3D Printing Seminar at EMEX 2016

For over 30 years, EMEX has been the largest national technology trade exhibition in New Zealand for the engineering, manufacturing and electronics industries. Held every two years, it connects around 4500 trade visitors over three days with leading products, services and technology to help innovate and grow. Bringing Manufacturing Home was the key theme of EMEX 2016 which took place from 31 May to 2 June, 2016 at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland. The second day featured a very well attended whole day seminar on 3D printing and Additive Manufacturing, including speakers from local 3D print service bureaus and equipment distributors. The NZ Product Accelerator showcased the breadth and depth of its 3D printing activities through five presentations, highlighting different aspects of the topic.

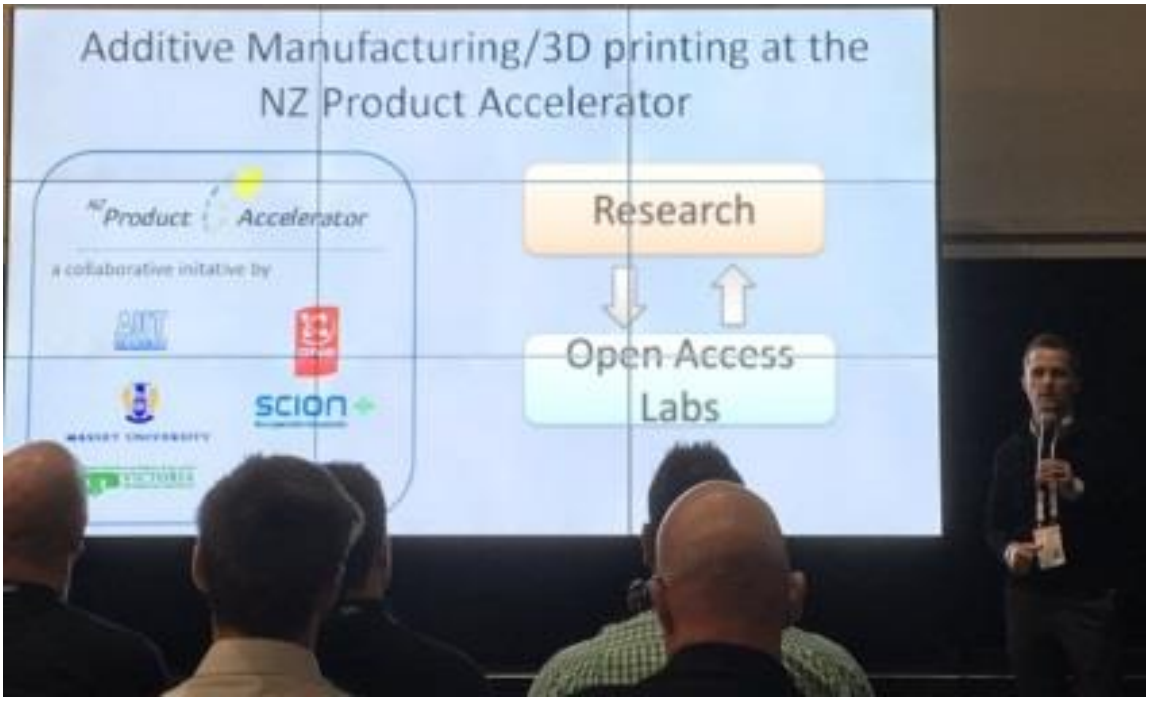

Photo 1: What can we expect from 3D printing/Dr.Robert Blache

First up, Dr Robert Blache gave a brief intro to the NZ Product Accelerator and then looked at what can be expected from 3D printing/Additive Manufacturing and how NZ companies could find a pathway to get started. Next, Ross Stevens, a Design Futurist from Victoria University Wellington, talked about Digital Craft and how the new technologies enable a novel approach to design, connecting the virtual with the physical world. Then, Prof Sarat Singamneni, Co-Director at AUT's 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing Lab presented his work on printed moulds for metal casting, followed by Prof. Johan Potgieter, Massey University, who looked into the Future of 3D Printing.

Photo 2: Digital craft/Ross Stevens

Last speaker representing the NZ Product Accelerator was Andy Hewitt, Head of Engineering and Maintenance Contracts at Air New Zealand. Andy gave first hand insights into Air New Zealand's journey towards printing cabin interior parts. After demonstrating the feasibility through working with the researchers at AUT, Andy and his team are now setting out to establish supply-chain links with partner companies, where the NZ Product Accelerator network of companies is proving to be very valuable, too. A significant number of questions – some of which fairly detailed and specific – demonstrated that the seminar programme hit the right mark. As a result, a number of companies have expressed their interest in working with the NZ Product Accelerator.

Photo 3: Printing the future/Assoc. Prof Johan Potgieter

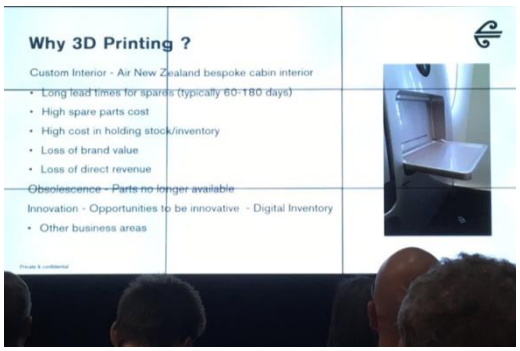

Photo 4: Learning by doing – Printing Aircraft Interior Parts/Andy Hewitt

Photo 5: Questions session after the presentations

After the 3D Printing seminar, NZ Product Accelerator, together with Callaghan Innovation and Fuji Xerox held a 'New Zealand's 3D Printing Ecosystem Networking Evening' at the same venue, which has brought together designers, engineers, researchers, industry & equipment suppliers to collaborate, support, align & celebrate all things 3d printed. It proved to be a great opportunity to intensify existing relationships and meet new contacts operating in the space.