Fourth-gen SLM280 printer launched

SLM Solutions Group has released the SLM280 2.0, the fourth generation of the 280 line of metal 3D laser printers.

Available in several laser configurations that can rapidly increase the speed at which the machine scans the powder-bed, users can choose between single optics (1 x 400W, or 1 x 700W), dual optics (1 x 700W and 1 x 1000W), and twin optics for increased build speed (2 x 400W or 2 x 700W), with an 80% higher build rate achievable depending on how the component parts are arranged.

According to Stefan Ritt, Vice-President – Global Marketing and Communications at SLM, the company has made significant development towards improving machine performance in terms of the gas flow: “We’ve done a lot of work on the gas flow. The machine build chamber now has sintering side plates that diffuse the gas flow and avoid turbulence inside the chamber safeguarding an even quantity of powder disbursement and quality of the build.”

Quality assurance is a key feature of SLM machines with the company’s own software extending the performance scope with Melt Pool Monitoring (MPM) available on-axis tool for visualizing the melt pool during the process as well as Laser Power Monitoring LPM. These features are optional, giving users choice to support individual process parameters of their design specifications.

The SLM280 2.0 also offers significant safeguards in powder handling, with powder transport, sieving and storage taking place in a closed system with an inert gas atmosphere. When titanium is being used, contactless powder handling ensures maximum work safety.

The build envelope in the SLM280 2.0 is 280mm x 280mm x 365mm, providing adequate space for part production, but development is underway on a 600mm x 600mm SLM Cube machine with a minimum of 12 lasers, on track for release by the end on 2019. The Group recently released figures showing a record 217 machines ordered in the fiscal year of 2017-18, 20 of which will go to China.

SLM Solutions has also entered a partnership with Kevin Czinger, Founder and CEO of Divergent 3D, where an SLM 500 is being used to produce a majority of Divergent’s concept car using different metals for different parts of the car - arriving at a ‘printed skeleton’.

For more information, contact Industrial Laser on +61 (0)3 9796 3055.

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