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centro tecnológico da cerâmica e do vidro | coimbra | portugal



## Applied R&D Projects in Additive Manufacturing

Hélio Jorge

CTCV-Technology Centre for Ceramics and Glass. Coimbra. Portugal

10-09-2019. 7th Shaping Conference. Aveiro. Portugal



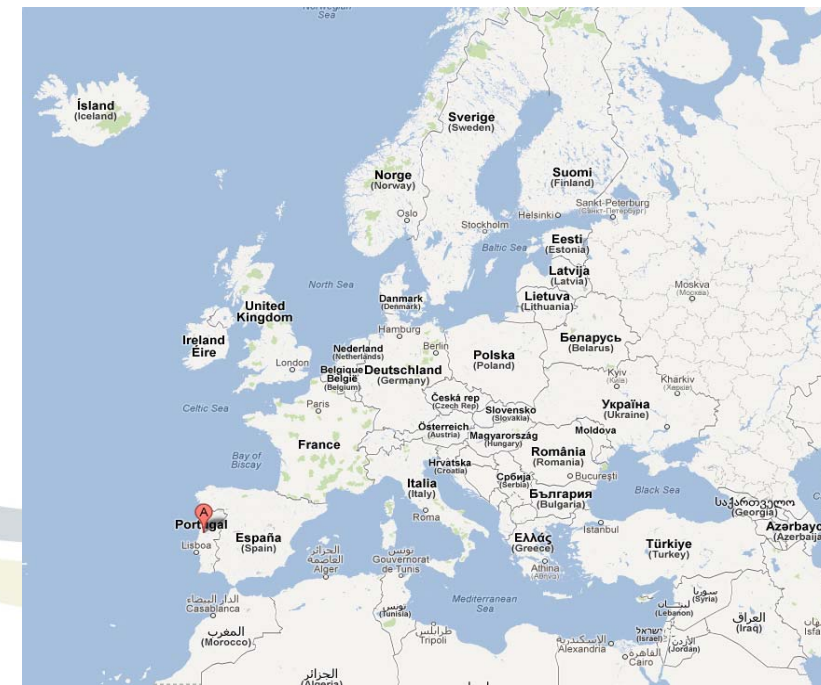
- CTCV introduction
- Overview of the AM technologies for ceramics in the market
- An R&D collaborative project of robocasting for decorative ware
- A study on the processing of alumina by robocasting

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# CTCV Introduction



- Established in 1987 by ceramic and glass industrial associations and companies
- Non-profit organisation
- One of the Centres of Technology Interface (CIT) of Portugal
- Located in Coimbra, Centro Region, Portugal
- Business Activities
  - Innovation and Development (R&D)
  - Technical Consultancy
  - Testing
  - Training



# CTCV Introduction



- 60 collaborators | 550 costumers (2018)
- Accredited organisation for supply of services under Portuguese financial instruments - Innovation/R&D, Entrepreneurship, Incubation, Industry 4.0 e and Circular Economy
- Participation in more than 20 R&D projects (H2020, Portugal 2020 and others)
- Member of Portuguese clusters: PRODUTECH, Sustainable Habitat Cluster and MOBINOV



# Mission of the R&D Department



- Industrial research, development and innovation (R&Di)
  - TRL starting from Level 3
- Innovation, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer
- Participation in R&D and innovation funded projects



PROGRAMA  
COOPERACIÓN TRANSFRONTERIZA  
ESPAÑA - PORTUGAL  
COOPERAÇÃO TRANSFRONTEIRIÇA  
2007 - 2013



Interreg  
Europe

European Union | European Regional Development Fund



# Infrastructure



Cofinanciado por:



## Activities

- Applied research and development
- Pre-industrial studies
- Prototyping
- Small production

## Technical Fields

- Materials
- Ceramics
- Manufacturing technologies
- Digital technologies for product development



## MATERIALS

- ceramic material
  - traditional ceramics
  - technical and advanced ceramics
- integration with other material families
  - polymers
  - nanomaterials

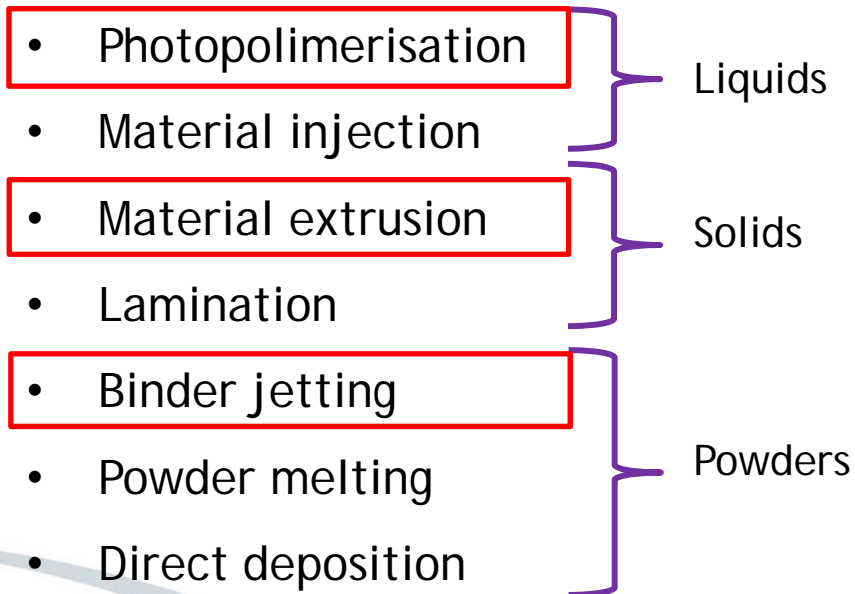
## MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

- ceramic technologies
  - pressing
  - extrusion
  - sintering / firing
- powder technologies
  - powder injection moulding
    - ceramic injection moulding
    - metal injection moulding
  - additive manufacturing
    - robocasting
    - fused filament fabrication

- **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**
  - reverse engineering
  - virtual modelling, photo reality
  - rapid prototyping

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## Classification of the methods for additive manufacturing :



# Photopolymerisation / Stereolithography/ SLA



## Materials (Suspension)

- Alumina, Zirconia, Silicon nitride
- Tricalcium Phosphate TCP and hydroxyapatite
- density: >99%

## Potential applications

- Biomedicine / bone replacement
- Dental restoration
- Casting cores
- Technical ceramics apps



## Available technologies

- Lithoz (Austria)
- 3D Ceram (France)
- Admatec (Holand)



# Binder jetting / binder inkjet

## Materials (Powder)

- Gypsum / Binder
- Alumina - Silica
- Silica
- density: ~50%

## Potential applications

- Casting tools
- Refractory
- Glazed decorative ware



## Available technologies

- 3DSystems (USA)
- Voxeljet (Germany)
- Tethon3D (USA)



Casting tool  
Silica



Decorative piece  
glazed alumina-silica

# Material extrusion

## Materials (Paste)

- Plastic clay
- ...

## Available technologies

- WASP (Italy)
- Lutum (Holand)
- 3D Potter (USA)
- Stone Flower (Germany)



## Potential applications

- Decorative ware
- Sanitary ware
- Ceramic craft
- ...

Decorative pieces (green state)  
Porcelain (CTCV)



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## RoboCer.3D Project

**Porcelanas da Costa Verde** (Porcelain table ware manufacturer)

**University of Aveiro**

**CTCV-Technology Centre for Ceramics and Glass**

# Additive manufacturing of porcelain ware

Used technology: Robocasting (or LDM - liquid dispensing modelling)

Technology developments:

- Ceramic body composition manipulation
- Printer programming using a slicing software
- Setting up of the printing process
- Glazing and firing testing
- Printing validation tests:
  - Conventional geometry parts
  - Design-for-3DP new parts

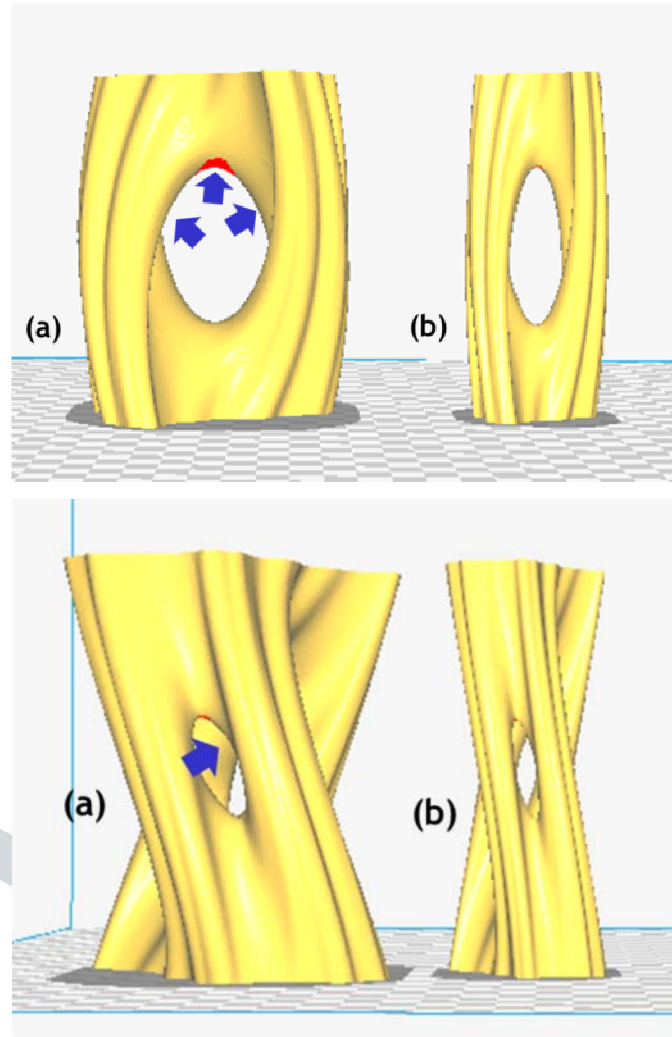
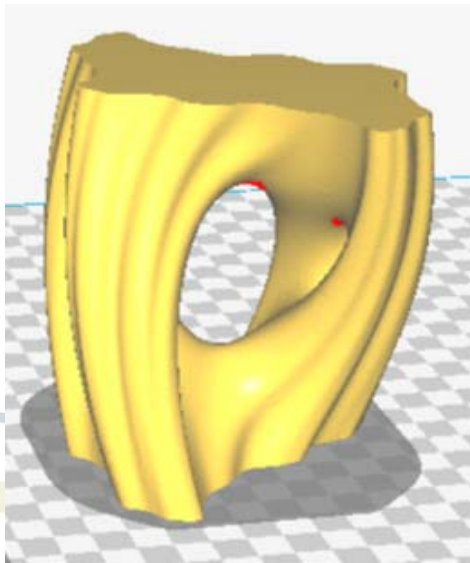




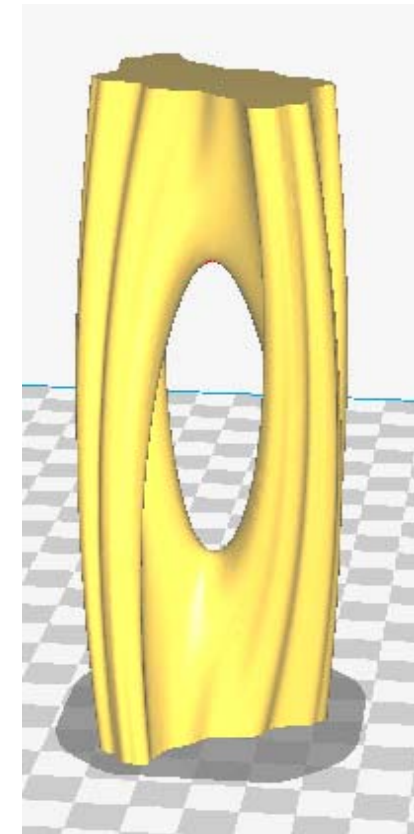
# Printing of a decorative piece of 10x10x40cm

## 1st step: Evaluation of the print ability of the part

Original model

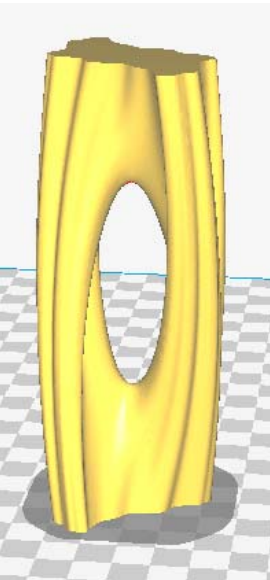


Reviewed model

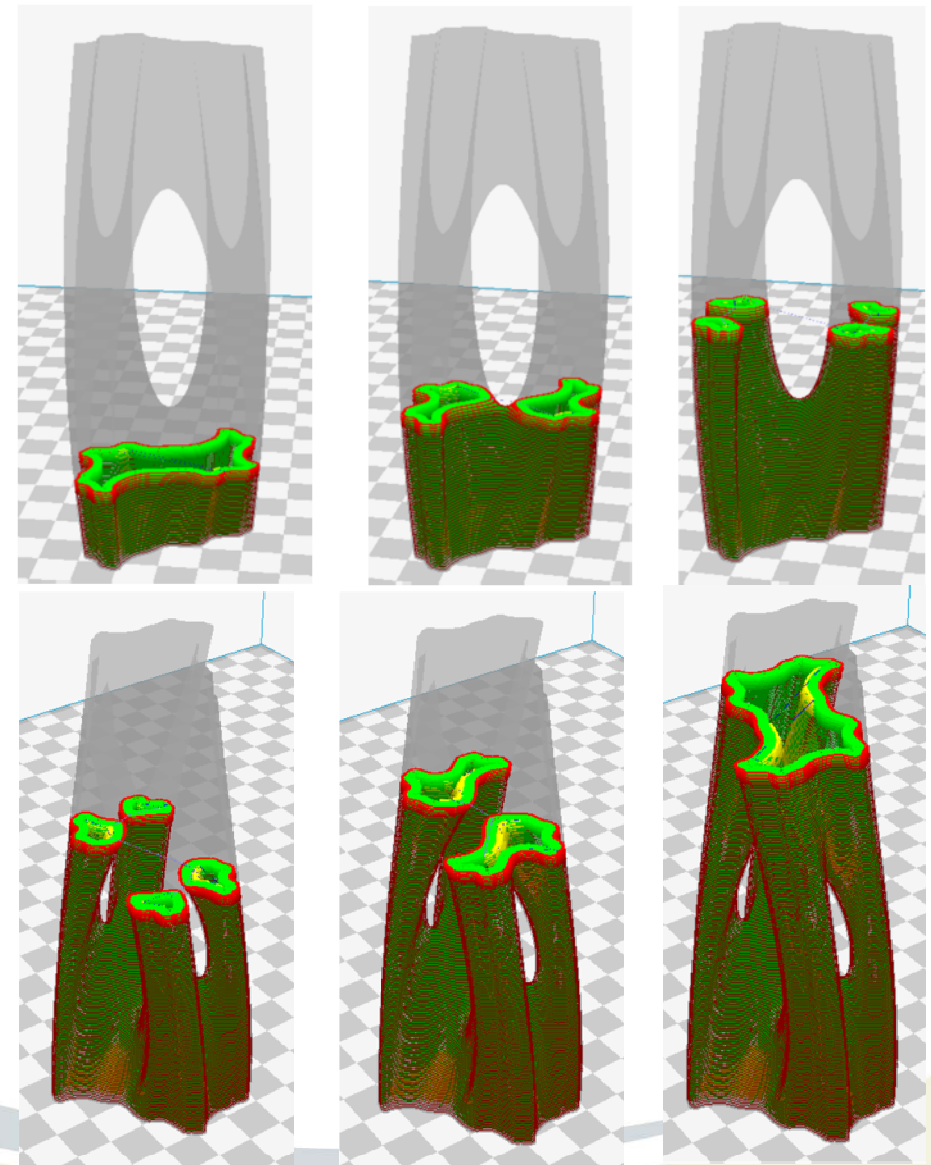


# Printing of a decorative piece of 10x10x40cm

## 2nd step: Slicing / Print programming

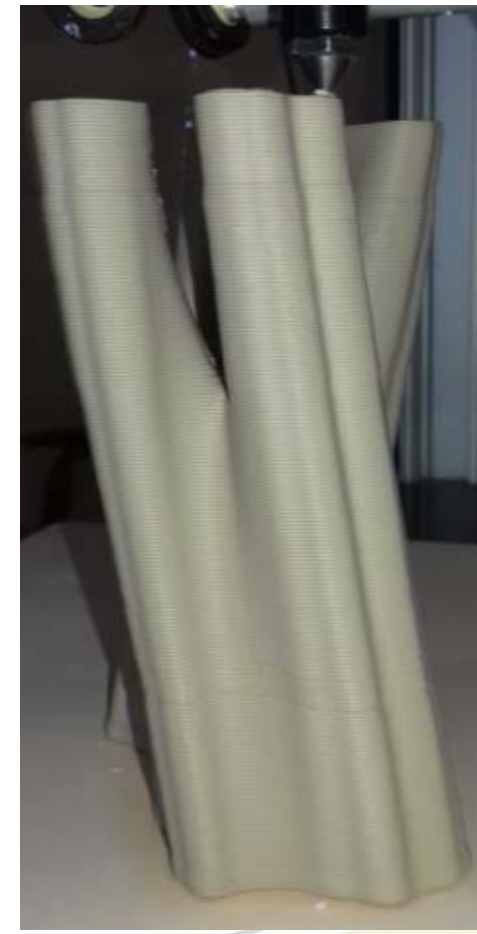
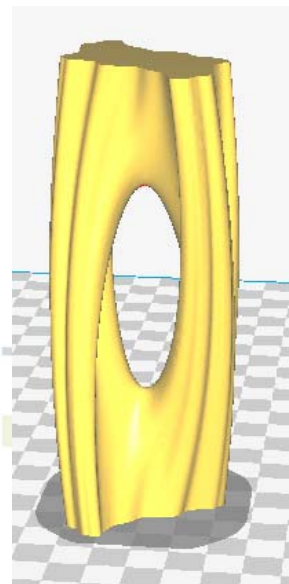


Cura Parameter	
Nozzle size	0,8 mm
Layer thickness	0,7 mm
Printing speed	50 mm/s
Wall thickness	3,2 mm [4 contornos]
Bottom/Top thickness	4 mm
Fill density	0%



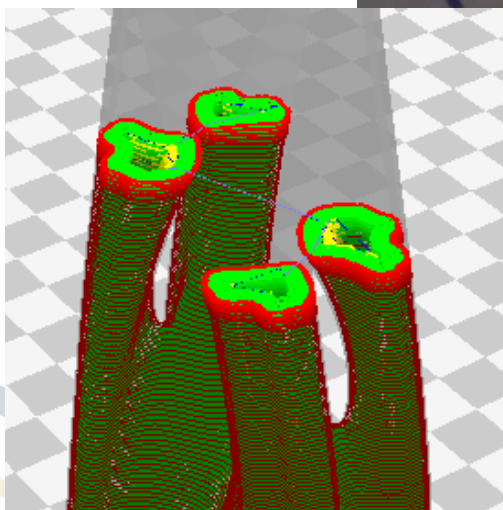
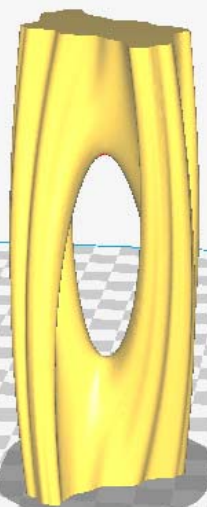
# Printing of a decorative piece of 10x10x40cm

## 3th step: Printing



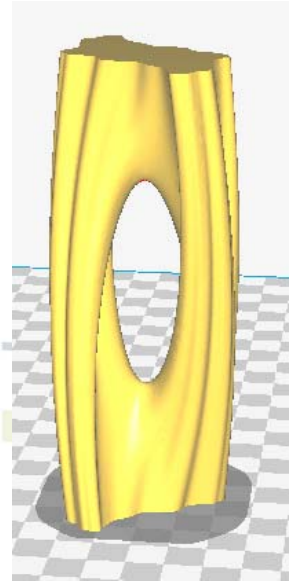
# Printing of a decorative piece of 10x10x40cm

## 3th step: Printing



# Printing of a decorative piece of 10x10x40cm

## Glazed part



# Examples of parts produced by Robocasting



Green parts

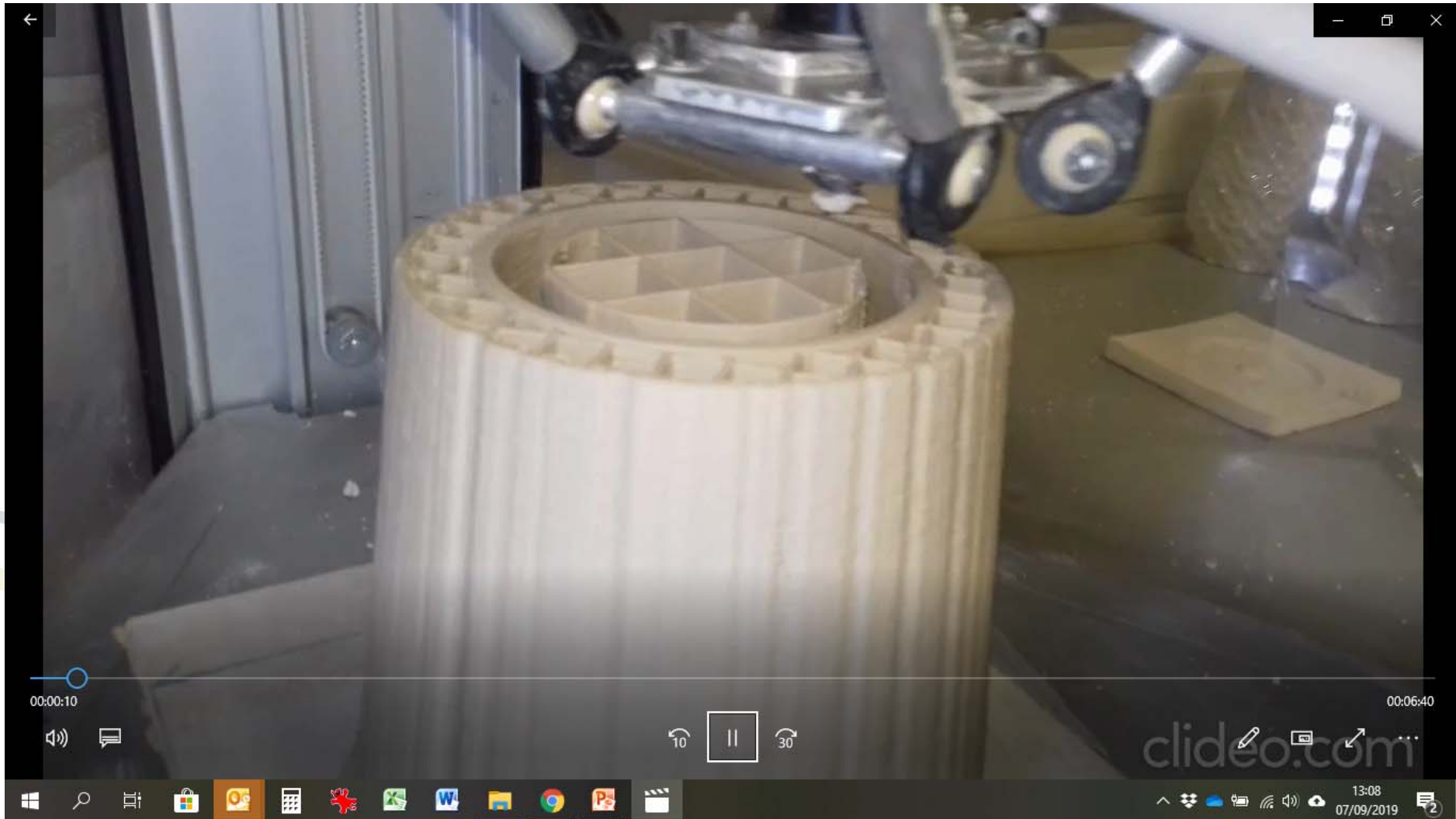


Glazed parts

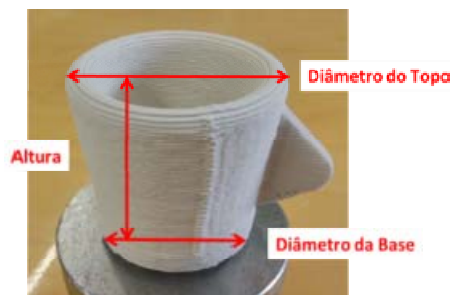
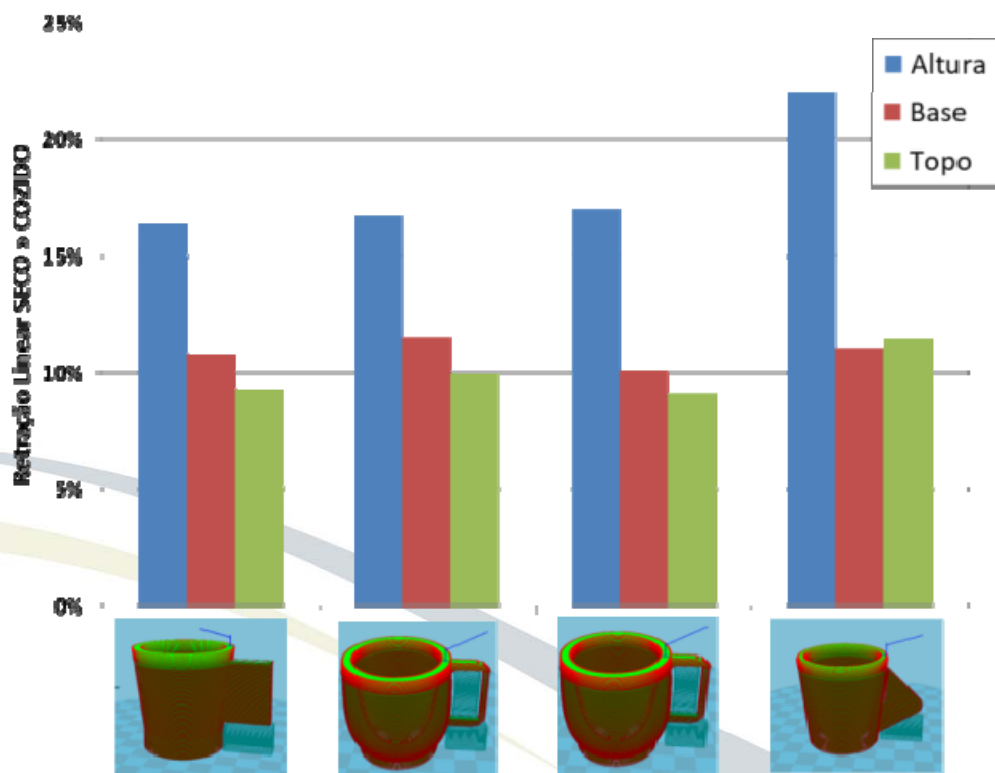


Fired parts

# Printing



## Sintering shrinkage: effect of building orientation (ZZ vs XY)



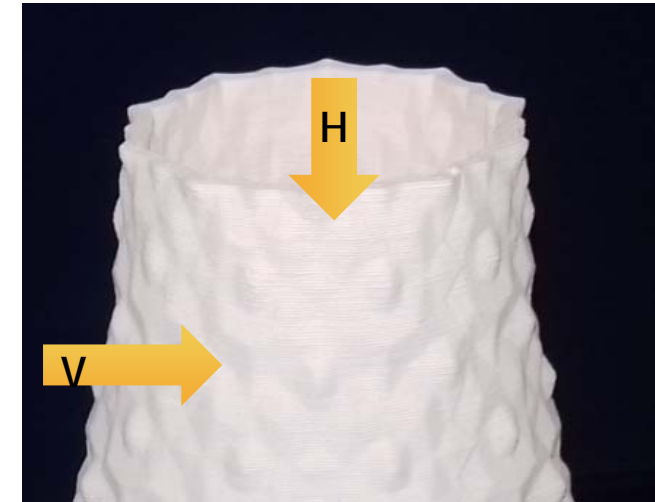
- Shrinkage in ZZ higher than in XY
  - ZZ: 16-22%
  - XY: 9-11%



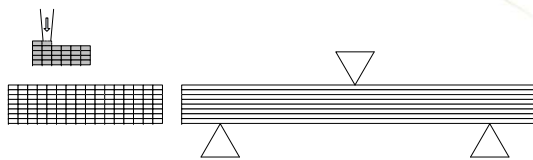
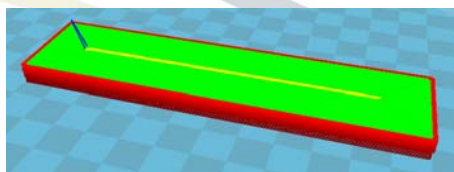
# Technological parameters

Densification and mechanical strength: comparison with extrusion process and the influence of building direction

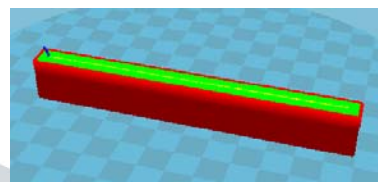
	Robocasting		Extrusion
	Printed in H position	Printed in V position	
Water absorption (wt%)	0,14 ± 0,07	0,25 ± 0,05	0,16 ± 0,04
Apparent density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2,38 ± 0,01	2,36 ± 0,01	2,38 ± 0,01
Flexure strength (MPa)	58 ± 13	69 ± 10	71 ± 5



H position



V position



- Low variation in WA and density
- Difference of 15% in FS between the material printed in 2 positions
- Resistência do material impresso na posição V similar à referência

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## Processing of alumina suspensions by robocasting

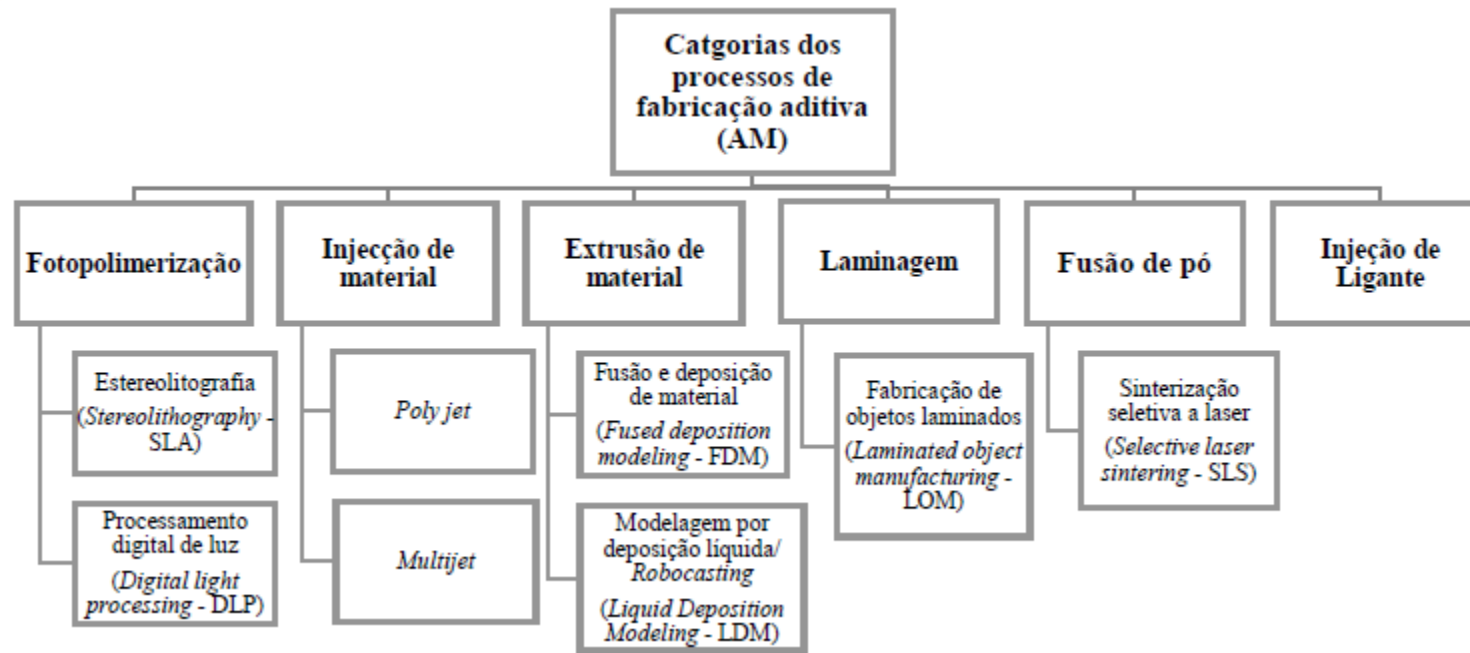
**MSc Thesis of Filipa Lopes**

**Supervised by Prof. Luísa Durães\* and Hélio Jorge\*\***

\* CIEPQPF. Department of Chemical Engineering. University of Coimbra. Portugal

\*\* CTCV-Technology Centre for Ceramics and Glass. Coimbra. Portugal

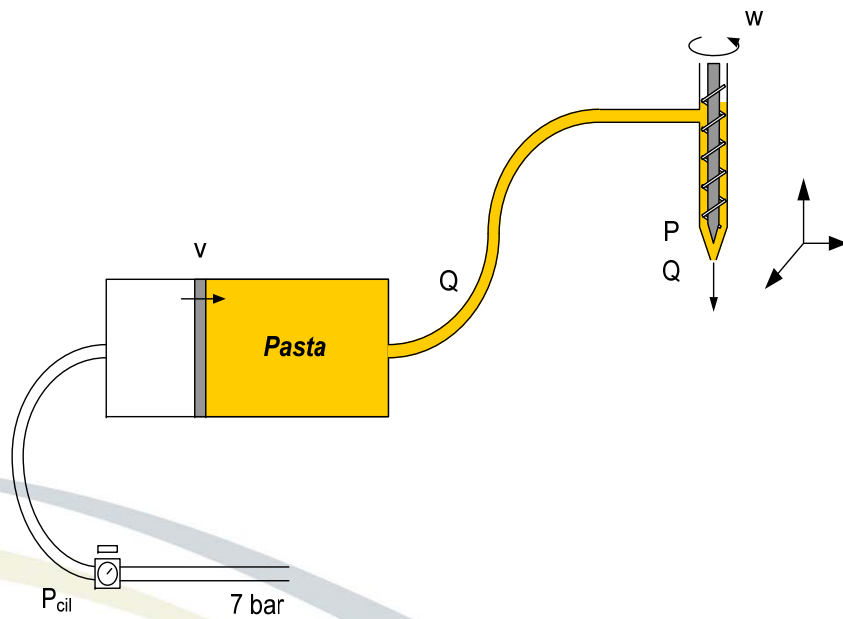
# Robocasting system used



- Photopolimerization based methods
  - high final shape precision
  - small size parts
  - high densification materials
  - but available at a high investment cost

- Robocasting / LDM
  - medium shape precision or pre-forms
  - higher size parts
  - Expected to be accessed with low/medium investment cost

# Robocasting system used



# Phase 1 - Assessment of the print ability of ceramic formulations

## MATERIALS

- Alumina 99.8%, D50 = 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  [Almatis CT 3000 SG]
- 2 formulation systems:
  - Sacarose, Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), Oleic acid (OA) & water - "S" System
  - com. plasticizer (Zusoplast C92), com. lubricant (Zusoplast 126/3), sacarose & water - "Z" System

## PROCEDURE

- Ceramic formulations made by hand kneading
  - Demineralized water
  - Solid additives in solution
  - Liquid additives
  - Solids content was set a maximum value defined by manual perception



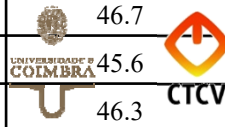
# Formulations



Formulation	Sacarose /(w/w)	PVA /(w/w)	Oleic acid /(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
S_PVA_OA_1	6.8	0.3	3.3	50.9
S_PVA_OA_2	7.4	0.1	1.2	43.2
S_PVA_OA_3	7.8	0.4	1.3	46.3
S_PVA_OA_4	9.7	0.2	3.7	48.8
S_PVA_OA_5	9.7	0.4	1.6	45.7
S_PVA_OA_6	9.8	0.6	2.2	45.8
S_PVA_OA_7	9.9	0.2	2.0	48.2
S_PVA_OA_8	9.9	0.4	2.0	48.1
S_PVA_OA_9	9.9	0.4	2.2	47.6
S_PVA_OA_9+	9.9	0.4	2.2	53.0
S_PVA_OA_10	11.5	0.2	3.9	49.9

Formulation	Zusoplast C92 /(w/w)	Zusoplast 126/3 (w/w)	Sacarose /(w/w)	Citric acid /(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
P	0.4	-	-	-	39.1
P_L_1	0.4	0.1	-	-	47.1
P_L_2	0.4	0.3	-	-	49.5
P_L_3	1.5	0.3	-	-	49.2
P_L_4	1.9	0.3	-	-	42.4
P_L_S_1	0.1	0.1	7.6	-	48.0
P_L_S_2	0.4	0.1	7.6	-	48.4
P_L_S_3	0.4	0.1	9.8	-	45.0
P_L_S_4	0.4	0.3	0.4	-	49.9
P_L_S_5	0.4	0.3	7.5	-	46.7
P_I	0.1	0.7	4.9	0.1	45.6
P_L_10	0.4	0.7	5.1	0.3	46.3

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 Projeto de Demonstração de Tecnologias  
 de Fabrico Avançado para a Indústria



Cofinanciado por:



# Assessment of formulations







Formulation behaviour assessment:

- Plasticity
- Tacking
- Stiffness
- Robocasting trails

Formulation behaviour assessment:

- **Plasticity**
- Tacking
- Stiffness
- Robocasting trails

Plasticity category table

Classification	Description	Example
●○○○ Non compacted	Not possible to have an aggregated solid mass	
●●●○○○ Breaking	Aggregated solid mass, but not possible to mould a roll without breaking	
●●●●●○ Cracking	Roll moulded, but it cracks when bending.	
●●●●●● Bending	Homogenous roll that bends without cracking	



# Assessment of formulations

## Formulation behaviour assessment:

- Plasticity
- Tacking
- Stiffness
- Robocasting trails

## Tacking category table

Category	Description	Image
●○○○○ Slightly tacky	It sticks slightly but it can be handle and easy to mould.	
●●●○○○ Tacky	Even sticking to the table and gloves, it is able to be moulded	
●●●●● Highly tacky	The material sticks to the table and gloves, and cannot be shaped	

## Diapositivo 33

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I1

Não percebo o que queres dizer na última parte desta frase

luisa; 09/09/2019

## Formulation behaviour assessment:

- Plasticity
- Tacking
- **Stiffness**
- Robocasting trails

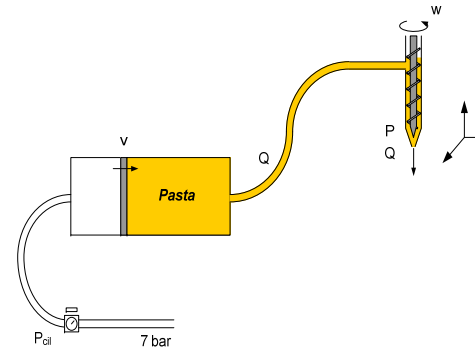
Stiffness category table

Category	Description
●○○○○○	Low stiffness
●●○○○○	Low-Medium stiff
●●●●○○	Medium-high stiff
●●●●●●	Stiff

# Assessment of formulations

## Formulation behaviour assessment:

- Plasticity
- Tacking
- Stiffness
- Robocasting trials



## Printing performance evaluation topics:

- Constant flow through the extrusion nozzle
- First layer sticking of the extrudate to the building platform
- Layer by layer sticking
- Side extrudate sticking
- Structural integrity of the building form



Good part => good formulation behaviour

# Assessment results



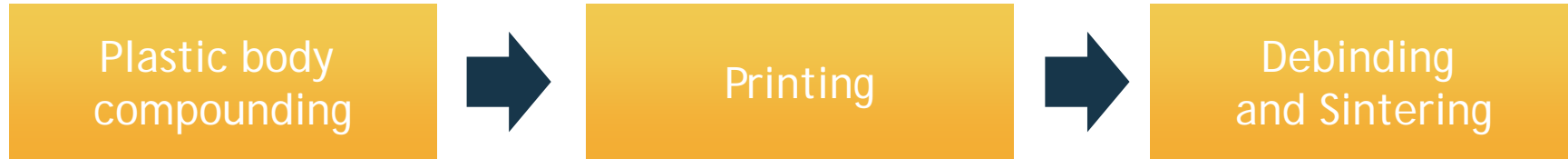
Formulation	Sacarose /%(w/w)	PVA /%(w/w)	Oleic acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)	Plasticity	Tacking	Stiffness	Printing tested?
S_PVA_OA_1	6.8	0.3	3.3	50.9	●●○○○○	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	
S_PVA_OA_2	7.4	0.1	1.2	43.2	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	
S_PVA_OA_3	7.8	0.4	1.3	46.3	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	●●●○○○	
S_PVA_OA_4	9.7	0.2	3.7	48.8	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	Yes
S_PVA_OA_5	9.7	0.4	1.6	45.7	●○○○○○	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	
S_PVA_OA_6	9.8	0.6	2.2	45.8	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	●●●○○○	
S_PVA_OA_7	9.9	0.2	2.0	48.2	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	●○○○○○	Yes
S_PVA_OA_8	9.9	0.4	2.0	48.1	●●●○○○	●○○○○○	○○○○○○	Yes
S_PVA_OA_9	9.9	0.4	2.2	47.6	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	●○○○○○	
S_PVA_OA_9+	9.9	0.4	2.2	53.0	●●●○○○	●○○○○○	●●○○○○	
S_PVA_OA_10	11.5	0.2	3.9	49.9	●○○○○○	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	

Formulation	Zusoplast C92 /%(w/w)	Zusoplast 126/3 /%(w/w)	Sacarose /%(w/w)	Citric acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)	Plasticity	Tacking	Stiffness	Printing tested?
P	0.4	-	-	-	39.1	●●●●●●	●●●●●●	○○○○○○	Yes
P_L_1	0.4	0.1	-	-	47.1	●●●●●●	○○○○○○	●●●●●●	
P_L_2	0.4	0.3	-	-	49.5	●●●●●●	●●●○○○	●●○○○○	
P_L_3	1.5	0.3	-	-	49.2	●●●○○○	●○○○○○	●●●●●●	
P_L_4	1.9	0.3	-	-	42.4	●●●●●●	●●●●●●	○○○○○○	
P_L_S_1	0.1	0.1	7.6	-	48.0	●●●●●●	●●●○○○	●●○○○○	
P_L_S_2	0.4	0.1	7.6	-	48.4	●●●●●●	○○○○○○	●●●○○○	
P_L_S_3	0.4	0.1	9.8	-	45.0	●●●○○○	●●●●●●	●●●○○○	
P_L_S_4	0.4	0.3	0.4	-	49.9	●●●○○○	○○○○○○	●●●○○○	
P_L_S_5	0.4	0.3	7.5	-	46.7	●●●●●●	●●●○○○	●●●○○○	
P_I	0.1	0.7	4.9	0.1	45.6	●●●○○○	●●●○○○	●●○○○○	
P_L_S_AC_2	0.1	0.7	5.1	0.3	46.3	●●●●●●	●●●○○○	●●○○○○	Yes

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# Phase 2 - Robocasting and characterization



Formulation	Alumina size, D50 /μm	Sacarose /%(w/w)	PVA /%(w/w)	Oleic acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
S_PVA_OA_9	0.4	9.9	0.4	2.2	47.6
S_PVA_OA_9+	4	9.9	0.4	2.2	53.0

Formulation	Alumina size, D50 /μm	Zusoplast C92 /%(w/w)	Zusoplast 126/3 /%(w/w)	Sacarose /%(w/w)	Citric acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
P_L_S_5	0.4	0.4	0.3	7.5	-	46.7
P_L_S_AC_1	0.4	0.1	0.7	4.9	0.1	45.6



# Phase 2 - Robocasting and characterization



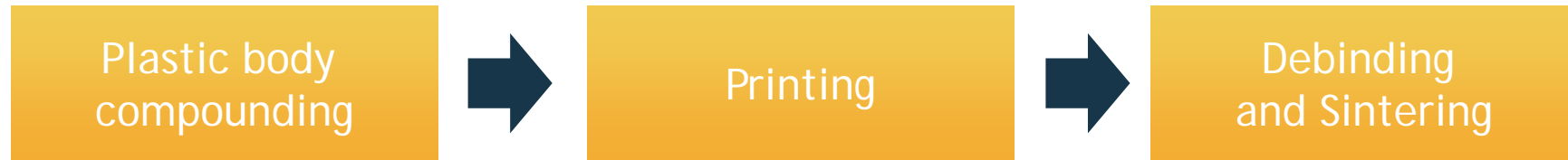
- Rheology
- Hardness

Rotational shear rheometry with a Haake Rheotress 1

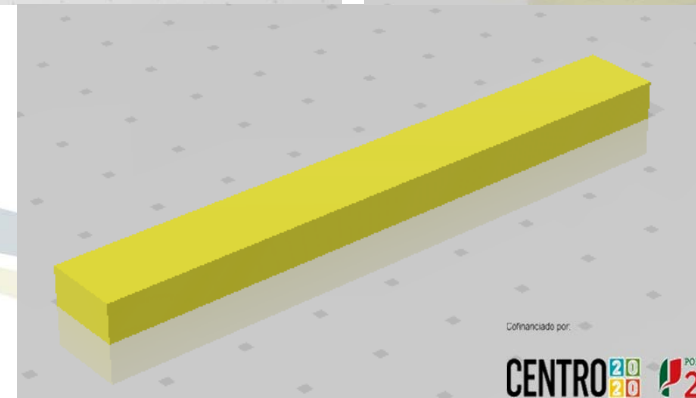
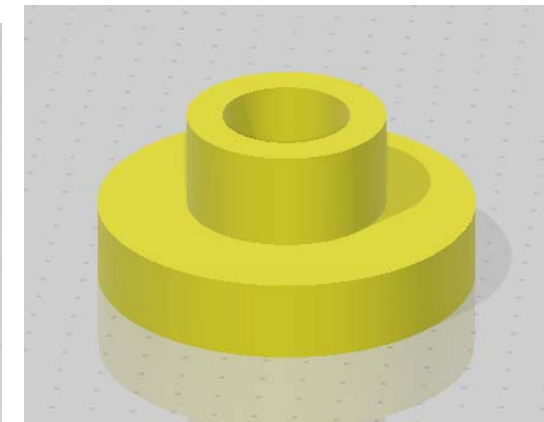
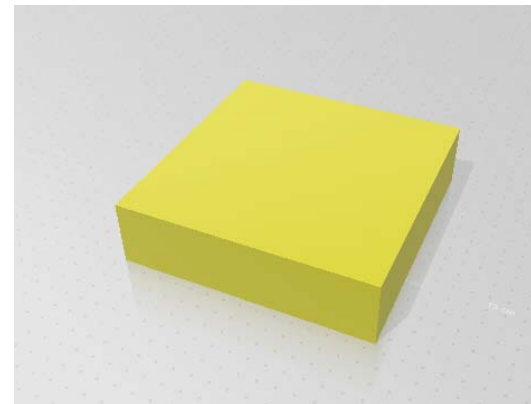
Indentation force measurement with a Geotester Penetrometer



# Phase 2 - Robocasting and characterization



Cura Parameters	
Version	V2.3.1
Nozzle diameter / mm	1
Layer thickness /mm	0,7
First layer thickness /mm	0,5
Wall printing speed /mm.s <sup>-1</sup>	30
Fill printing speed /mm.s <sup>-1</sup>	30
Bottom and top printing speed /mm.s <sup>-1</sup>	30
Travel speed /mm.s <sup>-1</sup>	60
Flow /%	100
Wall thcikness /mm	3
Wall line counts/ -	3
Bottom and top thickness /mm	3
Fill density /%	100





# Phase 2 - Robocasting and characterization



- Porosity
- Flexure strength

Arquimedes principle  
3-point flexure testing

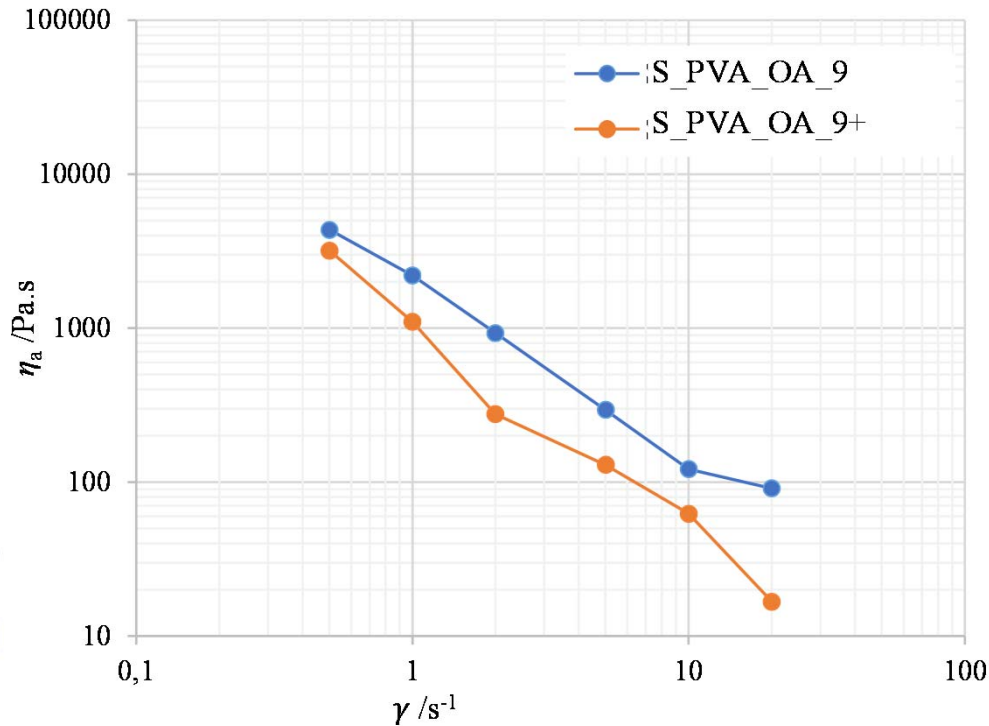
Rheometer procedure issues faced calling for patience work:

- High normal force before reach the gap programmed (stiff formulations)
- Slip-stick behaviour suspected (high filled suspensions)
- Sample spreading



Test conditions: Parallel plates geometry R=10mm; Gap h=0.5mm

# Rheology of the formulations

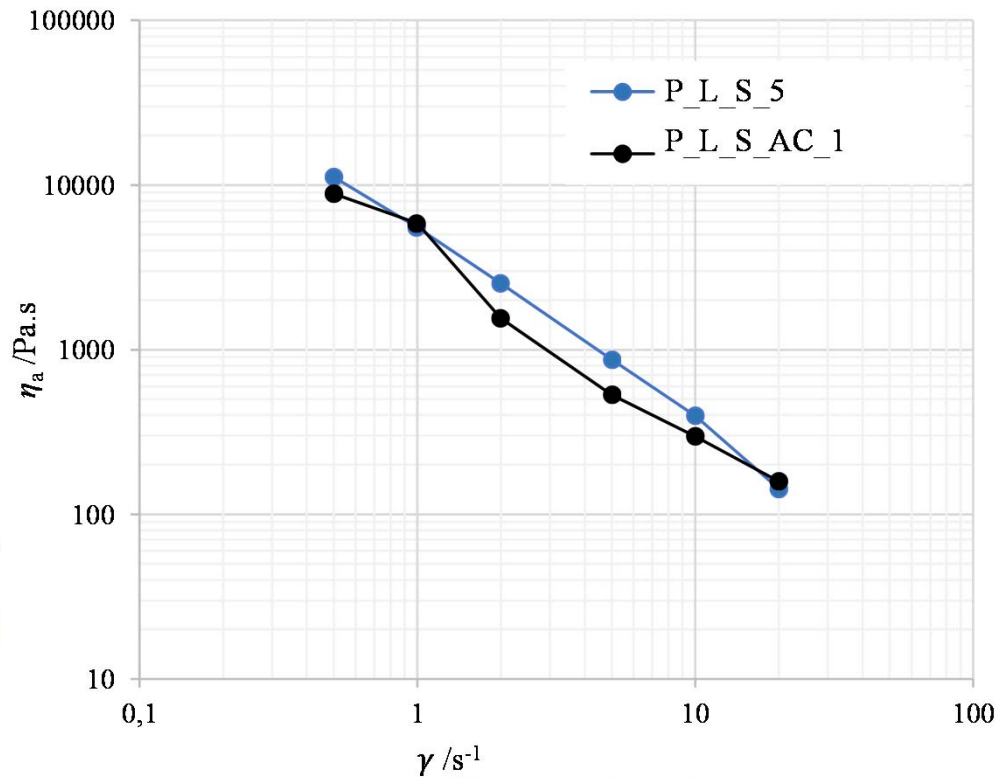


Formulation	Powder D50 / $\mu m$	Sacarose /%(w/w)	PVA /%(w/w)	Oleic acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
S_PVA_OA_9	0.4	9.9	0.4	2.2	47.6
S_PVA_OA_9+	4	9.9	0.4	2.2	53.0

- Pseudoplastic behaviour of both formulations
- Formulation with higher particle size shows lower viscosity, despite having a higher solids loading

Test conditions: Parallel plates geometry R=10mm; Gap h=0.5mm

# Rheology of the formulations



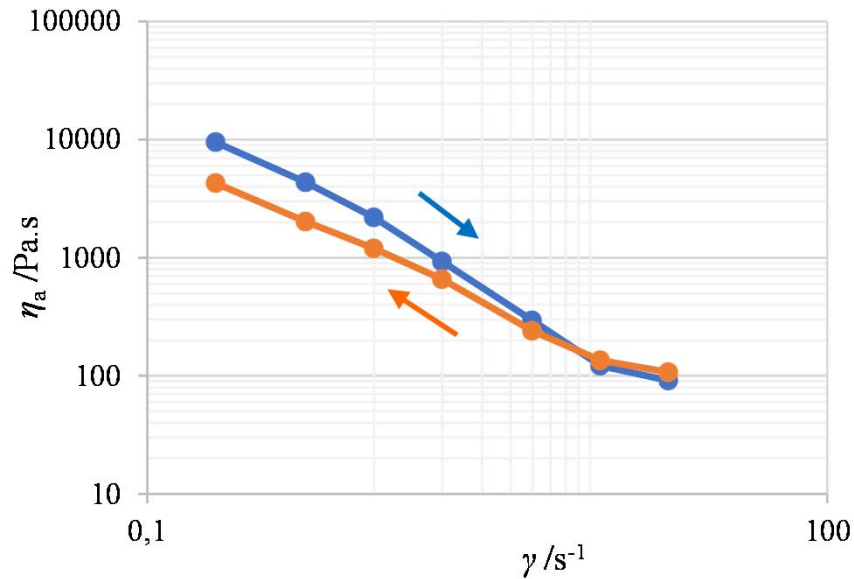
Formulation	Powder D50 / $\mu\text{m}$	C92 /%(w/w)	126/3 /%(w/w)	Sacarose /%(w/w)	Citric acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
P_L_S_5	0.4	0.4	0.3	7.5	-	46.7
P_L_S_AC_1	0.4	0.1	0.7	4.9	0.1	45.6

- Pseudoplastic behaviour of both formulations
- Slightly difference between viscosity of the two formulations

Test conditions: Parallel plates geometry R=10mm; Gap h=0.5mm

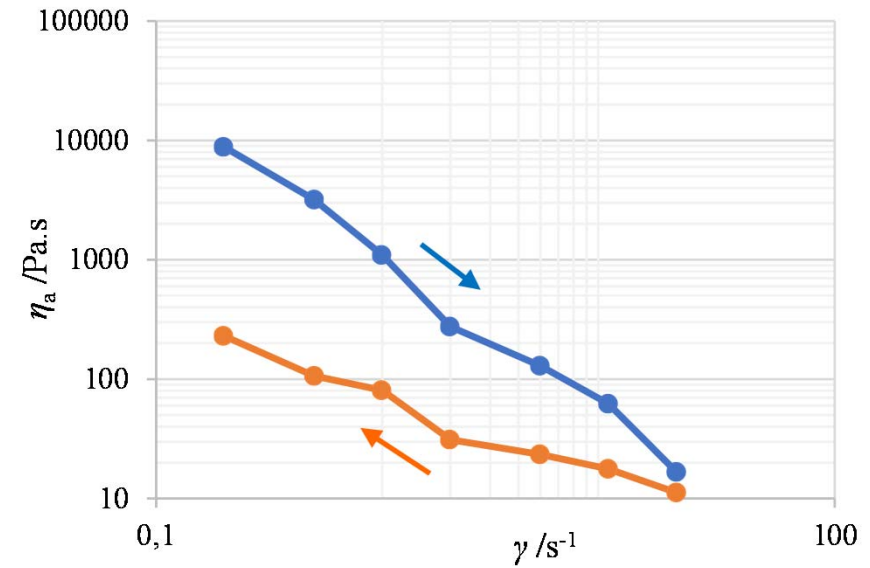
# Rheology of the formulations

S\_PVA\_OA\_9



- Thixotropic behaviour

S\_PVA\_OA\_9+

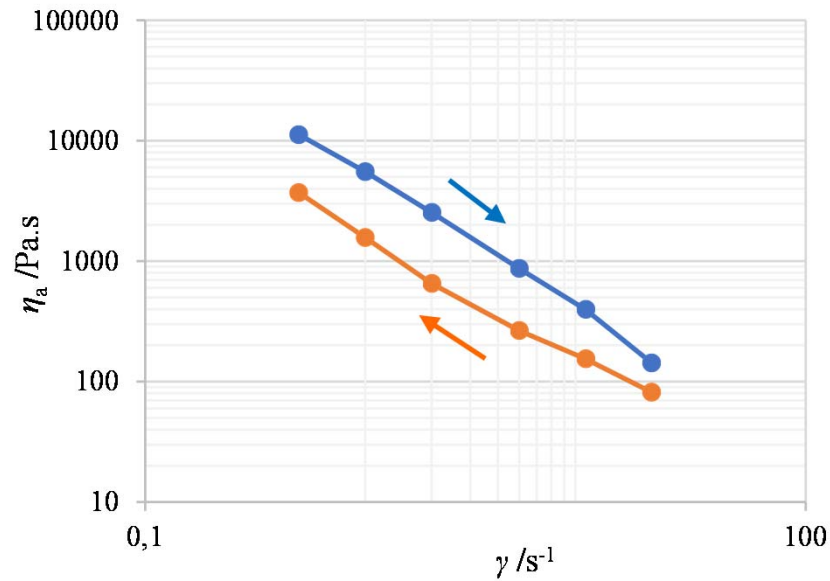


- Thixotropic behaviour

Formulation	Powder D50 / $\mu m$	Saccharose /%(w/w)	PVA /%(w/w)	Oleic acid /%(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
S_PVA_OA_9	0.4	9.9	0.4	2.2	47.6
S_PVA_OA_9+	4	9.9	0.4	2.2	53.0

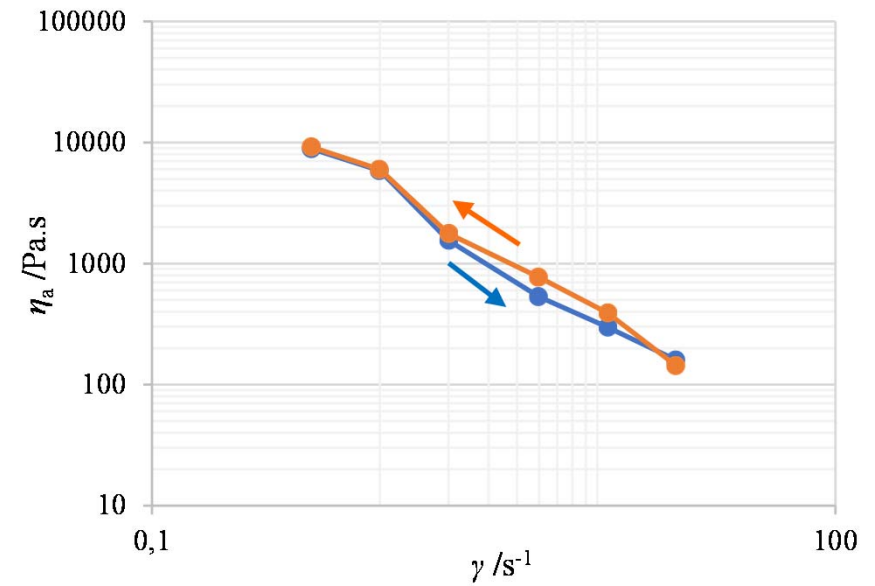
# Rheology of the formulations

P\_L\_S\_5



- Thixotropic behaviour

P\_L\_S\_AC\_1



- Non-thixotropic behaviour

Formulation	Powder D50 /μm	C92 /(w/w)	I26/3 /(w/w)	Sacrose /(w/w)	Citric acid /(w/w)	Solids loading / % (vol/vol)
P_L_S_5	0.4	0.4	0.3	7.5	-	46.7
P_L_S_AC_1	0.4	0.1	0.7	4.9	0.1	45.6

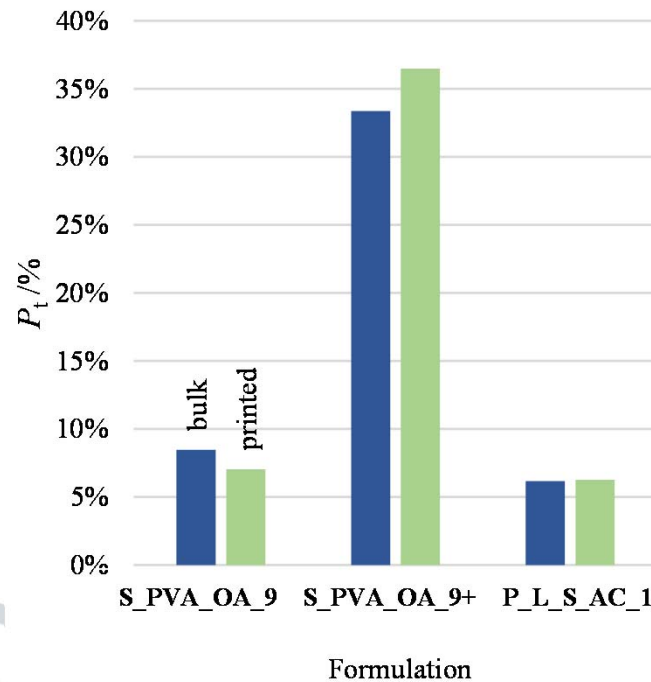
# Rheology and hardness of the formulations

Formulation	Hardness /kg	Viscosity in 0,5-20 s <sup>-1</sup> range /Pa.s	Printing behaviour
S_PVA_OA_9	1,8	91 to 4349	Poor adhesion to the building platform
S_PVA_OA_9+	< 1	17 to 3187	Prints well
P_L_S_5	-	159 to 11195	-
P_L_S_AC_1	2,9	159 to 8870	Prints with upper limit reservoir pressure

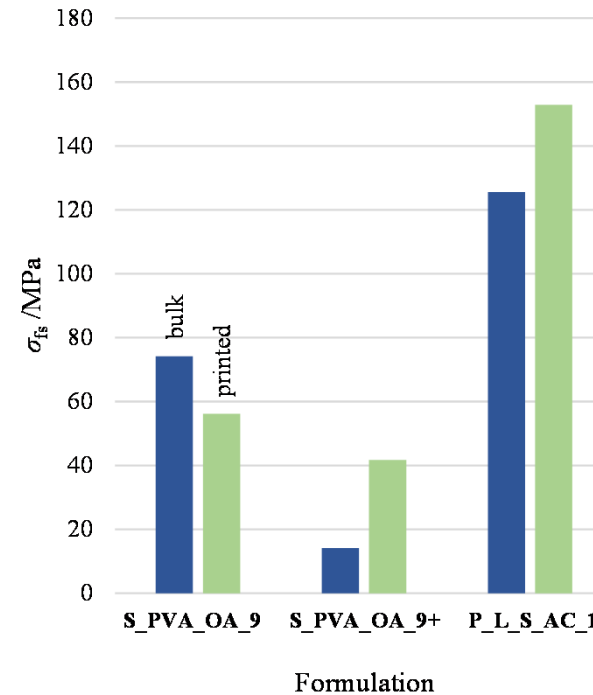
- Formulation hardness is proportional to viscosity
- Formulations with hardness higher than ca. 3 kg are not recommended for processing

# Sintered porosity and bending strength

### Total Porosity



### Bending Strength



- Higher porosity (33 & 37%) in formulation based on higher powder particle size (D50 = 4 $\mu$ m)
- Higher strength in sintered formulations with lower porosity

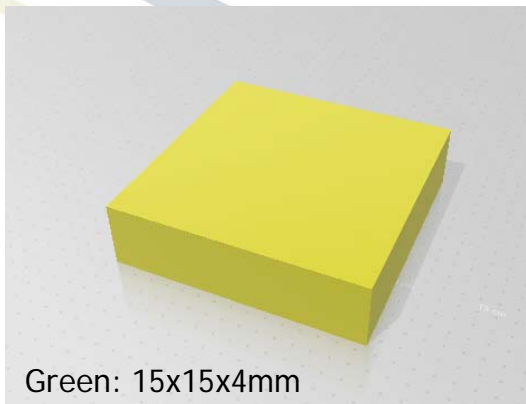


# Prototype production

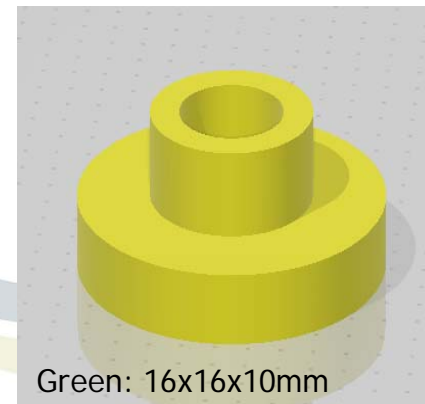
Formulation S\_PVA\_OA\_9+



Formulation P\_L\_S\_AC\_1



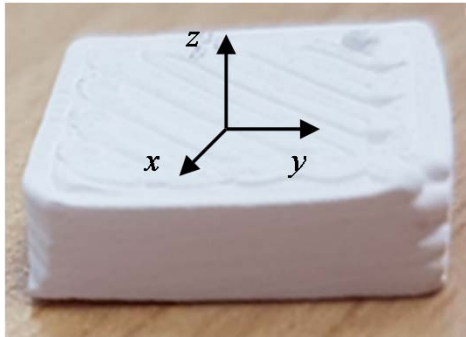
Green: 15x15x4mm



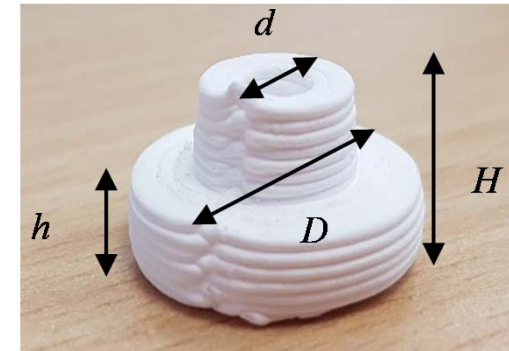
Green: 16x16x10mm

# Sintering linear shrinkage

Plate



Spacer



Formulation	Plate			Spacer			
	$R_{L,x}$ /%	$R_{L,y}$ /%	$R_{L,z}$ /%	$R_{L,D}$ /%	$R_{L,d}$ /%	$R_{L,H}$ /%	$R_{L,h}$ /%
S_P_OA_9	17,7	18,3	17,6	18,4	17,3	20,2	19,3
S_P_OA_9+	4,8	4,6	6,0	3,8	3,9	6,8	7,4
P_L_S_AC_1	18,	18,55	25,5	18,2	16,4	21,8	18,9

- Higher shrinkage in formulations with lower particle size and high densification (S\_P\_OA\_9 and P\_L\_S\_AC\_1)
- Higher shrinkage in Z direction



Formulation S\_PVA\_OA\_9 (alumina  $D=0.4\mu\text{m}$ )  
printing a gas dosing valve disc



Green parts:

- Injection moulding (left)
- Robocasting (right)



- Green parts (top)
- Sintered parts (bottom)

- Comparing to AM of plastics and metals, ceramics are in the very beginning but with a huge potential
- Technology and application should be developed together



Thank you

