

Caracol and 株式会社3D Printing Corporation join forces to bring large format Additive Manufacturing to Japan and South Korea



From the left; Francesco De Stefano, CEO and Co-founder of Caracol, and Alexander De Vore, CEO of 3D Printing Corporation, at Formnext 2023 in Frankfurt

[15 January • 2024] – Caracol and 株式会社3D Printing Corporation are excited to announce their partnership, to bring advanced robotic large-format additive manufacturing to Japan and South Korea.

3D Printing Corporation will be installing a Heron AM platform within their facility to manufacture large-scale parts locally, becoming part of Caracol's Manufacturing Partners network, as well as supporting the distribution of these machines in Japan. The company decided to introduce LFAM after careful analysis of the innovations currently present on the market, *"Pellets as a feedstock is a fundamentally better idea to lower costs and increase productivity. We decided to partner with Caracol because of their deep know-how around manufacturing large and complex objects in novel materials,"* says Alexander De Vore, CEO of 3D Printing Corporation. The company's aim for him is *"Transitioning manufacturing to a digital process. By doing this we believe we are making everyone who makes things more productive and align the world around making and using things more locally. Our efforts are currently focused on building solutions around tooling, recycling, and operational sustainment."*

Caracol values partnering with a strong partner who can support the growth of LFAM within the Japanese and South Korean industrial landscapes with knowledge on local cultures and needs. *"Caracol is very happy to partner with a leading technology provider and service bureau, bringing Heron AM to Japan and South Korea,"* says Francesco De Stefano CEO of Caracol. *"Japan has the largest robotic market in the world and has historically driven the adoption of many new disruptive technologies. Thanks to the experience and cultural understanding 3DPC has of this territory, as well as their*

incredible solution-driven production capabilities, we are confident we'll be able to guide across industries many new users to manufacture advanced parts with LFAM."

Japan and South Korea have been slowly but steadily growing their interest towards additive technologies – especially considering the strong advanced industrial and technological background the countries possess. According to Alexander De Vore *"Japanese AM needs to be viewed in the context of the broader shift towards digitalization happening in Japan. It's paradoxical but Japanese AM lags behind its Chinese, American and European counterparts because it has a highly developed manufacturing market. That same developed market sets a high minimum hurdle to clear and combined with the confucianist tendency to view any perturbation with skepticism, the natural new technology discovery process tends to happen very slowly, if at all."*

Today the shift is happening also thanks to companies like 3D Printing Corporation who are delivering solutions to the market, thanks to the possibilities of additive manufacturing. *"Our growth in the market has largely been based around providing solutions to problems that were largely unsolved within this traditional manufacturing market. LFAM, Pellets, and robotics just builds on this by giving us more radical capabilities,"* states Alexander De Vore. Through this partnership Caracol and 3D Printing Corporation will seamlessly be able to deliver to Japanese companies the know-how and experience developed over years of research on LFAM, helping them leverage quickly the benefits these solutions can provide for their manufacturing needs and goals.

CARACOL

Caracol was founded in 2017 in Milan, Italy, with the vision of pushing the limits of additive manufacturing in terms of scale, efficiency, and sustainability. The company accomplished this by developing an integrated technological platform, including both hardware and software, to produce advanced large-scale components. Through the integration of a patented extrusion head, the development of a dedicated software, and the use of robotic arms as movement support, Caracol offers an additive manufacturing technology for advanced components for customers in industries such as aerospace, marine, energy, design, and architecture. Heron AM manufactures parts such as jigs and molds for aircraft components, finished parts for yacht and boat superstructures, or revolutionary projects to initiate virtuous circular economy processes for the energy or design sectors. Today the company has opened the largest LFAM production center in Europe, a new production facility in Austin (TX), USA opened in August 2023, and has a core team of over 60 international professionals with highly specialized competences, in areas such as mechanical engineering, automation, computational design, design for additive, and advanced manufacturing processes.

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株式会社 3D PRINTING CORPORATION

3D Printing Corporation has been using additive manufacturing technology since its establishment in 2016 to solve many of its customer's problems, such as shortening lead times, reducing operating costs, and reducing weight and increasing strength of parts. With the goal of digitally transforming the manufacturing supply chain, the company uses the world's most advanced 3D printers to provide integrated services ranging from the design and development of customer's products to manufacturing, post-processing, and quality evaluation. We engage in collaborative academic research and contribute to a wide range of industries including defense, automotive, heavy industry, electronics, oil and energy, manufacturing, education, shipbuilding, construction, art, and furniture. Staying ahead of the curve with this fast-moving technology enables us to offer professional engineering consulting services including design, equipment selection, installation, and support. We strive to empower our customers to locally manufacture what they need when they need it.