

November 28, 2005

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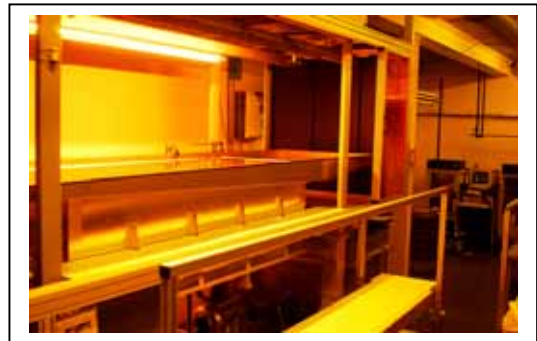
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DSM Somos® ProtoFunctional® Materials Help Fuel Continued Success of Large-Frame Stereolithography Technology from Materialise NV

Elgin, Illinois, November 28, 2005 — With help from DSM Somos ProtoFunctional stereolithography (SL) resins, European rapid prototyping service bureau Materialise NV is expanding capacity for its large-frame SL machines, after more than five years of unprecedented success with the technology.

Materialise's patented "Mammoth" technology (as it is known in-house) produces single-piece prototypes as large as 2100 x 680 x 800 mm, using Somos 9120 and Somos WaterShed 11120 resins exclusively. The resins are used for their particular ability to generate accurate, stable parts which closely mimic the performance properties of production plastics.

Mammoth technology has enjoyed overwhelming industry response since Materialise unveiled its first large-frame SL machine at EuroMold 2000 in Frankfurt Germany. Today, "Our strongest demand is for automotive interior and exterior components such as dashboards and bumpers," says Materialise



Materialise NV has seen rapid growth in demand for its "Mammoth" technology. The company now offers a capacity of up to 2100x680x800 mm for single-piece large parts made from DSM Somos ProtoFunctional® SL resins.



One of the first single-piece large parts to be built on the Mammoth with Somos 9120 polypropylene-like resin: an automobile dashboard, weighing approximately 60 kg.

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Prototyping Division Manager Bart Van der Schueren (though the company regularly services a number of other industry sectors). "Large, single-piece SL parts are much more stable and rigid than units comprised of multiple smaller parts. That makes them particularly useful for functional testing."

Van der Schueren credits the use of DSM Somos ProtoFunctional stereolithography resins for much of Mammoth technology's success. "Our ability to offer these parts has been greatly facilitated by the availability of materials—specifically the polypropylene-like Somos 9120 and the ABS-like WaterShed® resin," he says. "These resins are consistently proving their value, not only in terms of accuracy and surface quality, but, most importantly, in stability over time."

Though many of Materialise's clients already have their own in-house prototyping capabilities, they often turn to the service bureau when larger prototypes are needed. Such was the case with Plastic Omnium Auto Exterior, a global leader in the design and manufacture of automobile bumpers, fenders, body panels and body modules. In 2003, the company introduced an entirely new design concept of fixing headlights to a bumper instead of onto the vehicle itself. One year later, project leaders needed a functional bumper skin prototype in order to be able to demonstrate the technology to automotive manufacturers. The demonstration bumper was finally made on one of Materialise's Mammoth machines, using Somos 9120 polypropylene-like resin.

"When we had previously needed such a large prototype, we had to make do with hand-assembled parts that took ages to get hold of, as well as a technique that did not allow us to obtain the correct thickness or technical functions," says Robert Jantet, Prototyping Manager at Plastic Omnium. "Today, we have the luxury of getting large SL parts that are much more representative delivered in record times. Our confidence in the technology, and the fact that Materialise proposed a functional material similar to polypropylene, convinced us to go for it. In the end, it was a success."

Plastic Omnium's new concept of fixing headlights onto an automobile bumper instead of the vehicle itself, was first introduced at the IAA in 2003. To demonstrate the new technology to auto manufacturers in 2004, a single-piece prototype was created by Materialise on the Mammoth. Large single-piece parts are more stable and rigid than multiple assembled parts, facilitating functional testing and assembly trials.



More About DSM Somos®

DSM Somos is a leading materials supplier to the rapid prototyping industry, providing stereolithography liquids used for the creation of three-dimensional models and prototypes directly from digital data. Somos' patented ProtoFunctional® materials are used by a variety of industries, including automotive, aerospace, medical and telecommunications. Somos' corporate office is located at: 1122 St. Charles Street, Elgin, Illinois, USA, Tel. +1-847-697-0400, Americas@dmsomos.info . For more information on DSM Somos® in Europe: Fax. +39 06 9871694, Europe@dmsomos.info

DSM Somos (www.dmsomos.com) is an unincorporated subsidiary of DSM Desotech Inc. (www.dsmdesotech.com)—a world leader in the development of UV-curable materials—and a member of the global DSM family.

About DSM

DSM (www.dsm.com) is active worldwide in life science products, performance materials and industrial chemicals. The group develops, produces and markets innovative products and services that are designed to raise the quality of life. DSM's products are used in a wide range of end-use markets and applications, including human and animal nutrition and health, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, the automotive industry, coatings, the construction industry and the electrics & electronics market. The group has annual sales of around €8 billion and employs about 24,000 people worldwide. DSM is a leading world player in many of the markets in which it operates and has plants and facilities on every continent. The company is headquartered in the Netherlands.

More About Materialise NV

Headquartered in Belgium, Materialise NV was founded in 1990 as one of the first European RP service bureaus. Materialise now has offices all over the world and is the largest software development team in the sector. Their steady growth is mainly due to the added value offered to customers:

- ±! A unique On-Site service - online quotations in seconds and epoxy prototypes delivered within 24 hours.
- ±! Single-piece prototypes of more than 2 meters.

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- ÷! The largest capacity in Europe, resulting in flexibility and short lead times.
- ÷! An extensive range of technologies (SLA, SLS, FDM, Vacuum Casting, Injection Mould Tooling, etc.) and materials, each matching different applications.
- ÷! A complete solution: all-round experts support the customer throughout the entire development, from early visual model to final production series.

More information about Materialise can be found at www.materialise.com

More About DSM Somos[®] Materials

What is stereolithography?

Stereolithography (SL) permits the rapid creation of 3D pieces utilizing a computer-controlled laser that polymerizes light-sensitive resins. The process is highly precise and constructs the object in a series of "additive layers," providing the advantage of producing highly complex forms that are difficult or impossible to fabricate by machining or traditional molding techniques. The evolution of advanced SL materials offers the potential of moving stereolithography from prototyping into production.

DSM Somos ProtoComposites[™] are resins reinforced with various materials, such as ceramics and glasses, to produce functional properties not possible using individual components. Somos ProtoComposite materials are a result of a research and development program investigating the potential for ACT-SL[™] (Advanced Composite Technology for StereoLithography).

DSM Somos ProtoFunctional[®] resins for stereolithography provide advanced technology to respond to the changing needs of new product development and industrial design. In 2003, DSM Somos announced ProtoTool[™] ceramic-filled resins, the first member belonging to the new ACT-SL[™] technology and the result of a significant research and development program. Traditional non-composite ProtoFunctional materials by DSM Somos satisfy a varying range of characteristics: transparency, superior humidity and heat resistance, and outstanding mechanical properties, replicating those of many production grade plastics such as polypropylene, polyethylene, ABS and PBT. Technical data on all Somos[®] materials may be found at www.dsmsomos.com

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