



Press review
Pollen AM

Support: Industrie & Technologies
Publication date: June, 18th 2018

With MIM Like technology, no need for fine powder, printing is done from granules, explains
Didier Fonta, Head of sales, Pollen AM

The promises of metal 3D printing

PUBLISHED JUNE 18TH, 2018

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL VERSION, [HTTPS://WWW.INDUSTRIE-TECHNO.COM/ARTICLE/LES-PROMESSES-DE-L-IMPRESSON-METAL.53263](https://www.industrie-techno.com/article/les-promesses-de-l-impression-metal.53263)



The metallic 3D printing sector is in turmoil. Historic manufacturers and new players are competing in ingenuity to develop printers that are faster, cheaper and easier to operate, in order to pass the course of industrialization.

The metallic 3D printing digs its groove in additive manufacturing. It could represent \$ 12 billion in 2028, against \$ 3 billion this year (or 20% of the 3D printing market), according to the latest IDTechEx study. Something to stir up lusts. Historic players in the industry, polymer printing giants and newcomers, all compete in ingenuity to offer faster and less expensive printers. In the firing line: the industrialization of the process.

"Today, in additive manufacturing, we do prototyping, small series, but we are only waiting for one thing: to go into production, in much larger volumes," points out Clément Moreau, the general manager of Sculpteo, a French company pioneer in 3D printing. To do this, it will be necessary to lower the cost of the part and develop faster machines. "

One of the promising technologies is MIM Like, inspired by metal injection molding (MIM).

"We start from a metallic powder trapped in a polymer. But instead of injecting it into a mold, as we did with traditional MIM technology, we will manufacture the part additively

before eliminating the polymer - shaping vector - with debinding processes. We end up with a part composed only of the remaining metal balls, which we will heat at high temperature to consolidate them," summarizes Clément Moreau.

This process is at the heart of the new Pam Series M 3D printer from the Parisian start-up Pollen AM. Objective: to realize small and medium series quickly and at low cost. "With MIM Like technology, no need for fine powder, printing is done from granules," explains Didier Fonta, Head of Sales at Pollen AM. There is a material cost four times lower than for metallic powders used in other additive manufacturing processes. In addition, our machine is compatible with any material, even those developed by the manufacturers themselves. Pollen AM delivered its first machines to Alliance MIM, a company specializing in the production of complex micro-technical parts, notably in watchmaking. "With a volume of 30 cm in diameter and 30 cm in height, printers can manufacture relatively large parts for metal," adds Didier Fonta.