PRESS RELEASE

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Protolabs leads the way with new 3d printing material 'microfine green' - engineered for micro-resolution parts

Protolabs remains at the forefront of 3D printing technologies with the release of their proprietary resin, MicroFine Green, specifically created for 3D printed parts that need ultra-high definition, accuracy and strength. It has been custom formulated for exclusive use in Protolabs' micro-resolution stereolithography process.

The release of the thermoset resin sits within the Protolabs' broader quality focus of being a world-leading manufacturer of customer parts for prototyping and short run production.

Introducing MicroFine Green

MicroFine Green requires specialised equipment exclusive to Protolabs, printing parts at a micro-resolution level with an incredibly fine layer thickness of only 0.025mm. As a result, part precision is high where features can be as small as 0.07mm. The material is fairly durable and rigid, with mechanical properties most similar to ABS plastic.

Daniel Cohn, Protolabs' General Manager in Germany said: *"The benefits of MicroFine Green combine to make the SLA material well-suited to the rapid prototyping of products in industries like medical, healthcare, and consumer electronics. It's a terrific example of how material advancements continue to revolutionise the 3D printing industry, which in turn is helping companies evolve beyond their traditional supply chain and product development approaches."*

In addition to MicroFine Green, Protolabs offers a number of material options that mimic ABS, polycarbonate, and polypropylene for rapid prototyping and parts using stereolithography. With turnaround times in as fast as 1 day, the process is offered in three resolutions: normal, high, and micro - each suiting feature size and property considerations.

Rounding out the company's 3D printing material selection are various grades of nylon for added durability, digital photopolymers and silicone for elastomeric parts, and numerous metal materials for functional, end-use components.

Stereolithography is one of an expanding range of additive manufacturing processes available at Protolabs, which includes:

- Stereolithography (SL)
- Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)
- Direct Metal Laster Sintering (DMLS)
- Multi Jet Fusion (MJF)
- PolyJet & 3D Printed Silicone

For more information about MicroFine Green, Protolabs' full stereolithography capabilities and expanding range of 3D printing processes, please visit the Protolabs website.

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ABOUT PROTOLABS

Protolabs is the world's fastest digital manufacturing source for custom prototypes and low-volume production parts. The technology-enabled company uses advanced 3D printing, CNC machining and injection moulding technologies to produce parts within days. The result is an unprecedented speed-to-market value for product designers and engineers worldwide.

Aspects:

- An automated quoting system and proprietary software translate digital 3D CAD models into instructions for high-speed manufacturing equipment. The result is parts that are shipped in 1 to 15 days.
- The company is anchored by three flagship services: injection moulding, CNC machining and 3D printing (additive manufacturing).
- Injection moulding is used for quick-turn prototyping, bridge tooling and low-volume production of up to 10,000+ parts. More than 100 thermoplastics resins, metal and liquid silicone rubber are offered.
- Protolabs uses three and five-axis milling and turning to machine engineering-grade plastic and metal prototypes and functional end-use parts in quantities of less than 200.
- Additive manufacturing employs advanced 3D printing technologies that can create extremely accurate prototypes with complex geometries. Additive parts are built by stereolithography, selective laser sintering, Multi Jet Fusion, PolyJet and direct metal laser sintering processes, and in a range a plastics and metals.

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