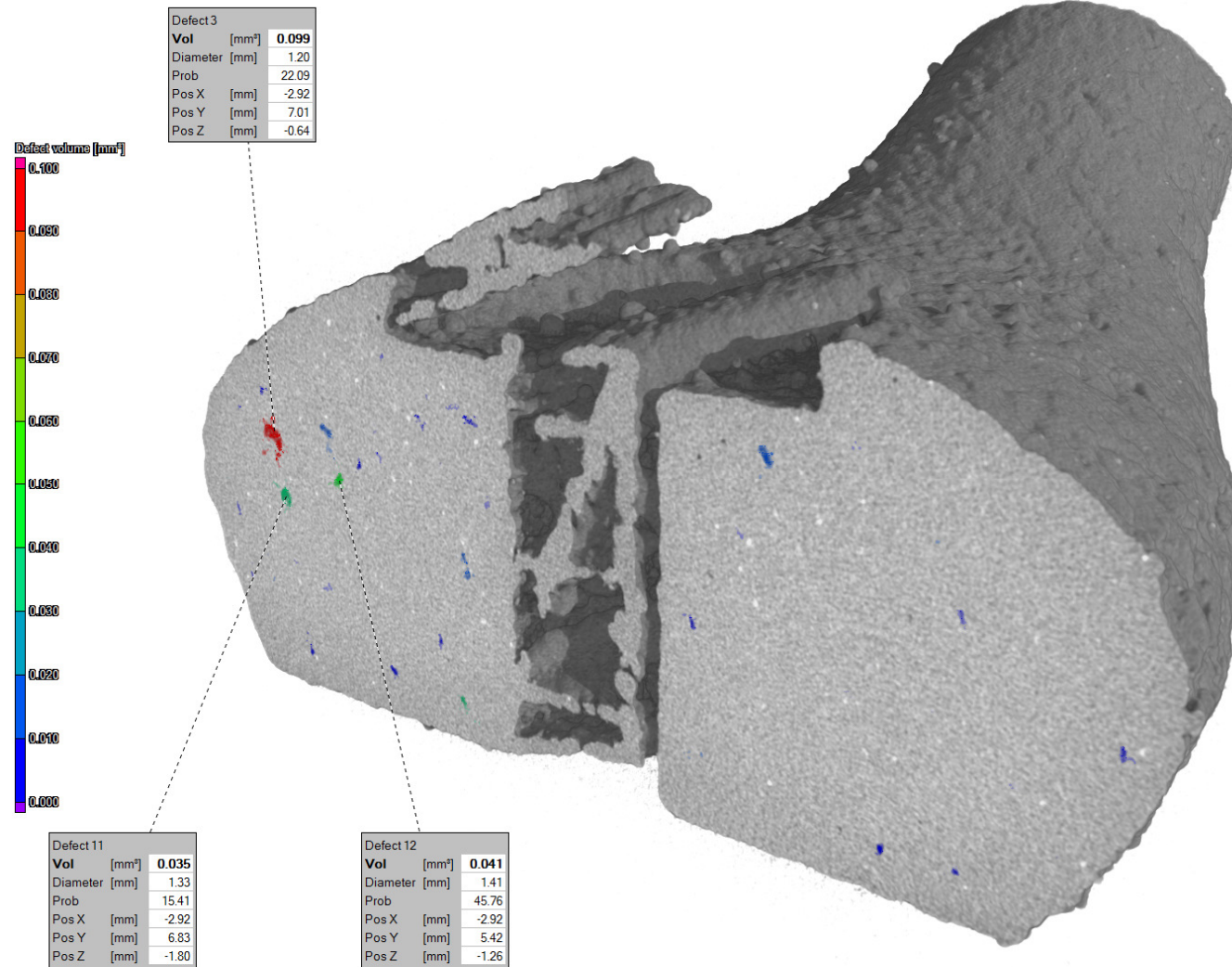
borehole shape,
inclusions, pore
orientation

Used μ CT system:



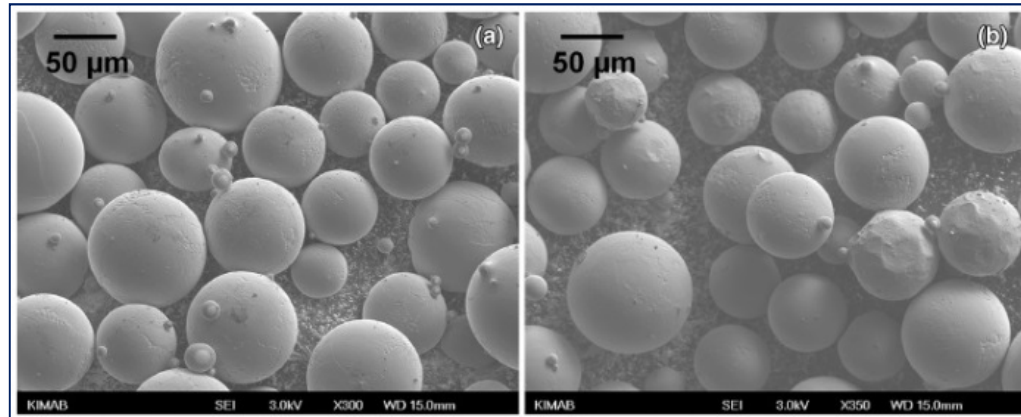
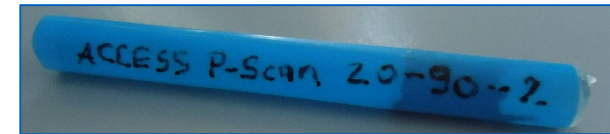
Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

SLM method – ROI scan – porosity analysis



Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

AM metal powder

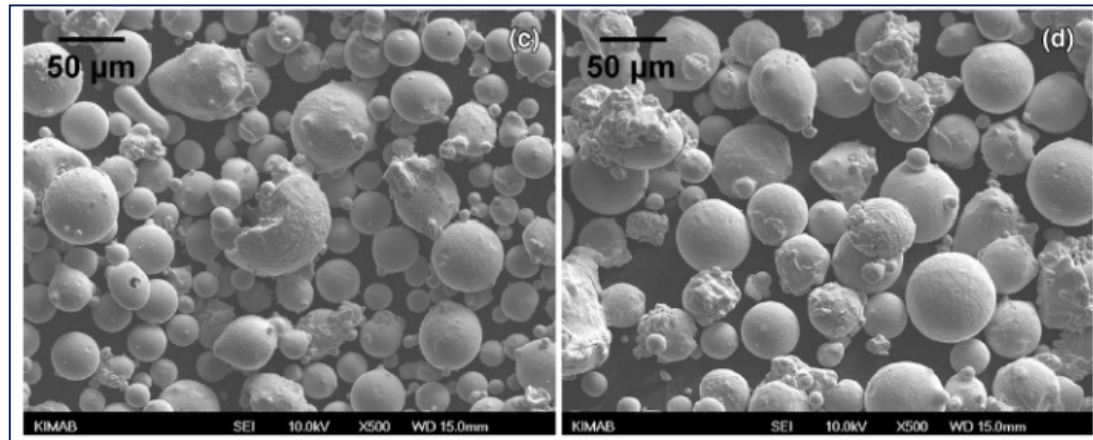


*<- Ti6Al4V
EBM powder
(new/recycled)*

Workpiece
#4: Powder

SEM images

*Inconel 718 ->
SLM powder
(new/recycled)*

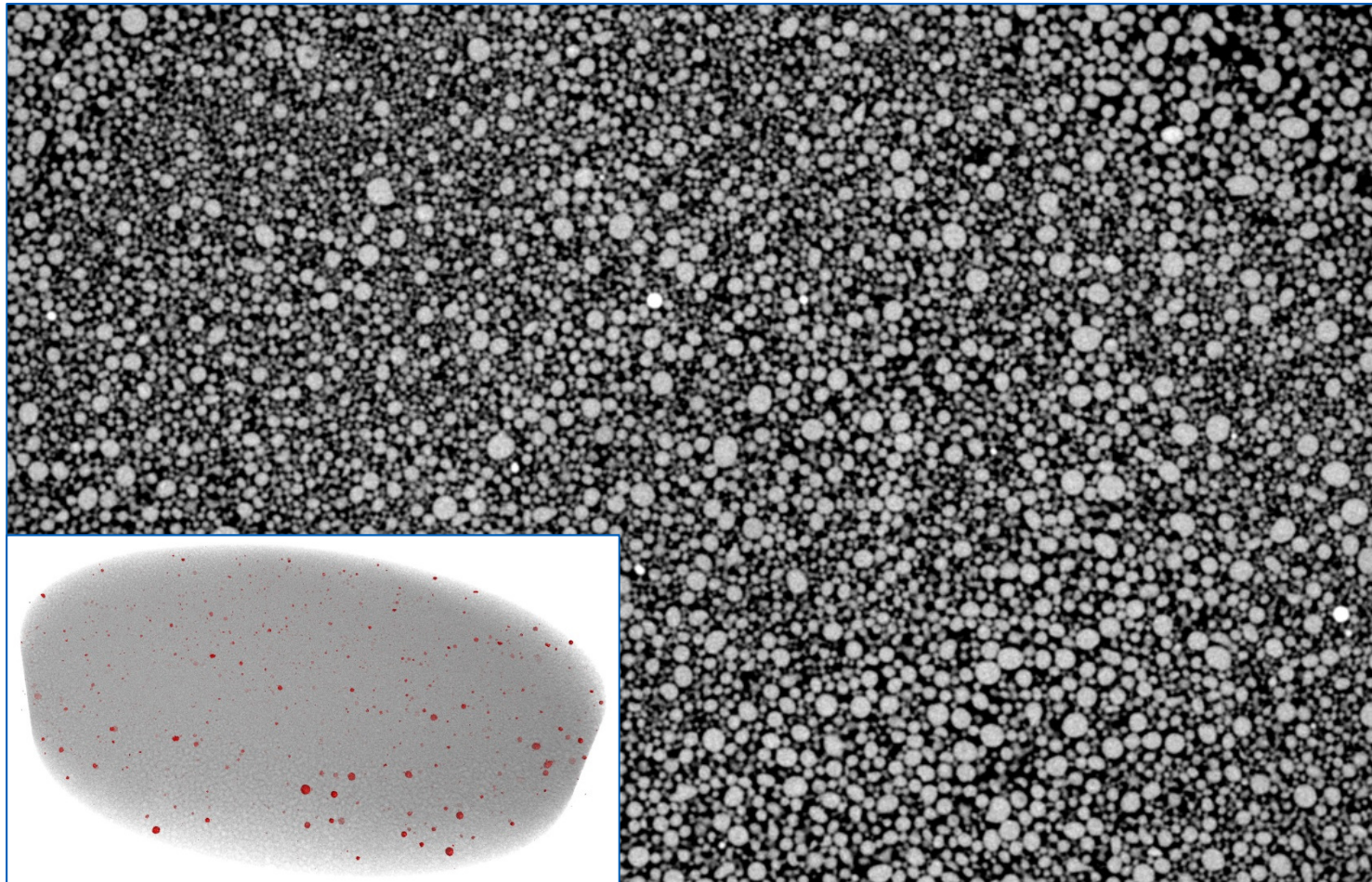
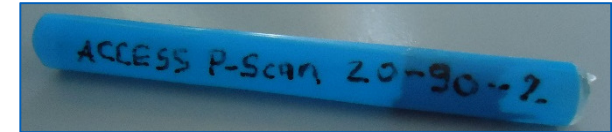


Left: new
powder

Right: new
& recycled
powder

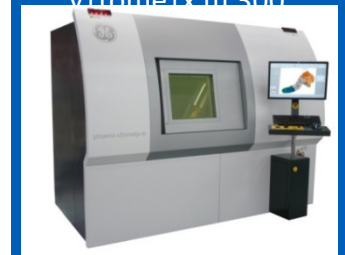
Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

AM metal powder



2D slice & 3D
view: pores,
particle
absorption and
distribution,
morphology,
sphericity

Used μ CT system:
vltomex m 300



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Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

AM metal powder

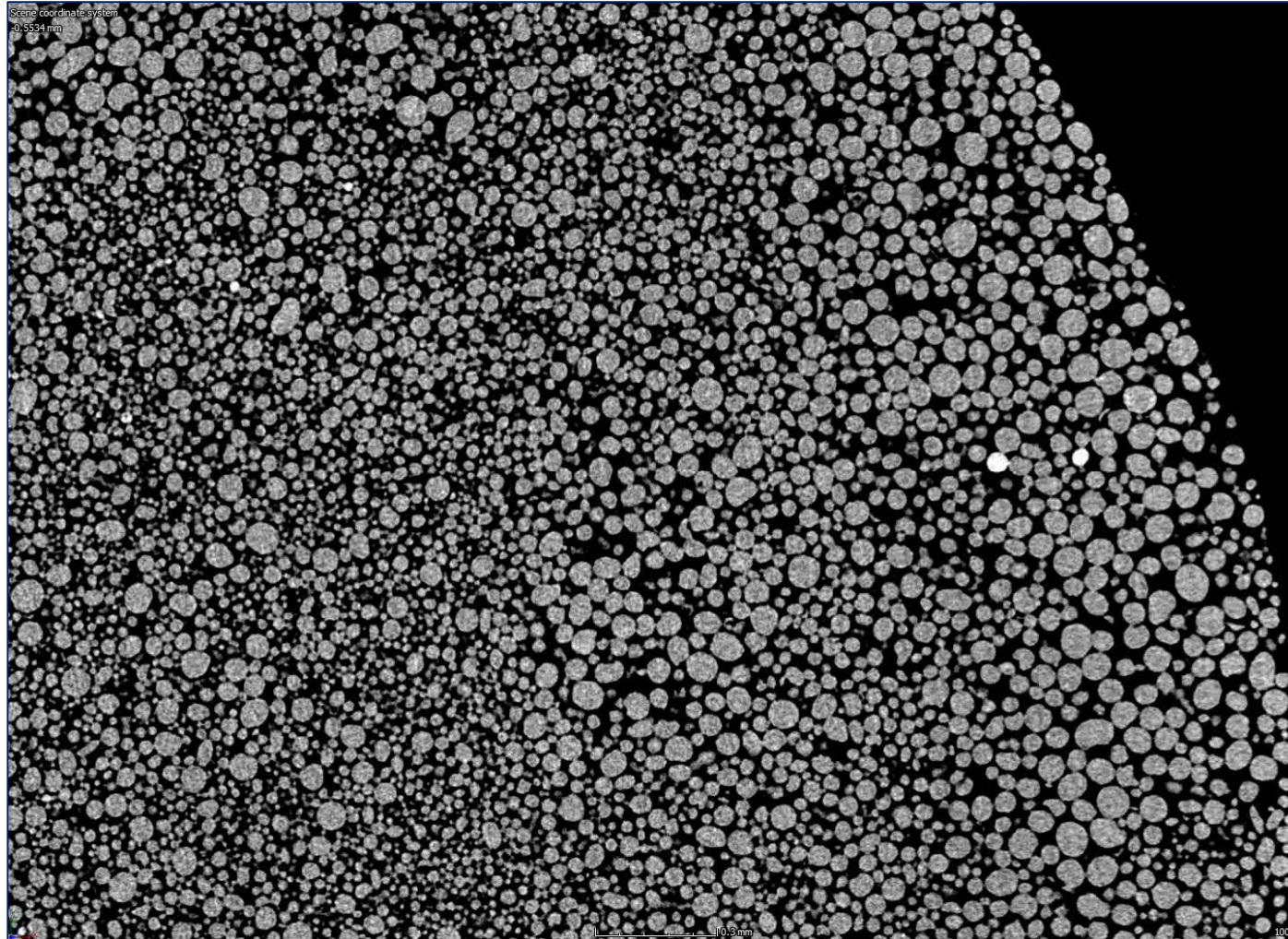
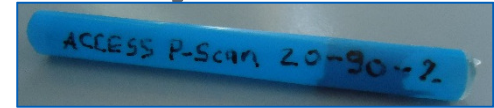
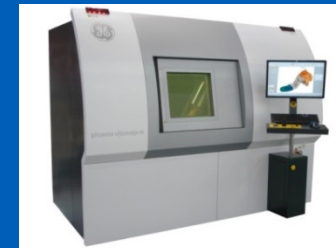


Image stack:

Particle size
analysis

Used μ CT system:

v|tome|x m 300



Additive Manufacturing – example for CT analysis

AM metal powder

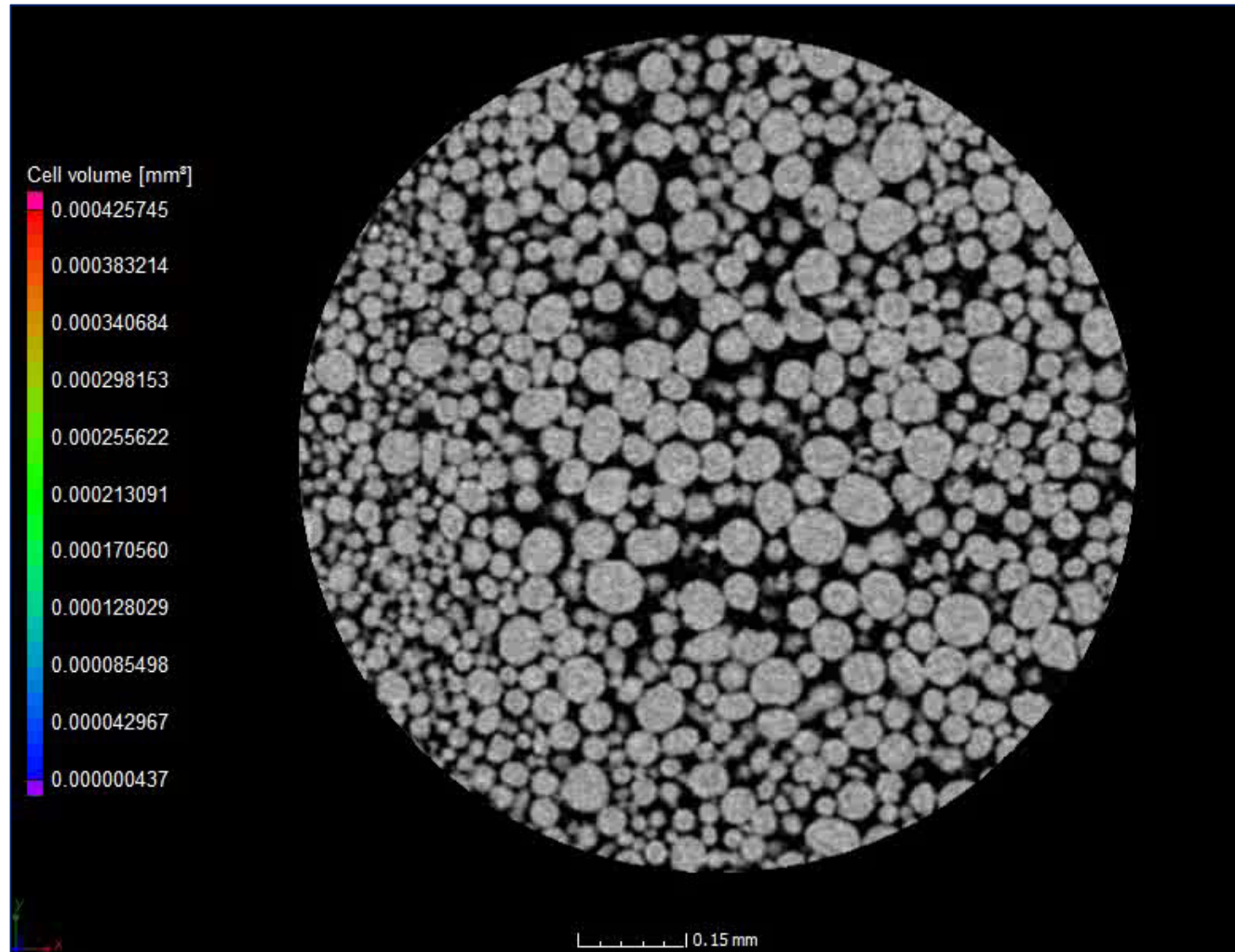
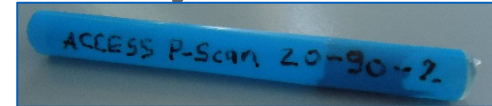
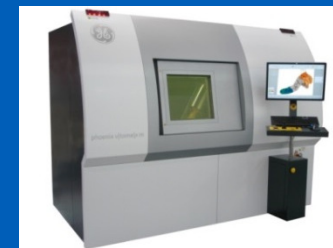


Image stack:

Particle size
analysis
(coloured
segmentation)

Used μ CT system:
v|tome|x m 300





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Example CT Results on AM workpieces

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Conclusion

- Computed Tomography is a leading NDT technique for non-destructive testing of additively manufactured workpieces and complementary to other techniques in use (e.g. in-situ visual inspection, CMM).
- The classical casting/moulding defect types will be substituted by much smaller and new types of failures in AM to be detected by NDT.
- Computed tomography fits the AM industry's needs for quality assurance, if it delivers enough X-ray energy, contrast, resolution & speed.
- Automatic workflows as enabler to production based NDT and in communication with other NDT techniques for AM parts are critical.
- Apart from the standardisation work already done, ISO and ASTM will need to establish guidelines for CT utilisation/interpretation. GE Digital Solutions will be continuously supporting the ASTM WK 47031 Workgroup.

Announcement

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**Come and see our innovative automated CT inspection
solution „v|tome|x m 300“ in hall 3.1, booth # D28.**

Register here for a free entry ticket:

https://www.mesago.de/en/formnext/For_visitors/Tickets/index.htm

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Acknowledgements

We'd like to sincerely thank the following companies for having agreed to show CT results on their AM workpieces:



Premium AEROTEC GmbH
Riesweg 151-155
D-26316 Varel/Germany
www.premium-aerotec.com

University of Paderborn - DMRC
Mersinweg 3
D-33098 Paderborn/Germany
www.dmrc.de



GE Avio S.r.l.
Strada Giuseppe Gabrielli
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Thank you very much for your attention!



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More information at www.gemeasurement.com/CT

...any questions? Please contact me -

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Professional Career:

1985-1996: Wolff Walsrode AG (ex-Bayer, now Dow Chemical) – Sales

1996-1999: Feinfocus Röntgen-Systeme GmbH – Area Sales Manager

1999-2013: phoenix|x-ray GmbH / GE M&C phoenix – Area Sales Manager

2014-6/2017: GE DS Radiography Sales Manager Aerospace Europe

7/2017- : Baker Hughes GE DS Key Account Manager Aerospace Europe