



FFF 3D Printing Masters for Casting and Molding Applications



March 19 – 23, 2017

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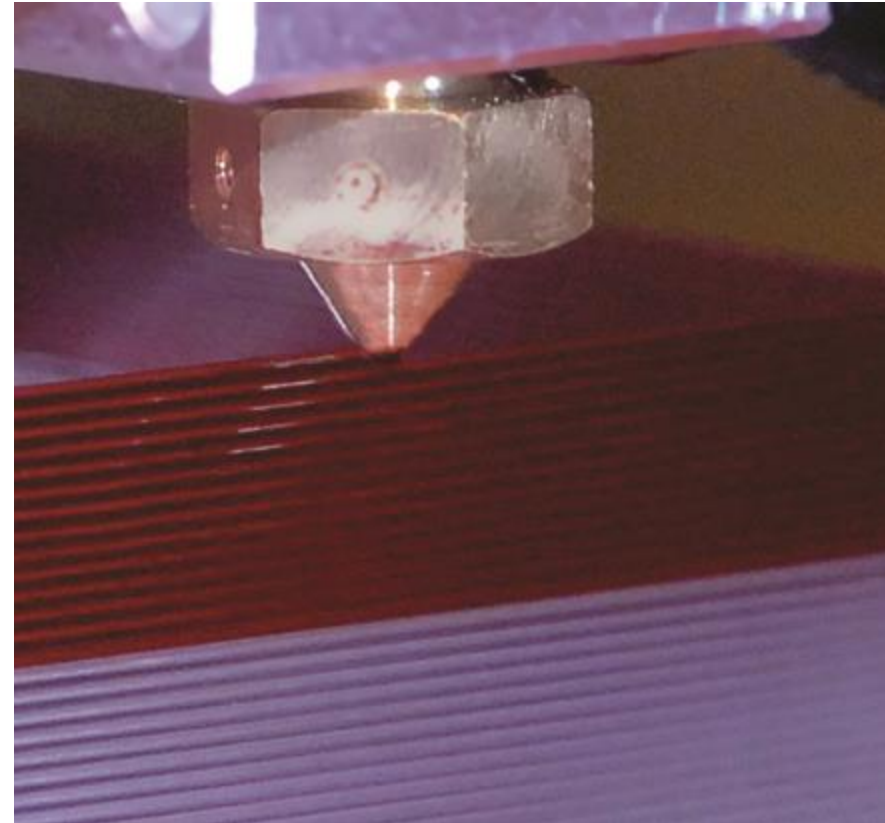
Market Development, 3D Platform

Focus on FFF Process

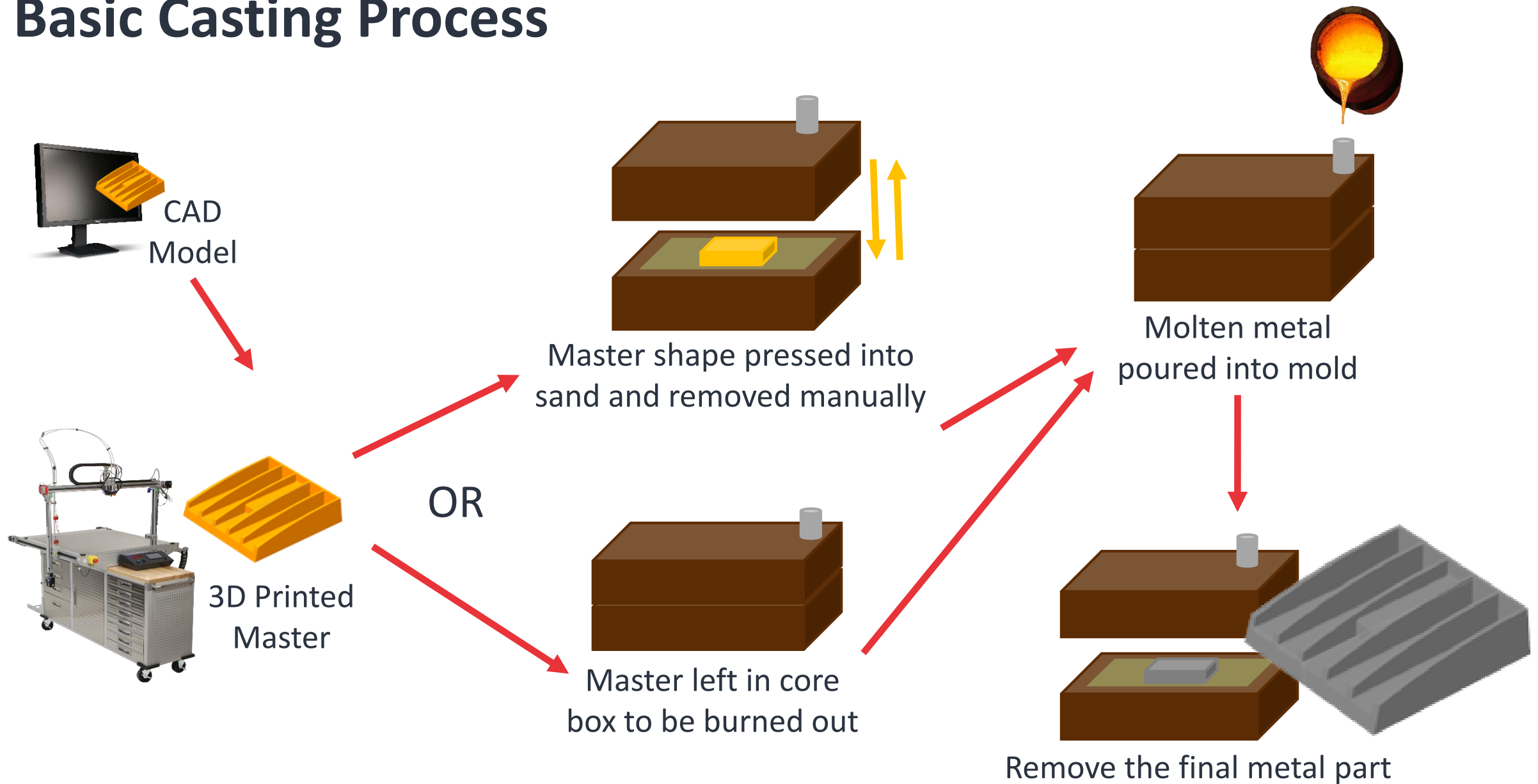
Everything in this presentation is in relation to the

FFF

(fused filament
fabrication)
method of 3D printing



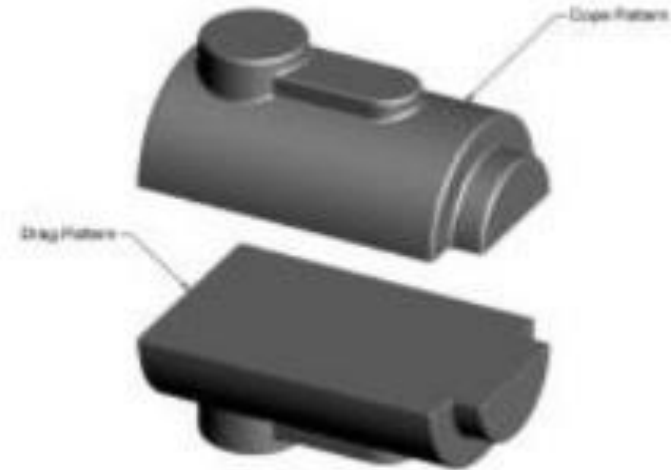
Basic Casting Process



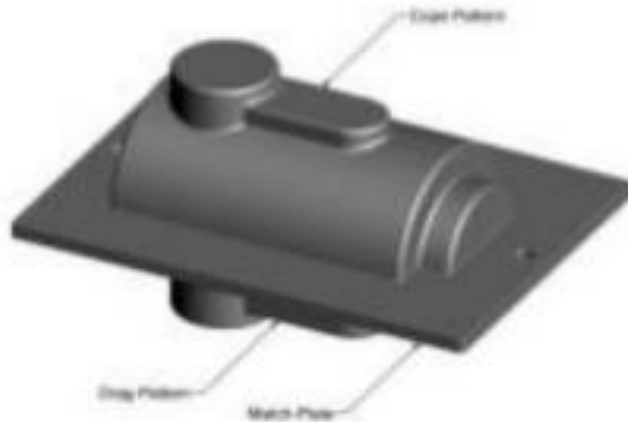
Applies to Various Types of Sand Casting Patterns



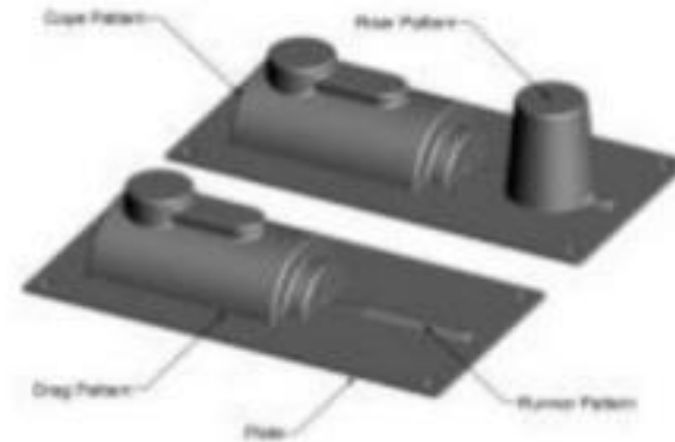
One piece or Solid Pattern



Split Pattern

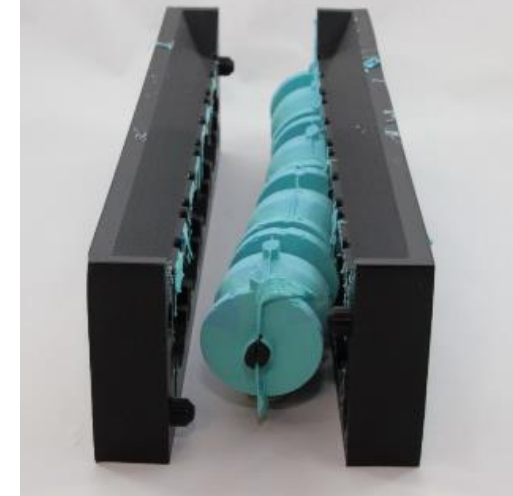
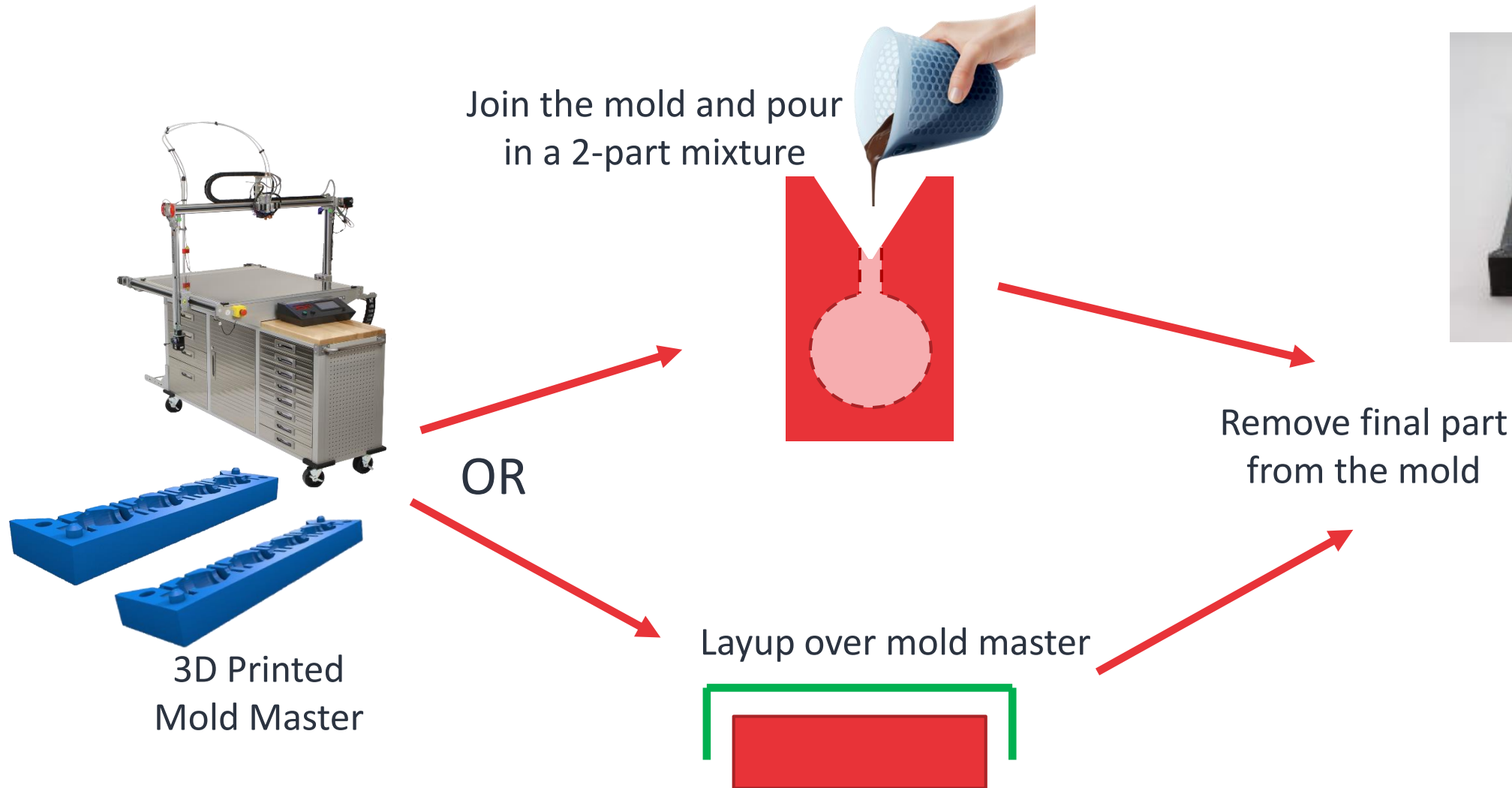


Match Plate Pattern



Cope & Drag Pattern

Basic 2-Part Mold Process



Vibration Dampener Mold for
Quadcopters (2 sizes) by xack
Published on March 25, 2015
www.thingiverse.com/thing/740176



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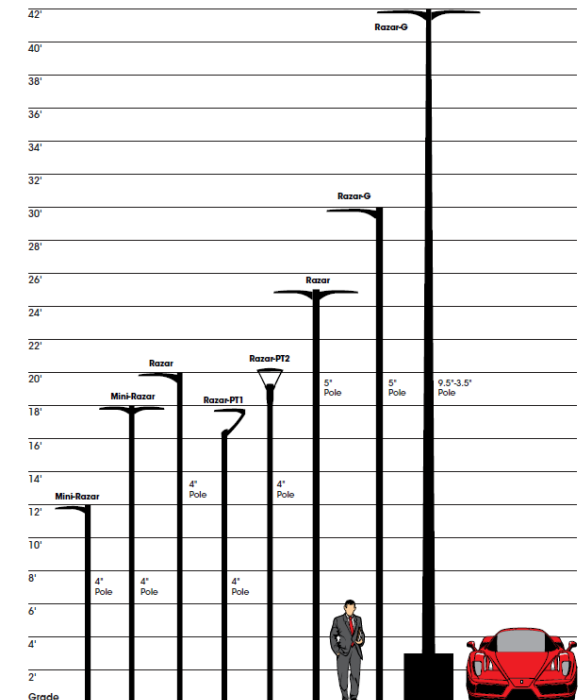


Advantages of 3D Printing for Casting & Molding

- Remove process steps
 - Time savings
 - Cost reductions
- Faster speed to market
- Gain competitive advantage



\$50,000
annually

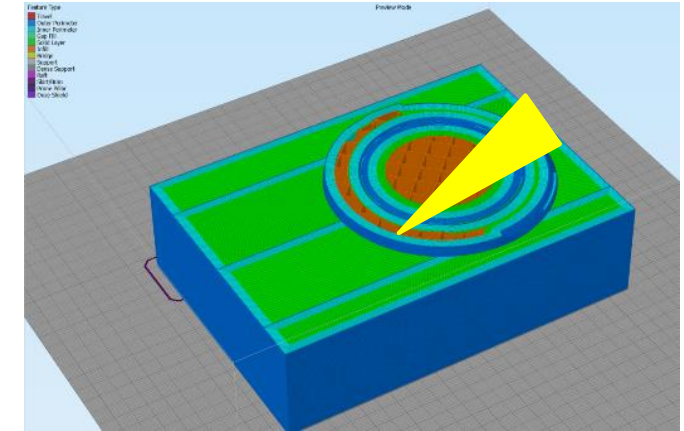
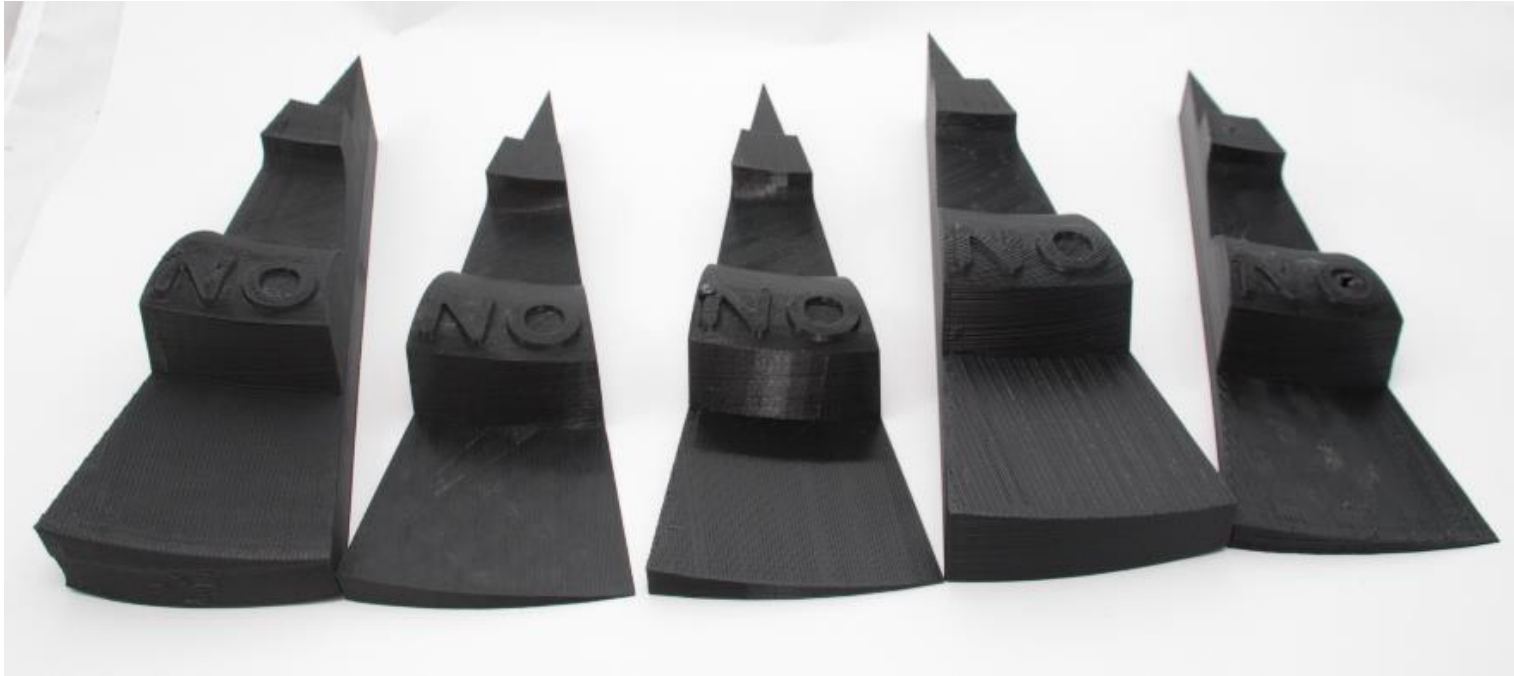


<http://www.usaltg.com/>

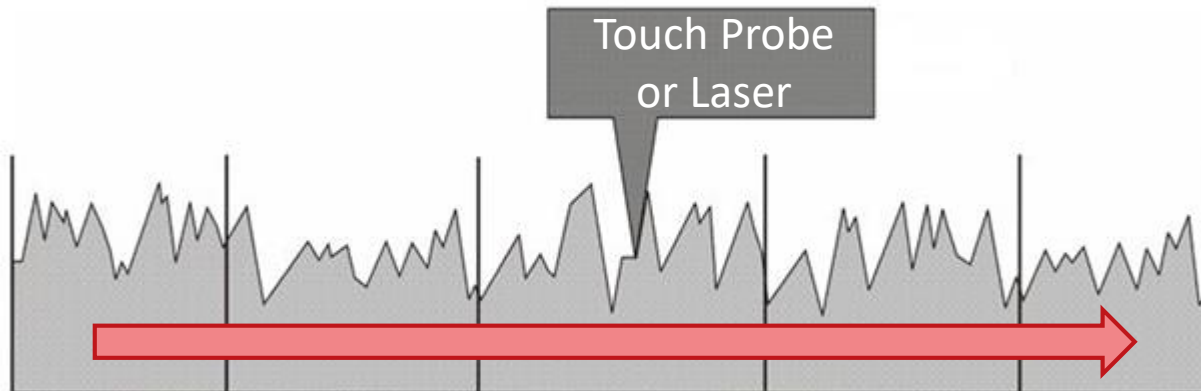
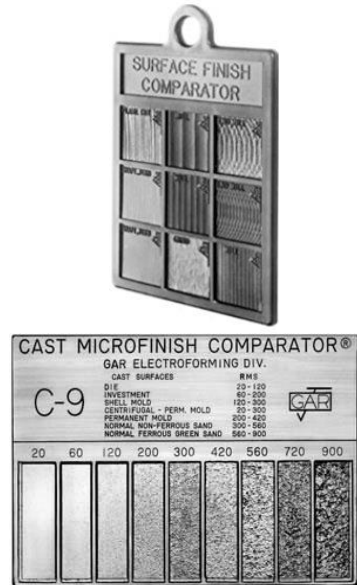
But what
about the
surface finish
of fused
filament 3D
printing?



Surface Finish to Nozzle Size / Layer Height Testing



Surface Finish Check with Profilometer



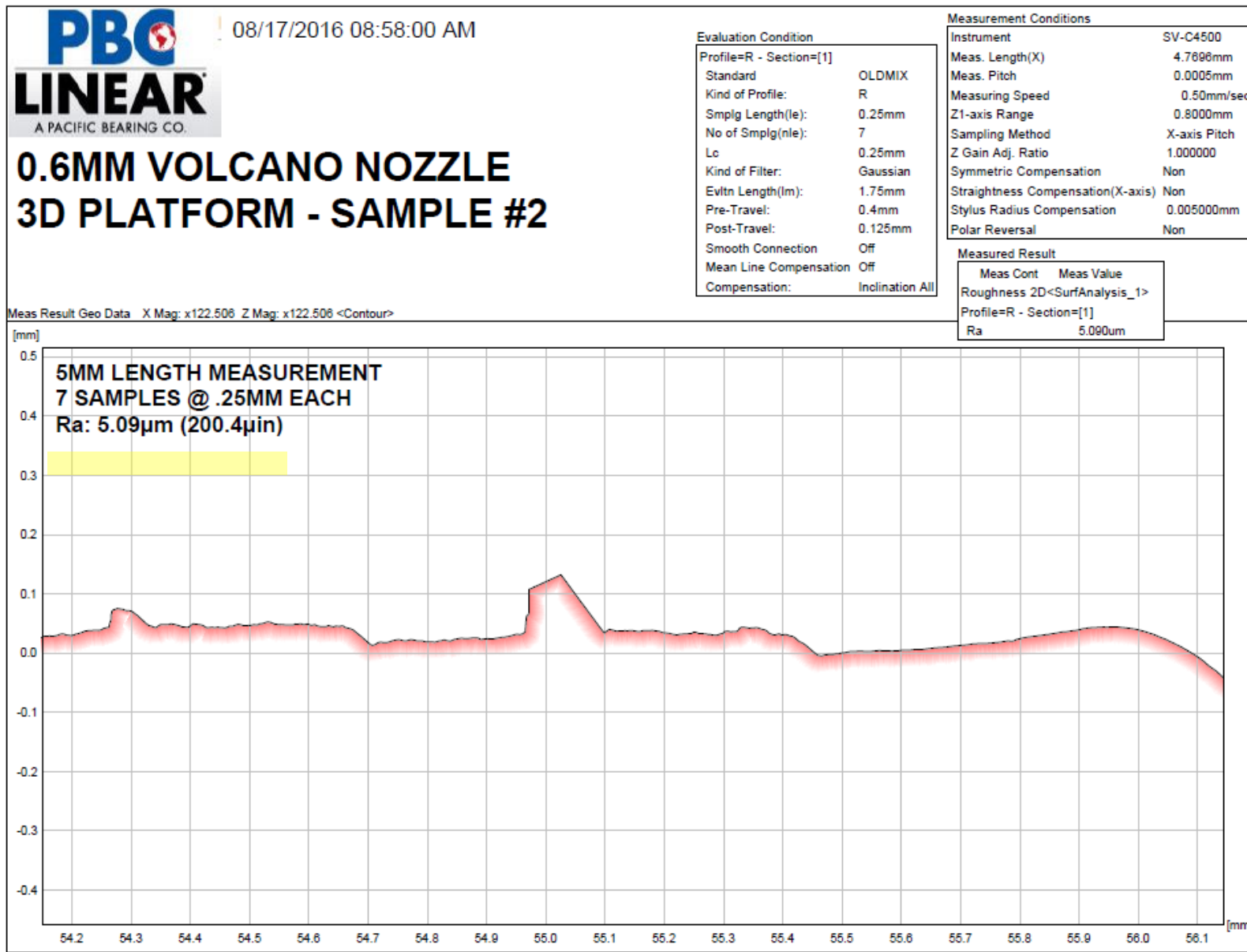
Avg. size in μin or μm

Sample #2

Nozzle	0.6 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	0.63 mm
Layer Height	0.3 mm
Surface Finish	200 μ in

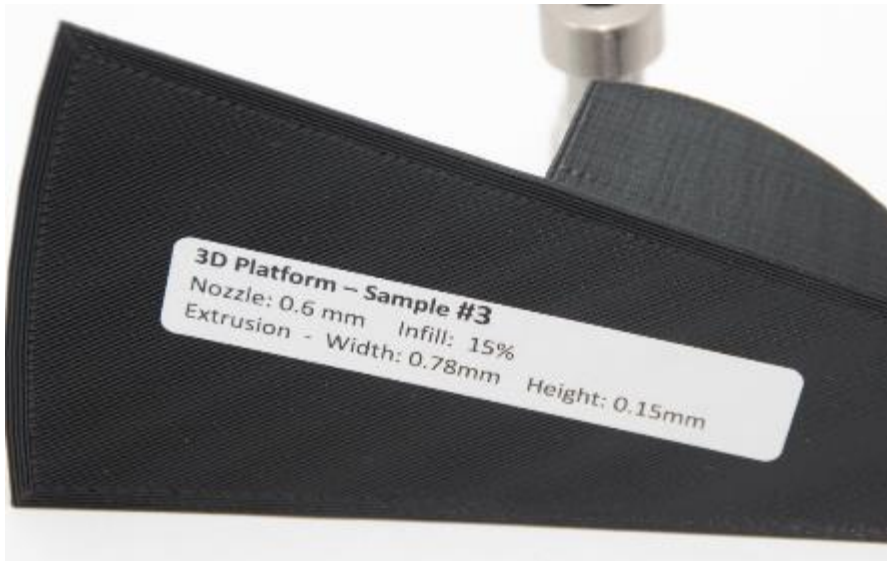


Sample #2

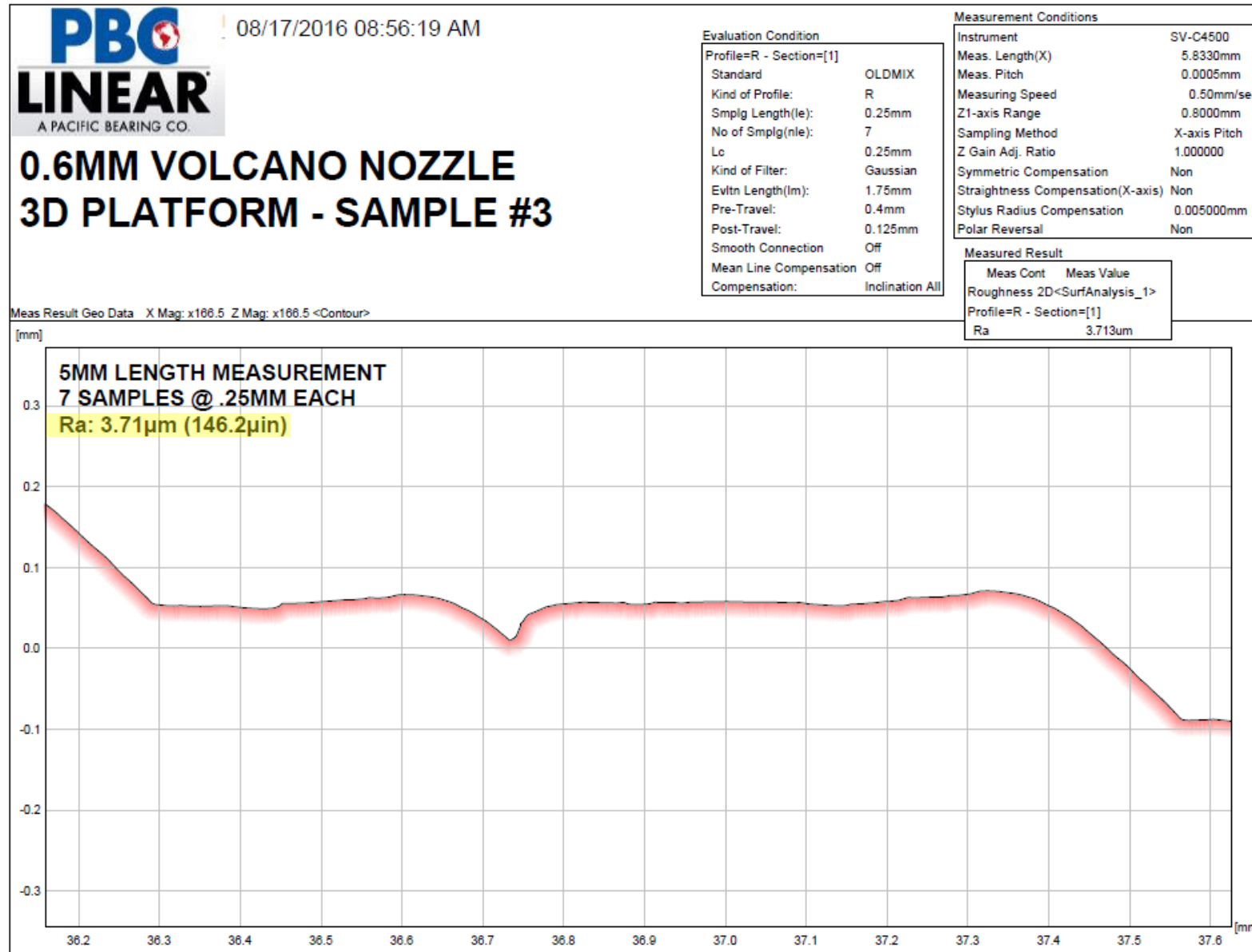


Sample #3

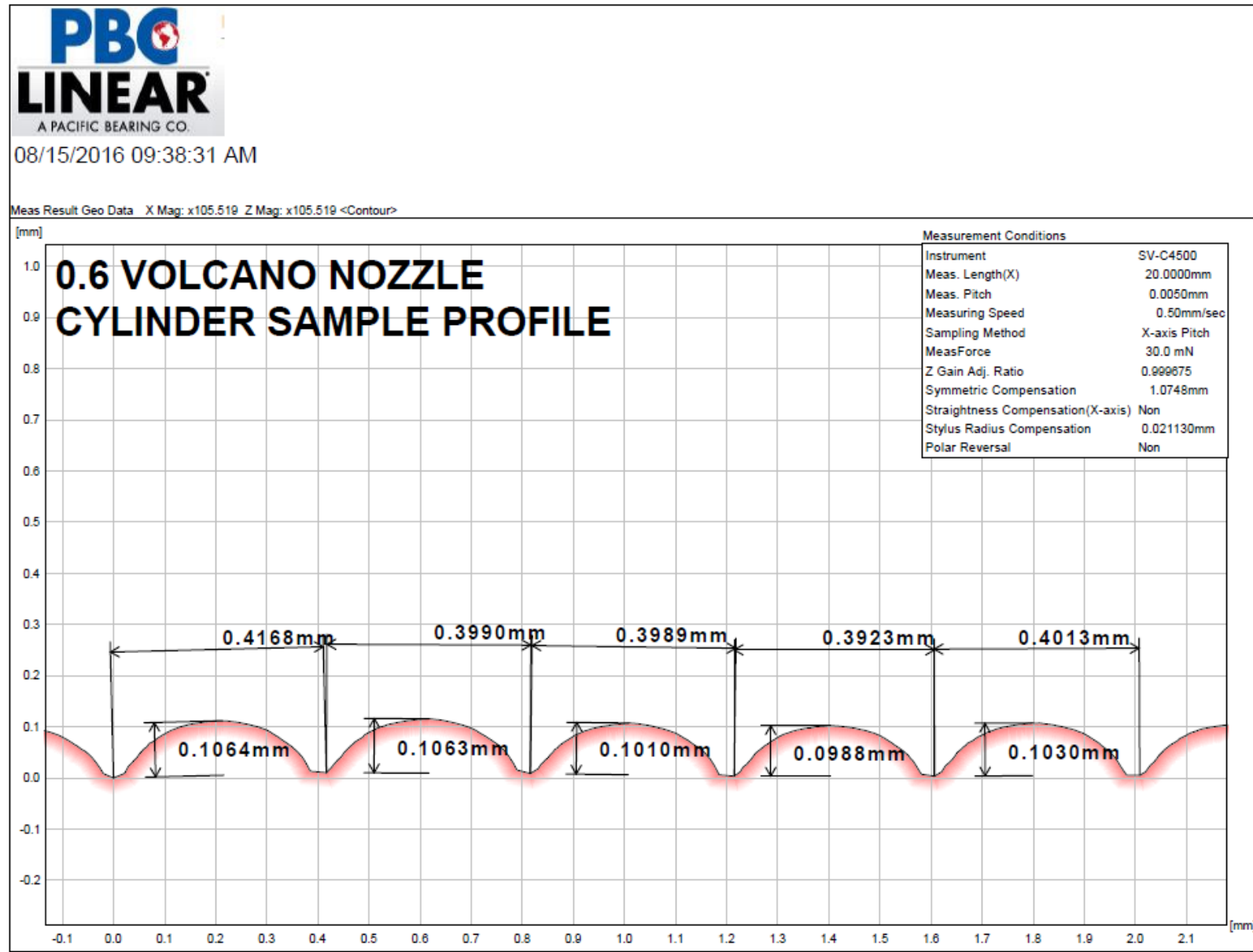
Nozzle	0.6 mm
Infill	15%
Extrusion Width	0.78 mm
Extrusion Height	0.15 mm
Surface Finish	146 μ m



Sample #3



Sample #3

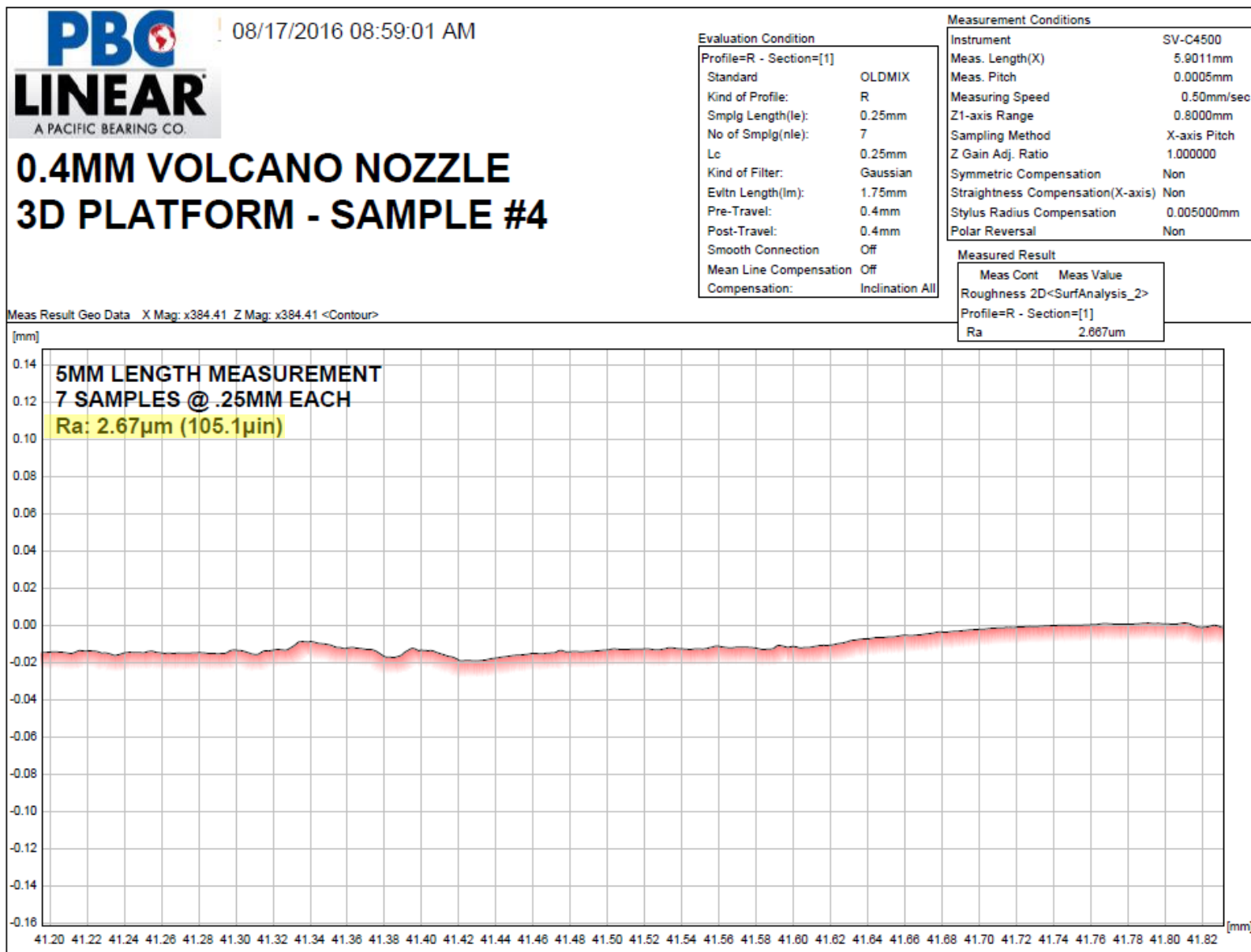


Sample #4

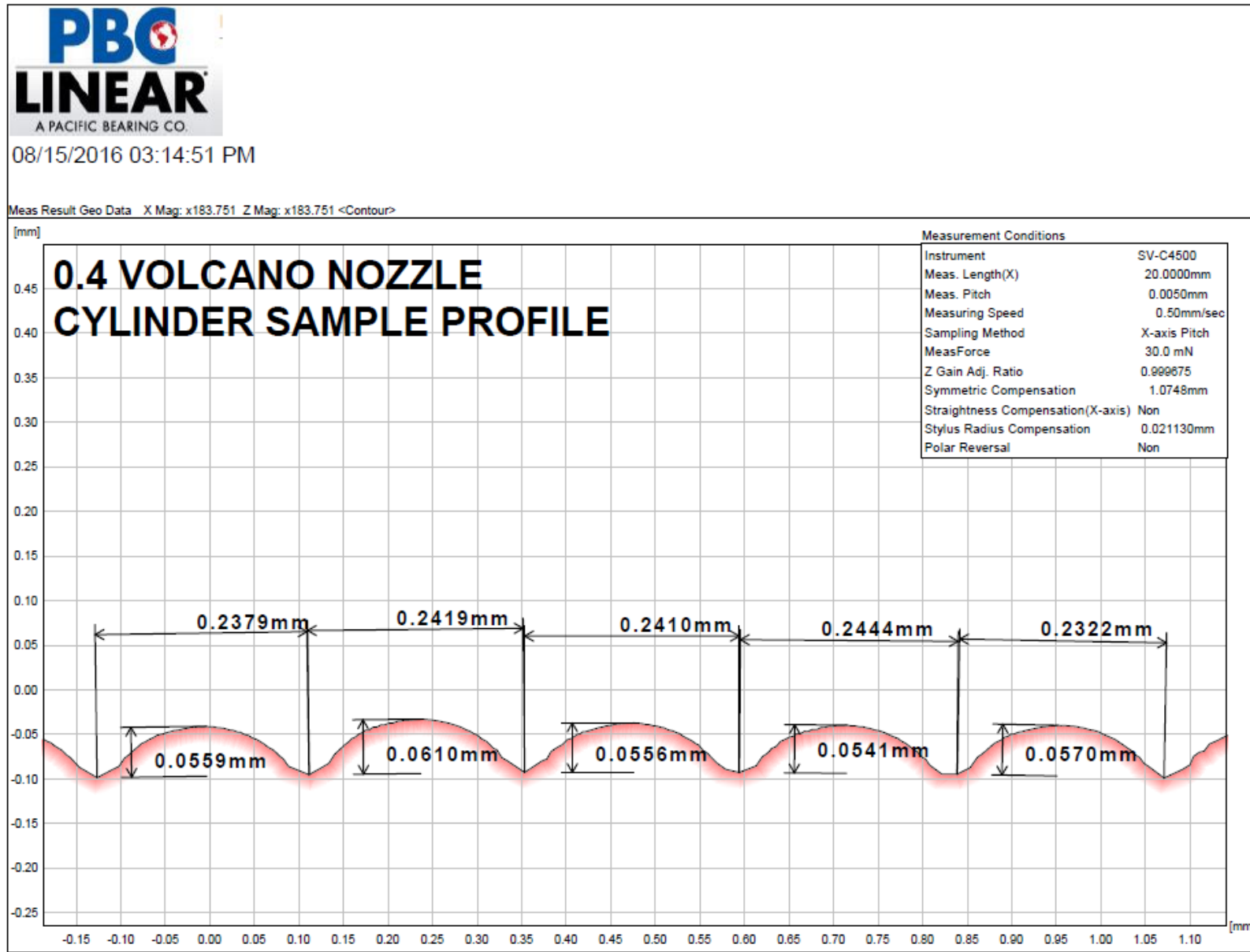
Nozzle	0.4 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	0.46 mm
Extrusion Height	0.1 mm
Surface Finish	105 μ m



Sample #4



Sample #4



1.2mm Nozzle Testing

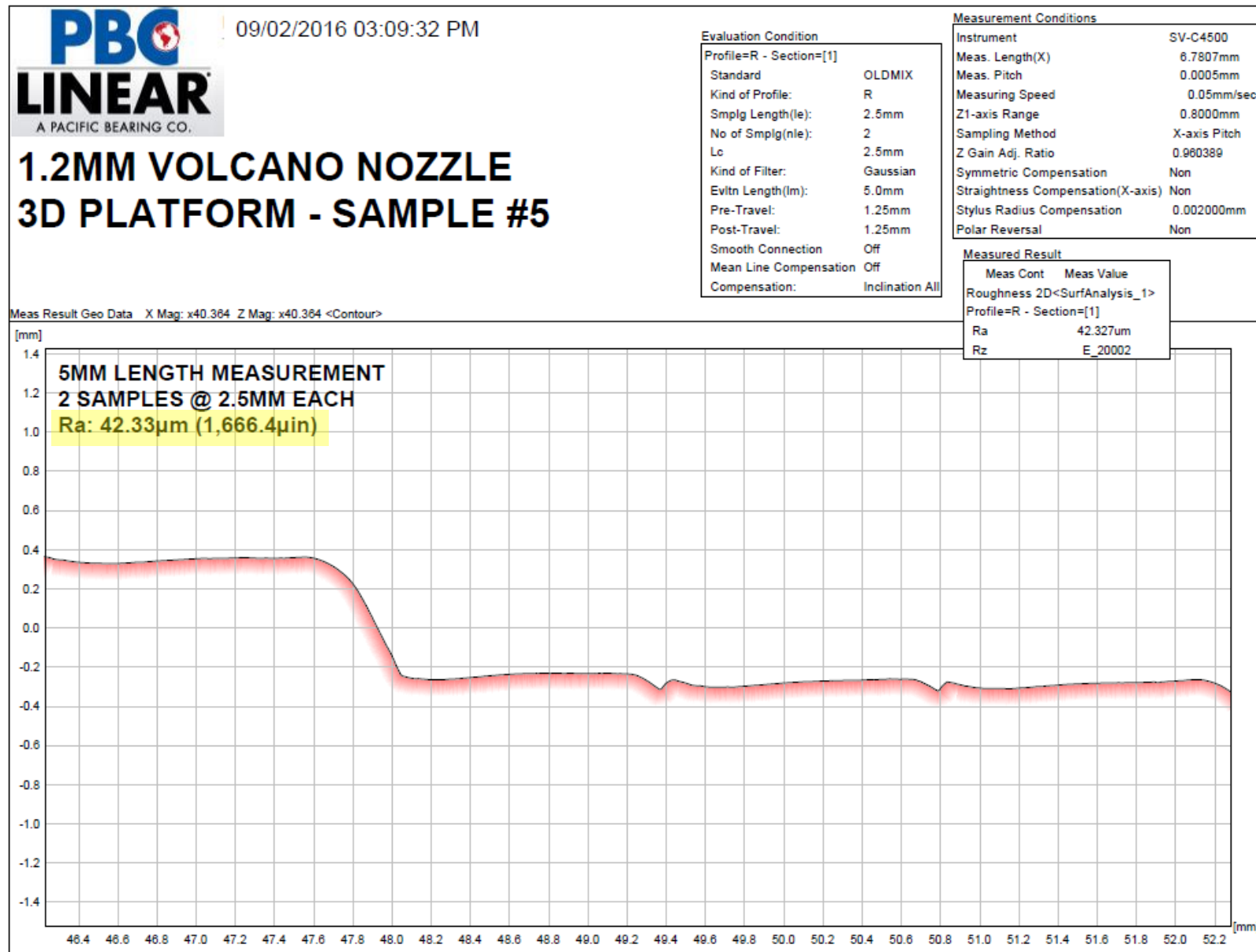


Sample #5

Nozzle	1.2 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm
Extrusion Height	0.6 mm
Surface Finish	1,666 μ m
Note: 6 top, bottom, outside layers	



Sample #5

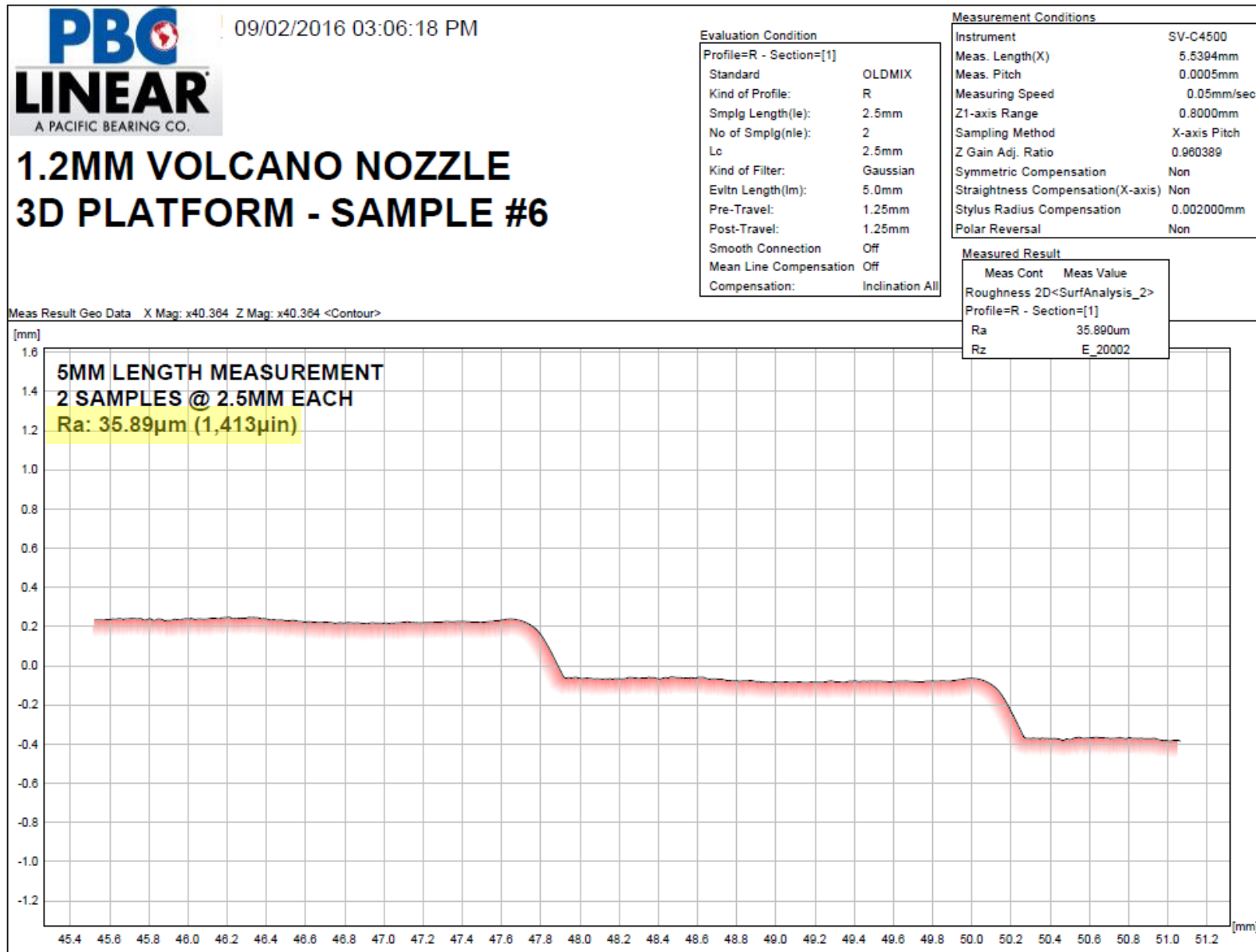


Sample #6

Nozzle	1.2 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm
Extrusion Height	0.3 mm
Surface Finish	1,413 μin
Note: 6 top, bottom, outside layers	



Sample #6

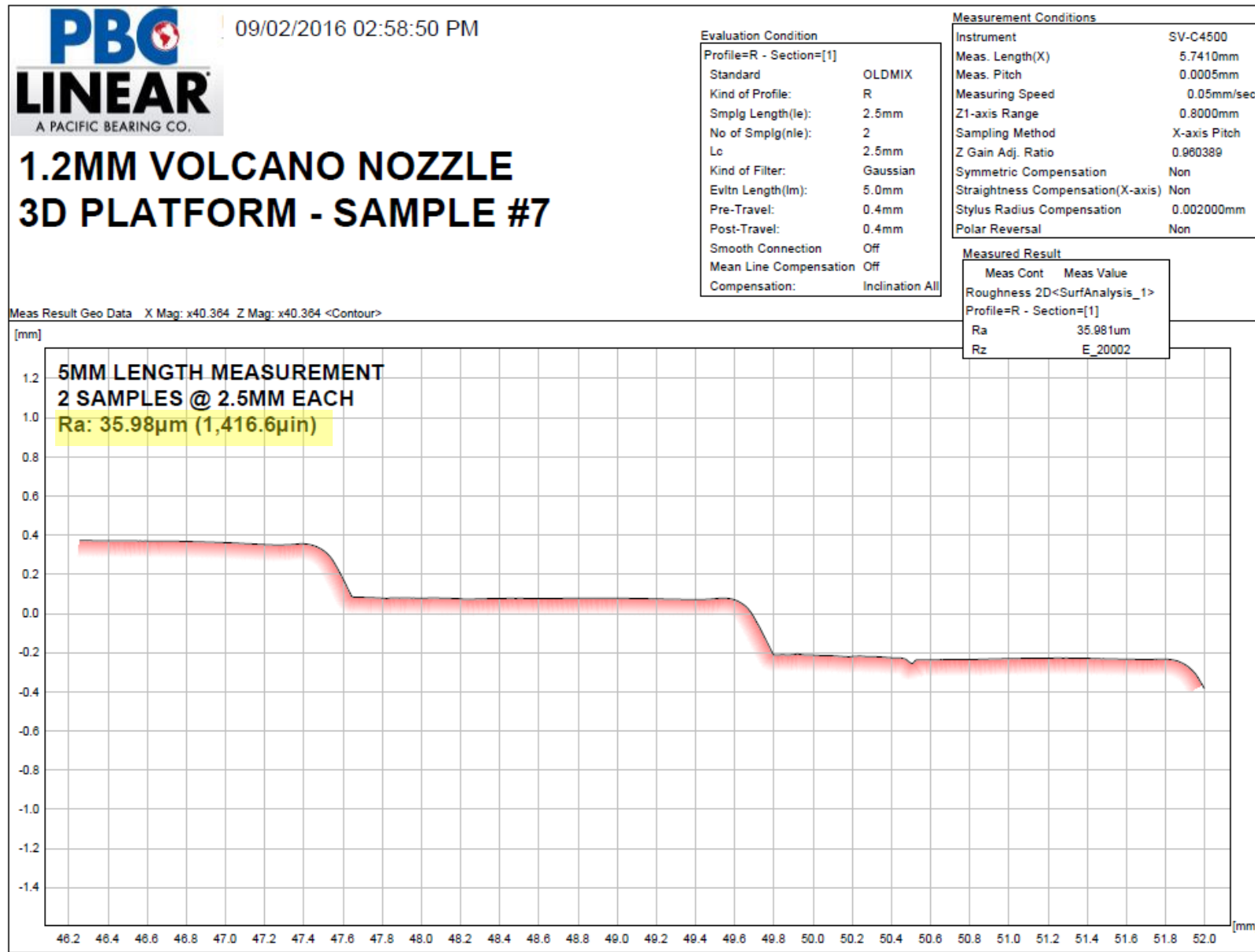


Sample #7

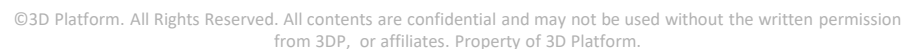
Nozzle	1.2 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm
Extrusion Height	0.3 mm
Surface Finish	1,416 μ in
Note: 10 top, bottom, outside layers	



Sample #7



- 16" wide
- 23" long
- 10" high

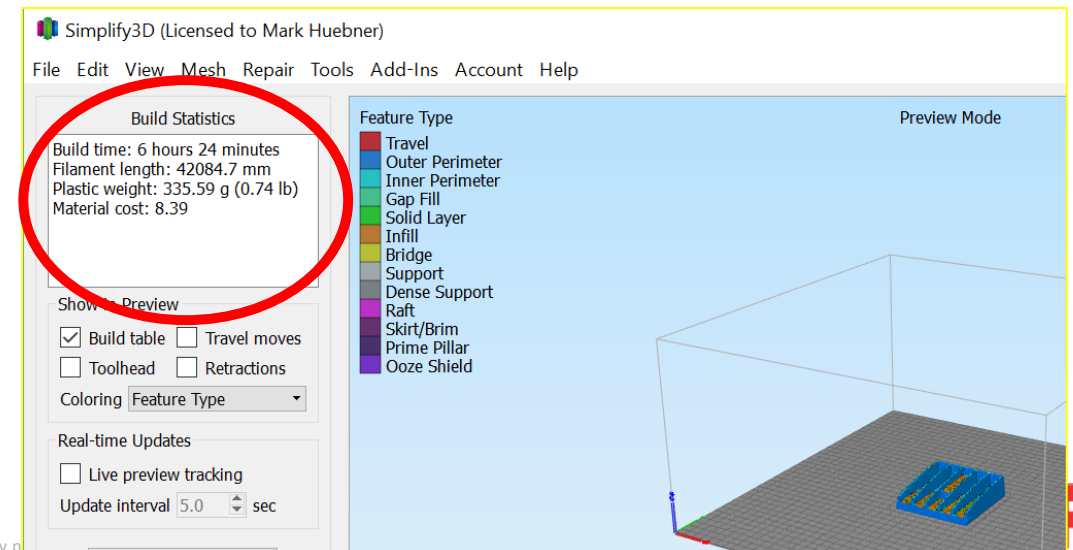
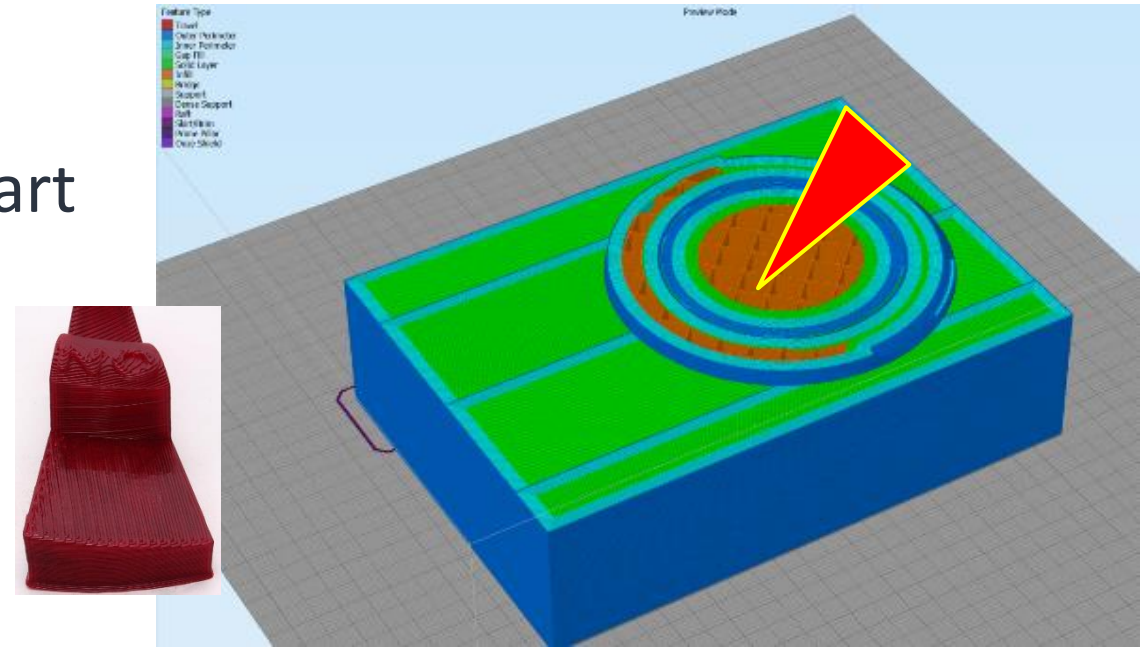


Surface Finish to Print Time Relationship

	Sample #2	Sample #3	Sample #4	Sample #5	Sample #6
Filament Dia. (mm)	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85
Nozzle Dia. (mm)	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.2	1.2
Extrusion Width	0.63	0.78	0.46	1.4	1.4
Layer Height	0.3	0.15	0.1	0.6	0.3
Top Layers	10	10	10	6	6
Bottom Layers	10	10	10	6	6
Perimeter Shells	10	10	10	6	6
Infill %	10	15	10	10	10
Infill Pattern	Grid	Grid	Grid	Grid	Grid
Default Print Speed (mm/min)	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
Surface Finish	200 μ in	146 μ in	105 μ in	1,666 μ in	1,413 μ in
	5.09 μ m	3.71 μ m	2.67 μ m	42.33 μ m	35.98 μ m
Estimated Print Time	171 hours 24 min	271 hours 0 min	547 hours 4 min	44 hours 48 min	80 hours 36 min
	7.1 days	11.3 days	22.8 days	1.875 days	3.4 days

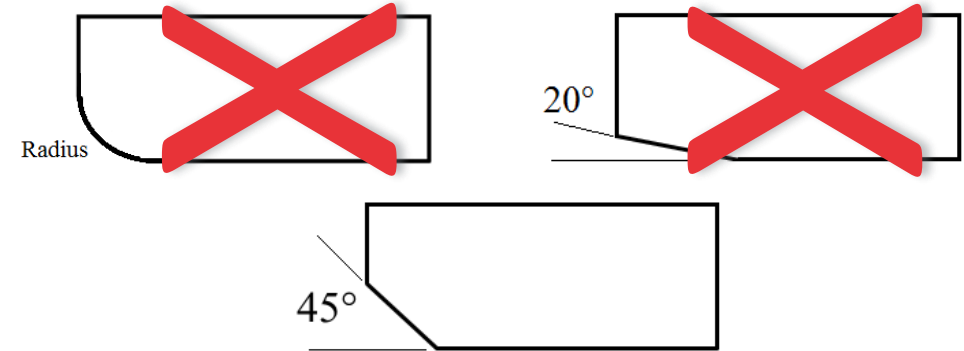
Analytic Methodology

- Test settings on a section of the part
- Adjust **1 setting** at a time
 - Layer height, extrusion width, temperature, etc.
- Run simulations on the full part to analyze print times



Design the Part for FFF 3D Printing

- Vertical surfaces produce best surface finish
- Change curves or shallow angles to 45° when possible
- Eliminate support material and minimize scarring printing at 45°



Ways to Use Post-Processing

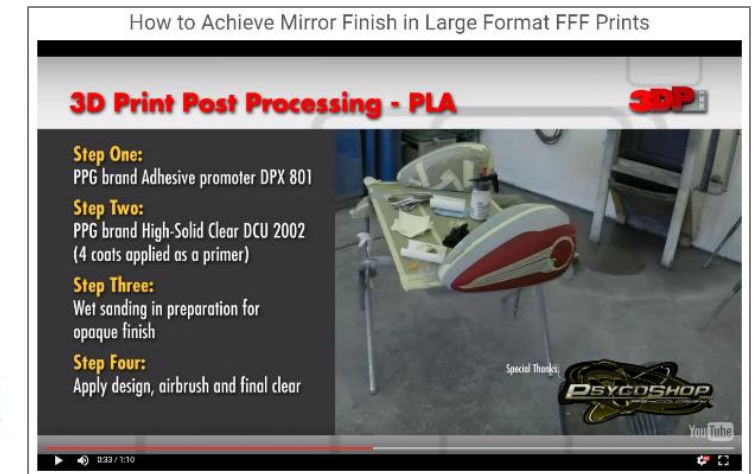
- Fill and sanding
- Material smoothing
 - ABS with acetone vapor
 - Smooth-On treatment
 - www.smooth-on.com
- Automotive techniques / High-build primer



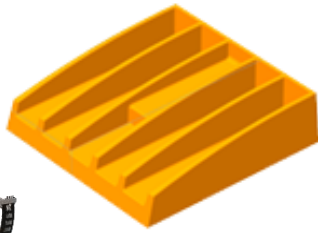
Video Links:

How to Achieve Mirror Finish in Large Format FFF Prints: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA42OFMo-SU>

Post Processing in 3D Printing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc-zTKs4_1Y

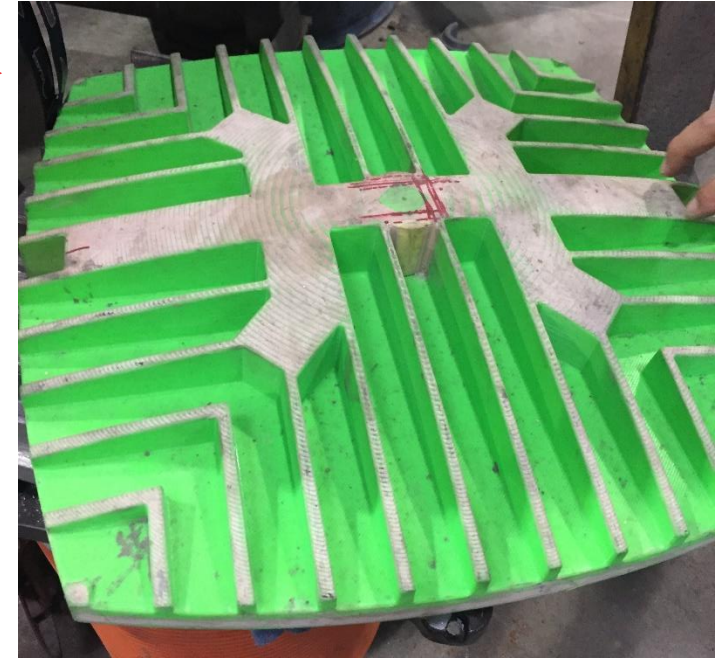


Casting Example



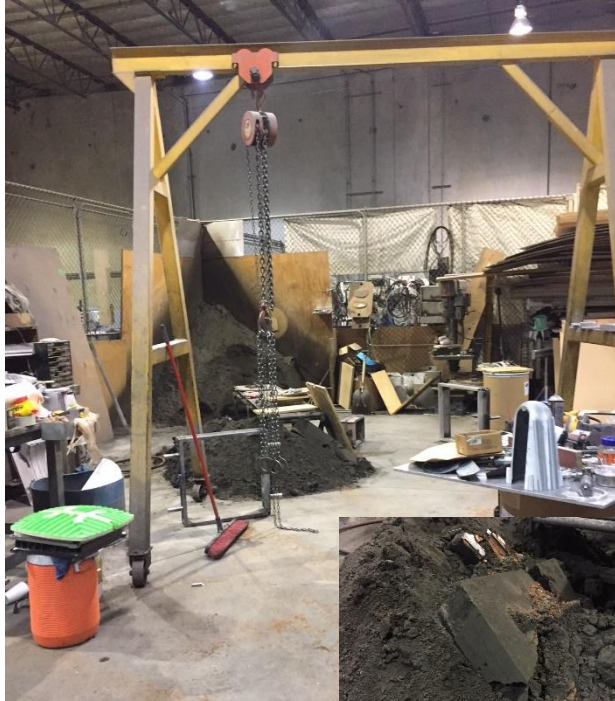
3D Printed
Master

Fill and sand lightly as needed

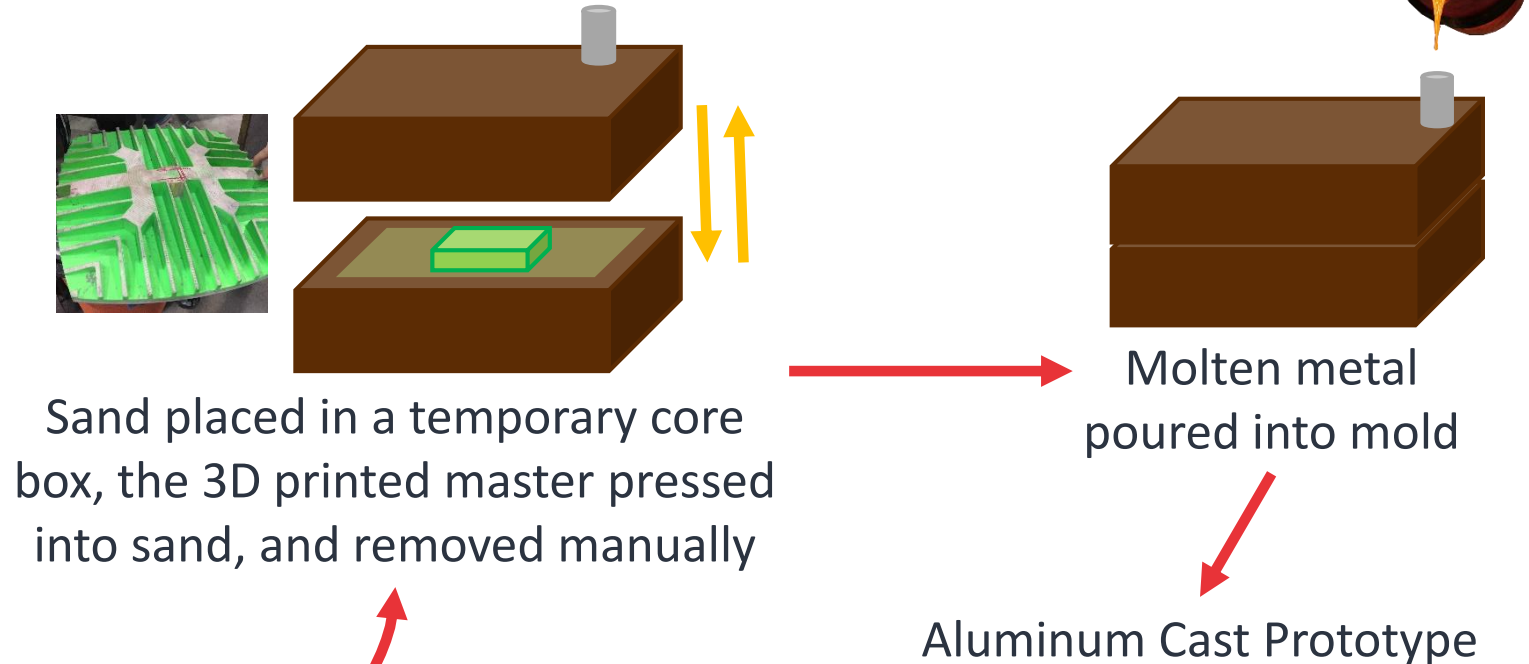


Printed part ready for
prototype shop

Casting Example

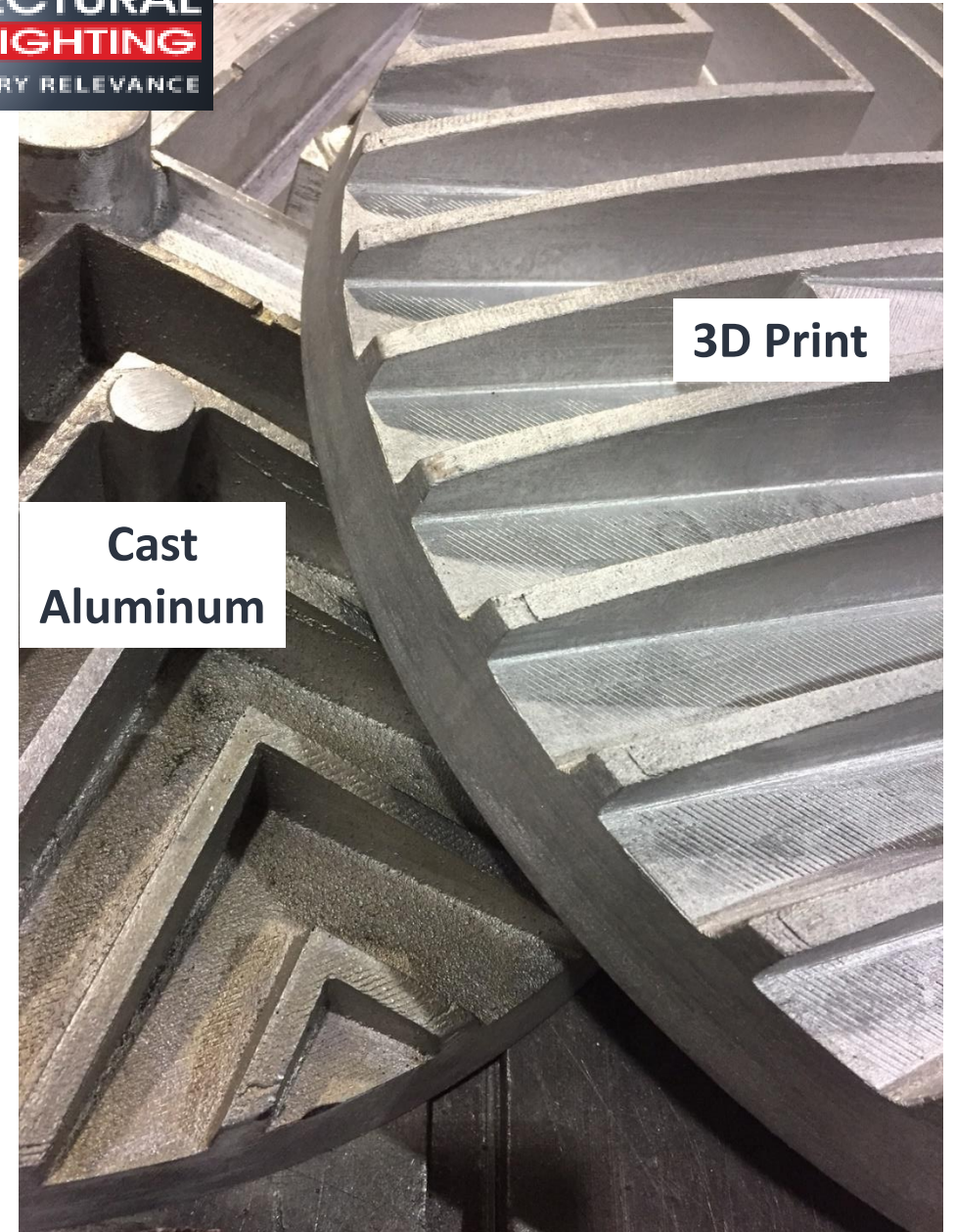


Prototype Shop



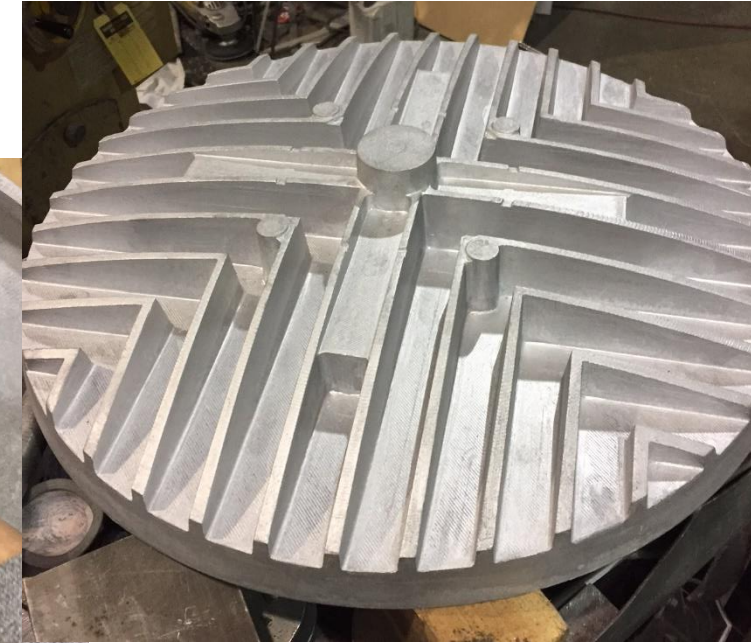
Casting Example

- Final sanding on metal cast piece before final mold created for high volume production
- Metal allows for easier use of tools
 - Die grinder
 - Power sander
 - Plays to metal working skills



The Bottom Line

- Old Way
 - Outside service bureau
 - Fragile SLA parts
 - 2-3 week lead time
 - Avg. cost - \$3,000 per part
- **NEW Way**
 - 3D print strong PLA parts in house
 - Lead time cut to 2-3 days
 - 40+ projects completed in year one
 - Savings - **\$50,000 annually**
 - Decreased lead time for customer
 - Gained competitive advantage



"In what we saved versus going outside to have things printed, the machine paid for itself within six months."

Tim Carraher, Lead Engineer

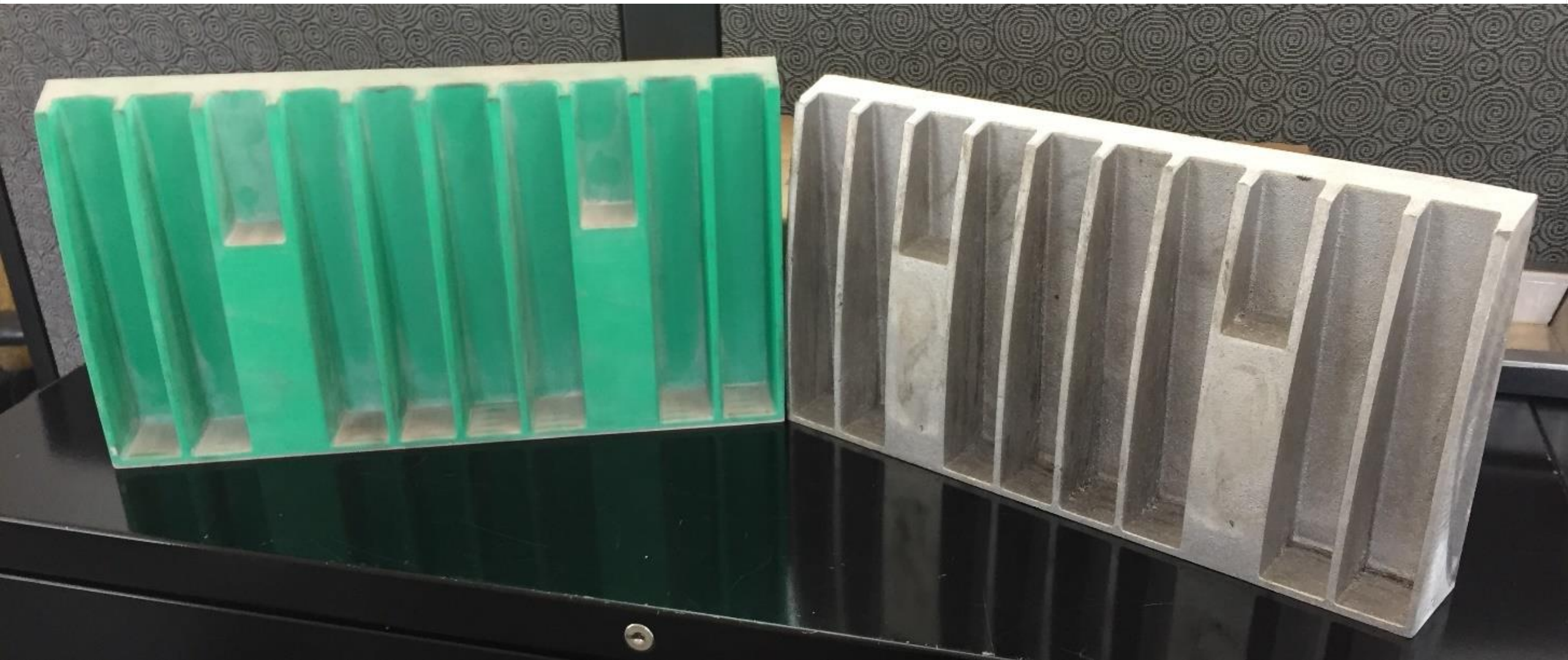


3D Printed PLA Masters



Cast Aluminum Prototypes

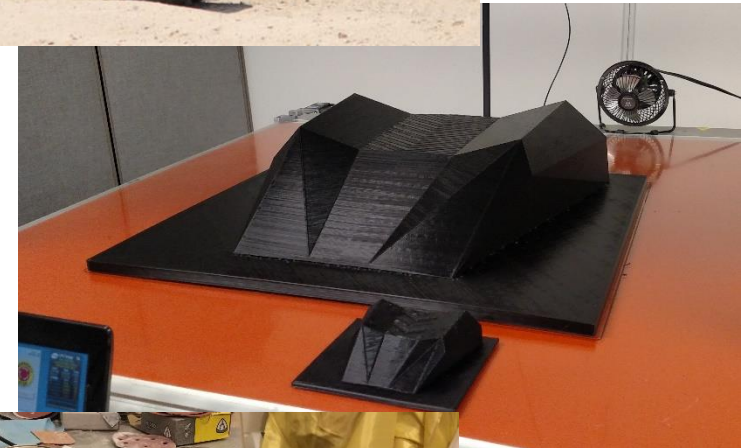




UMBC Mold Application

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

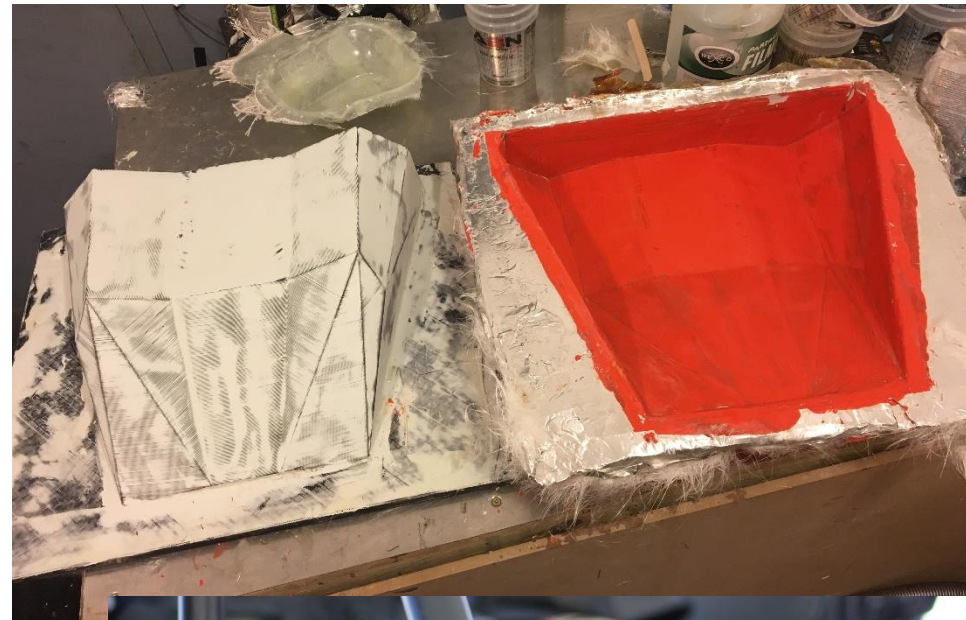
- UMBC chapter of SAE Race Team
- Process used ...
 - 3D printed mold master
 - Light fill and sanding
 - Sealed with spray gel coat
 - Layup carbon fiber reinforced hood
 - Remove from mold
 - Trim, sand and paint to finish



UMBC Mold Application

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

- Old Way
 - Shape master by hand with a variety of materials
 - Process would take weeks to months
 - Difficult to hold accuracy
- **NEW Way**
 - 3D print PLA part in 2 days
 - Had carbon fiber layup in less than 1 week
 - Highly accurate shape due to controlled print of master





New and Developing Materials



- PolySmooth™ and Polysher™
 - Made smooth in alcohol mist / atomizer
 - <http://www.polymaker.com/shop/polysmoothpolysher/>
- PolyCast™
 - Can be smoothed with Polysher™
 - Complete clean burnout
 - <http://www.polymaker.com/home/polycast-info/>





New and Developing Materials

- Graphene
 - Clean burnout with pure graphene
 - Testing with graphene blended materials such as Haydale enhanced PLA
 - <http://www.haydale.com/solutions/3d-printing-solutions/>
 - <http://shop.3dfilaprint.com/graphene-enhanced-pla-285mm-3d-printer-filament-750gms-8527-p.asp>



- Wax Filament from MachineableWax.com
 - Can be sculpted and shaped after printing
 - Clean burnout from mold
 - <http://www.machinablewax.com/product.php?product=52>

