

Press Release

May 19, 2021

Forward AM Innovation Award

Four Finalist Startups Selected to Accelerate Innovation with Additive Manufacturing

- » **Major global contest for startups with innovative, sustainable and scalable business concepts using 3D printing**
- » **Four Finalist AM concepts to be judged and coached by a stellar team of sponsors: AMPOWER, AMT, Autodesk, HP, Photocentric, Sculpteo, and Ultimaker**
- » **AM Ventures, BASF Venture Capital GmbH, Deloitte, and Women in 3D Printing also providing support**
- » **The Finals will take place virtually on June 30, 2021**

Forward AM, the BASF 3D Printing Solutions brand, launched the 'Forward AM Innovation Award' in January 2021, the very first global contest for startups developing new applications with 3D printing. The application phase closed in March, with a total of 145 applications from 36 countries. The concepts submitted range from medical industry applications, through consumer goods and industrial-scale engineering, to the automotive sector.

In the semi-finals in April, the top 16 selected startups pitched in front of a jury of industry leaders: Forward AM, AMPOWER, AMT, Autodesk, HP, Photocentric, Sculpteo, and Ultimaker, along with AM Ventures, BASF Venture Capital GmbH,

Deloitte and Women in 3D Printing. Sponsors and supporters of the contest are closely working together to accelerate the adoption of Additive Manufacturing by supporting entrepreneurs leveraging the unique possibilities of 3D printing.

“On purpose, BASF 3D Printing Solutions is designed as startup by BASF New Business where we live by a strong start up culture. Startups take a blue-sky approach to new applications and market opportunities, without any inflexible legacy structures that may constrain the development and adoption of new techniques and technologies. We already know that startups are harnessing the advantages of Additive Manufacturing to disrupt a broad spectrum of industries and are significantly accelerating the adoption of 3D printing”, says François Minec, Managing Director BASF 3D Printing Solutions. “Our warmest thanks to all the Forward AM Innovation Award sponsors and supporters who share our passion and vision!”

The four Forward AM Innovation Award Finalists are the following:

Cosm Medical: The Canadian startup founded in 2017 focuses on pelvic floor issues such as incontinence and prolapse, a common global women's health issue. Their 3D printed silicone-based pessaries show a higher success rate than traditional ones, thanks to a combination of personalized design process using ultrasound, Artificial Intelligence and Additive Manufacturing.

HILOS: The US startup founded in 2019 aims to reinvent the footwear industry with Additive Manufacturing. Their approach combines a blend of 3D printing and hand craftsmanship to drive a new generation of additive footwear, produced locally and sustainably. Their process uses 80 percent less water than the traditional approach.

SYOS (Shape Your Own Sound): The French startup founded in 2016 creates 3D printed custom saxophone mouthpieces that enable musicians to shape their own unique sound. World-famous musicians are already adopting their solution.

WYVE: The French startup founded in 2019 creates 3D printed surfboards from recycled plastics. With a unique honeycomb design, they are easy to repair and lightweight, bringing sustainability and advanced functionality to a traditionally rather pollutive industrial process.

Each Finalist startup will receive EUR 20,000 to be redeemed in materials, equipment, software or services of their choice from the sponsors' catalog. They will also have access to one-on-one coaching sessions with sponsors' experts in AM and entrepreneurship.

On June 30, the Finals will take place in an online event. The Forward AM Innovation Award has been designed to accelerate 3D printing startups that are innovative, scalable, and sustainable. At the Finals, the winning startup will receive the Grand Prize of EUR 80,000 in goods and services to choose from the sponsors' catalog.

The contest is flanked by two further awards: The Deloitte Sustainability Award offers EUR 10,000 in cash to the startup with the best sustainability strategy, while the Public's Choice Award will reward the startup that wins the audience's vote during the Finals on June 30th with an extra EUR 15,000 in goods and services.

The winner will also have the opportunity to meet the venture capital experts of AM Ventures and BASF Venture Capital GmbH in a dedicated personal session.

Free ticket registration is now open via move.forward-am.com/award to attend the finals on June 30, from 5 – 8 p.m. CEST. The four Finalists will pitch their project live in front of the jury and the attendees, who will be able to vote for their favorite project. Discover more on social media about this first-ever global contest in Additive Manufacturing, under #ForwardAMaward.

About BASF 3D Printing Solutions

BASF 3D Printing Solutions GmbH, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, is a 100% subsidiary of BASF New Business GmbH. It focuses on establishing and expanding the business under the Forward AM brand with advanced materials, system solutions, components and services in the field of 3D printing. BASF 3D Printing Solutions is organized into startup-like structures to serve customers in the dynamic 3D printing market. It cooperates closely with the global research platforms and application technologies of various departments at BASF as well as with research institutes, universities, startups, and industrial partners. Potential customers are primarily companies that intend to use 3D printing for industrial manufacturing. Typical industries include automotive, aerospace, and consumer goods. For further information please visit: www.forward-am.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 110,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €59 billion in 2020. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at www.basf.com.