



## Midwest Prototyping News: Spring 2017



**It's been a busy spring here at Midwest Prototyping, and we've been on the road learning and sharing lots of great information about additive manufacturing. Here's what we've been up to:**

### **AMUG 2017**

In March, the annual Additive Manufacturing User Group conference (better known as AMUG) was held in Chicago. We took advantage of the event proximity this year, and sent 11 members of the Midwest team over the course of the week-long conference to participate. With 1600



conference attendees, AMUG focuses on advancements in all aspects of the additive manufacturing industry, including new technologies, training sessions for production techniques, and a wide variety of other developments related to 3D printing.

Included among the keynote speakers, workshops and networking opportunities, we had a chance to share some of our expertise, too. Company President Steve Grundahl and Project Lead Nate Schumacher lead an informational session about our experience with Carbon's CLIP technology, and how we integrate the M1 printer into our workflow for production orders.



## Materialise World Summit

In April, we headed to Brussels, Belgium, for the annual Materialise World Summit. Materialise provides software solutions unique for service bureaus and other 3D printing-focused organizations, several of which we employ in our daily operations Midwest. Focused on both healthcare applications and the growing usage of 3D printing for end-use production, the conference allows users to connect and gain a better understand how these innovative software programs can be used in new and growing applications.

While we were abroad, we also spent 2 days at the Materialise headquarters in Leuven, Belgium, meeting with developers to provide relevant feedback about how we use these programs. This collaborative relationship allows us to continue bringing innovative management programs for both our prototyping and production technologies.



## Milwaukee School of Engineering - Guest Lecture

Last month our Project Lead Nate Schumacher had the opportunity to return to his alma mater at the Milwaukee School of Engineering to deliver a guest lecture to students in their senior additive manufacturing course. Focusing on Selective Laser Sintering technology, topics covered included material properties, machine operation, as well as factors to consider when designing for 3D printed production. After some great questions and discussions, we're glad we had the chance to meet all of these future engineers!



## Association of Professional Model Makers - Member Profile

If you check out the spring issue of the Association of Professional Model Makers (APMM) newsletter, you might see some familiar faces.

Our President Steve Grundahl recently had a chance to share his thoughts on some trends in the additive manufacturing industry, challenges unique to service bureaus, and what we're up to at Midwest. Here are a few of the highlights:



**APMM:** *Recently there has been consolidations of service bureaus with 3D printer manufactures buying companies. How do you see this impacting independent service bureaus like Midwest?*

**SG:** That has been going on since 2009, and it certainly becomes an interesting business model when we have to buy machines, materials, parts, and service from a company and turn around and compete with them for customers. We still have the advantage of being able to offer a very high level of personal attention and customer service that has allowed us to develop an incredibly loyal customer base. Certainly, I know that this industry will change rapidly and significantly over the next 10 years, but the ever increasing number of potential applications means more opportunity for all of us.



**APMM:** *Does your location in Blue Mound Wisconsin, a rural area, benefit you or is it a challenge?*

**SG:** We see our location as a positive. Although it's technically rural, we're only about 20 minutes west of Madison, an hour from Dubuque, less than 2 hours from Milwaukee, 3 hours from Chicago or Green

Bay, and 4 hours from the Twin Cities. We love it here because we have a lot of freedom, no traffic, a beautiful work space (our office looks out at rolling hills, fields, and a state park), and room to grow. We are outgrowing our current facilities and beginning to plan for what the next version of Midwest Prototyping will look like and where it will be - stay tuned.



To read the full interview with Steve, [click here](#).

To arrange a tour to see any of the other services offered at our Blue Mounds facility, please [contact Mike Roosa](#), or learn more at [www.midwestproto.com](http://www.midwestproto.com).

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