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Press review Pollen AM

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Pollen AM launches the first 3D printing consulting service

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Victor Roux (left) and Cédric Michel (right), the two co-founders of Pollen AM. (Pollen AM)

To help manufacturers modernize their production tools with a rapid return on investment, the Paris-based company is launching a 3D printing consulting business. Financed since its creation by VIP entrepreneurs, Pollen AM plans to invest in a French fund in 2021.

To exploit the full potential of additive manufacturing in industrial processes, Pollen AM is launching a 3D printing consulting business aimed at any company wishing to modernize its production tool with a rapid return on investment. Well established in the aerospace (Airbus), automotive (Michelin) and medical (Sanofi) sectors, the company is also converting more general public sectors, such as sporting goods and household appliances.

It was precisely when Electrolux approached it that Pollen AM was able to structure the advice distilled to its prospects since 2016 into a service offering. "With this case, we realized just how elaborate and lengthy the process of validating a technology and integrating it can be. Especially since, in additive manufacturing, the number of technological elements that must be compared to the state of the art of manufacturers is enormous," explains Cédric Michel, who co-founded Pollen AM with Victor Roux.

Called "Pollen BE", this service offers a wide range of services, from the possibility of redesigning a part to print it efficiently to the deployment of a complete production solution. At Decathlon, it has shown that the prototyping cycle is reduced from seven weeks to one, using the same material as for the finished product.

Capital increase

Produced from A to Z in France, Pollen AM's standardized solutions, which also offer custom-made solutions, range from 32,000 to 80,000 euros. How do they differ from competing systems, especially American ones? The use of industrial raw materials allows us to offer the widest range: commodity or high performance thermoplastics, elastomers with no hardness limit, metals and technical ceramics," he explains. Consumables are 5 to 10 times less expensive than the competition, while remaining within the technical and quality framework that manufacturers are familiar with with injection molding. "

Since its creation in 2013, the company, which devotes 30% of its budget to R&D, has been financed mainly by entrepreneurs and industrialists - like Bruno Maisonnier (Aldebaran, AnotherBrain) or Antoine de Saint-Affrique (Barry Callebaut, Unilever) -, who have invested 2.5 million euros. "We are preparing a capital increase for 2021 with the arrival of a French investment fund," says Cédric Michel.