



Quality assurance concept of additive manufacturing in engine construction

2019 EASA - FAA Workshop on Additive Manufacturing

EASA Headquarter Cologne

11/06/2019 – Dr. Jürgen Kraus

Agenda

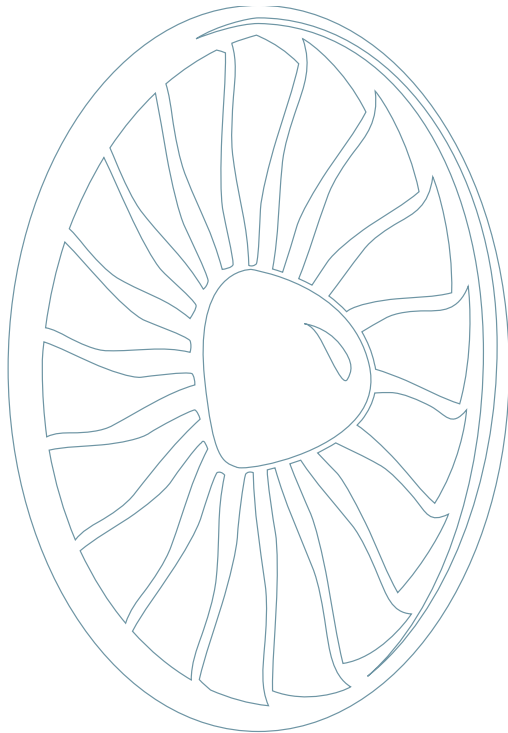
AM @ MTU

QA concepts

Issues in powder recycling

AM @ MTU

MTU Aero Engines at a glance



Leading German engine manufacturer
and key partner to OEMs for military and commercial engines

A leading provider of engine services
for various military and commercial engines

€ 4.6 billion revenue in 2018
with ~ 10.000 employees

Worldwide network
with 15 major facilities and representative offices

AM technology is established with more than 10 years of experience

First serial production part: Borescope eye

In service since January 2012 at PW1100G-JM (A320neo)

Production ramp-up since 2017

More than 4.000 parts produced

Very positive field experience



Borescope eye

Learning

Lower cost benefits with a only-substitution-approach

Post-process essential to achieve target costs

High scrap rates due to machine imperfections

Center-of-excellence established



PW1100G-JM



Airbus A320neo

Parts portfolio will consistently increase in volume and complexity

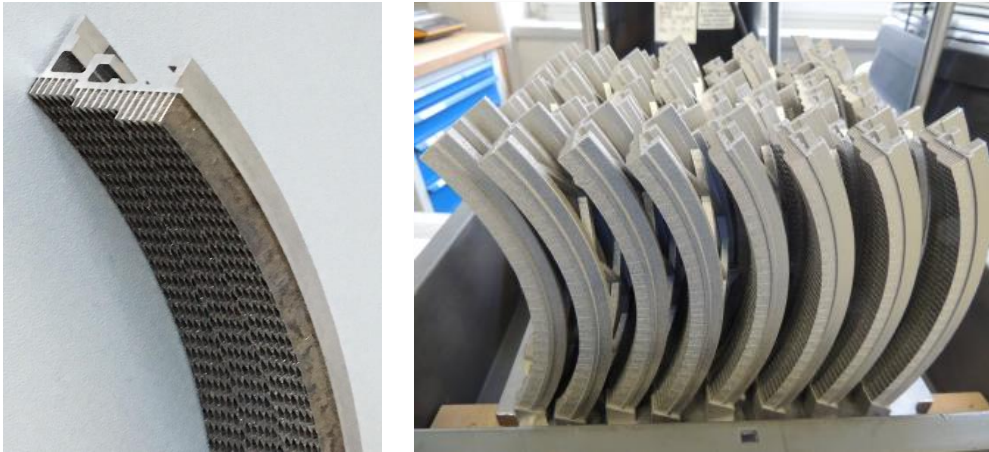
Compressor sealing carrier

Approach of substitution and new design

Less effort due to integral honeycomb design

Increase of compressor stability and efficiency

30 to 40% cost benefit



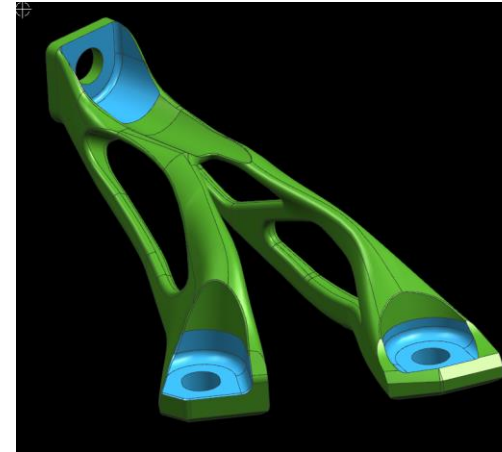
Oil tube bracket

Full bionic design

Less effort due to drastically reduced machining

50% weight reduction

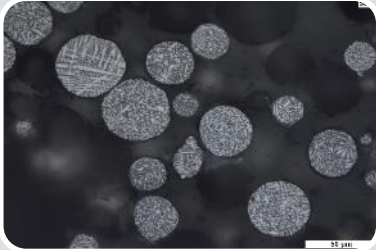
80% cost benefit



QA concepts

AM@MTU

Quality Control for Aero Engine Components



Raw Material / Powder

Supplier

- Certificates

MTU

- Incoming goods inspection
- Requalification of used powder



Production Line

Machine Qualification

- Machine calibration
- Total productive maintenance
- Machine approval



Process

Process Monitoring

- Optical Tomography
- Machine Parameters
- Process Parameters



Part

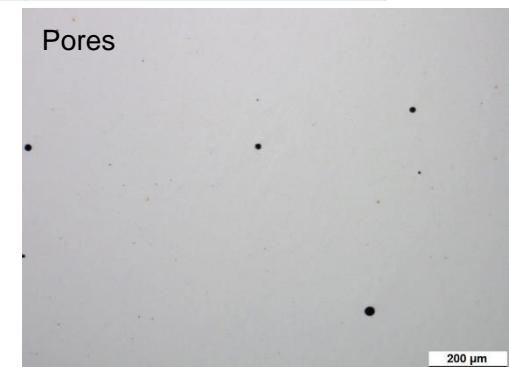
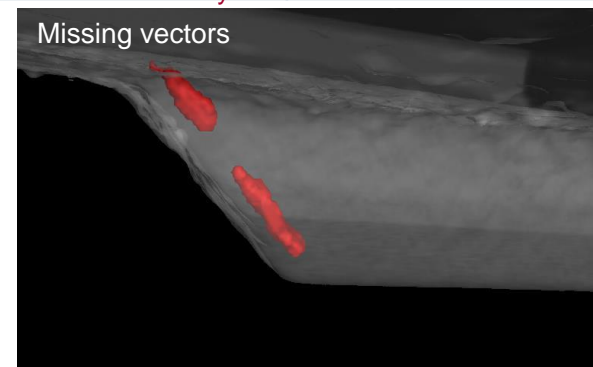
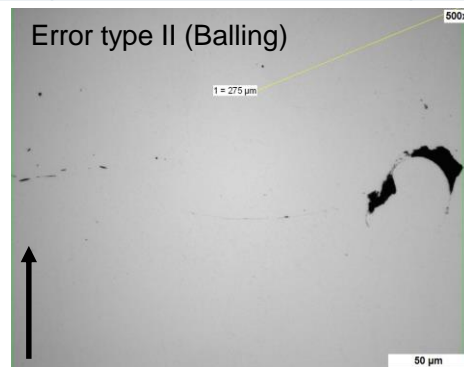
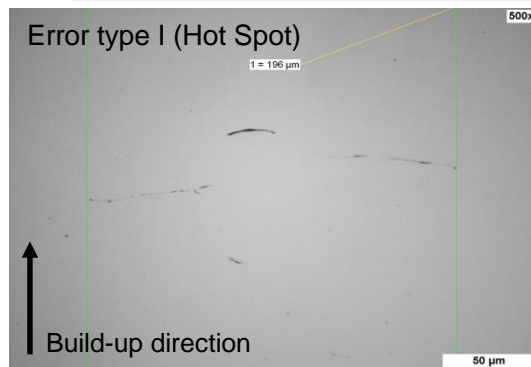
Component Testing / NDT

- Optical Tomography
- NDT
- Geometr. measurement
- Test bars
- Cut-ups

Quality control system has to cover full range of the process chain

AM typical volume defects and test methods

Error types	OT	X-Ray	CT	Metallography (systematic errors)	
Lack of fusion Type I (Hot Spot)	✓	—	—	(✓)	
Lack of fusion Typ II (Balling)	✓ POD in work	✓ Depends on geometry	✓ Depends on geometry	(✓)	
Missing vectors	—	✓	✓	—	software check
Pores	—	(✓) >100 µm	(✓) >100 µm	(✓)	Accepted in process specific size
Micro-cracks	—	—	—	(✓)	
Inclusions	(✓)	(✓) Huge inclusions with sign. differences in density	(✓) Sign. differences in density	(✓)	



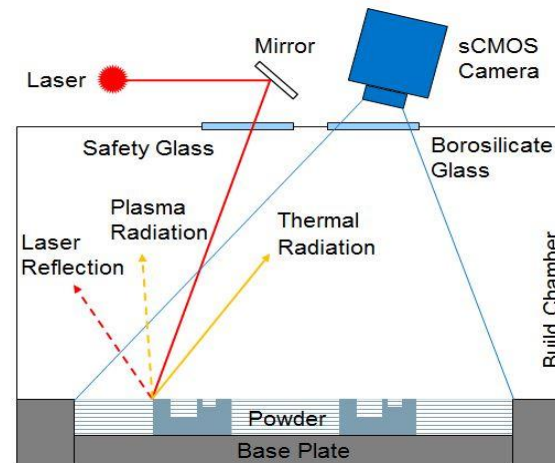
Optical Tomography (OT)

System Principle



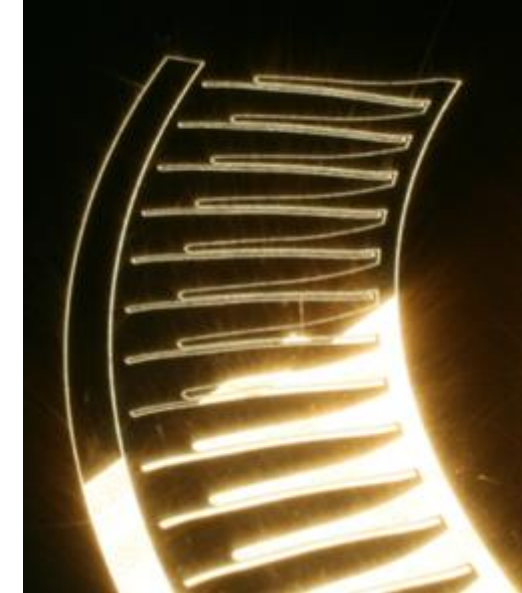
Long time exposure of urban traffic

→ traffic volume



Brightness in the picture equals radiation integrated over time

→ Measurement of energy per length



Long time exposure in additive manufacturing

→ radiation density

Optical Tomography is an inseparable part of MTU's SLM process

Optical Tomography

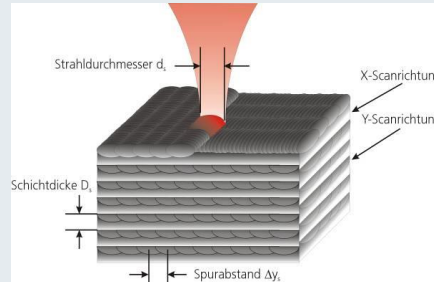
Types of deviation

Systematical deviations

Monitoring of energy input, e.g.:

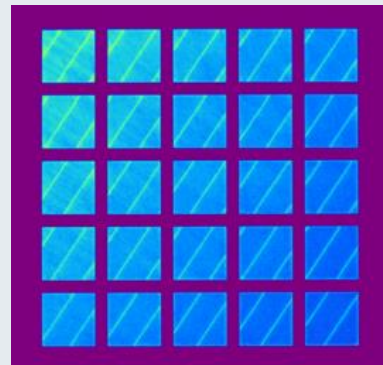
- Laser power
- Scan speed
- Hatch distance

Average gray values (GLM) allows the monitoring of all positions and layers in a build job.



Alternative methods:

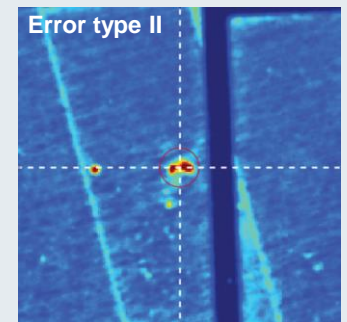
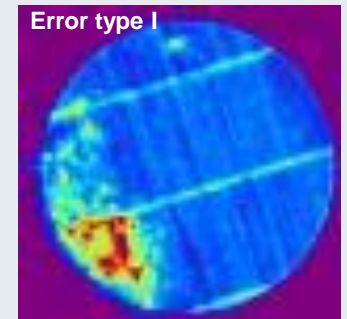
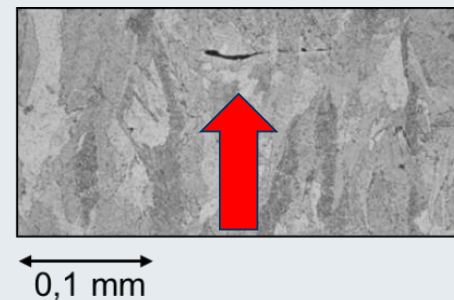
- Inspection of accompanying samples
- Destructive inspections of components
- X-ray (depends on geometry)



Local deviations

Random process disruptions causing the emergence of lacks of fusion:

- Disruption of guided gas flow (defect type I) → de-focusing of laser beam
- Powder agglomeration (defect type II)



Series introduction of OT and suggestion of assurance through CT testing

- Requirements for replacement of CT serial testing:
 - OT qualification as NDT method for error types I and II
 - Approval of the powder bed monitoring system

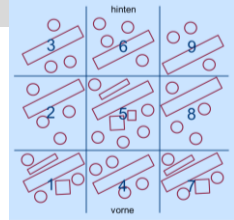
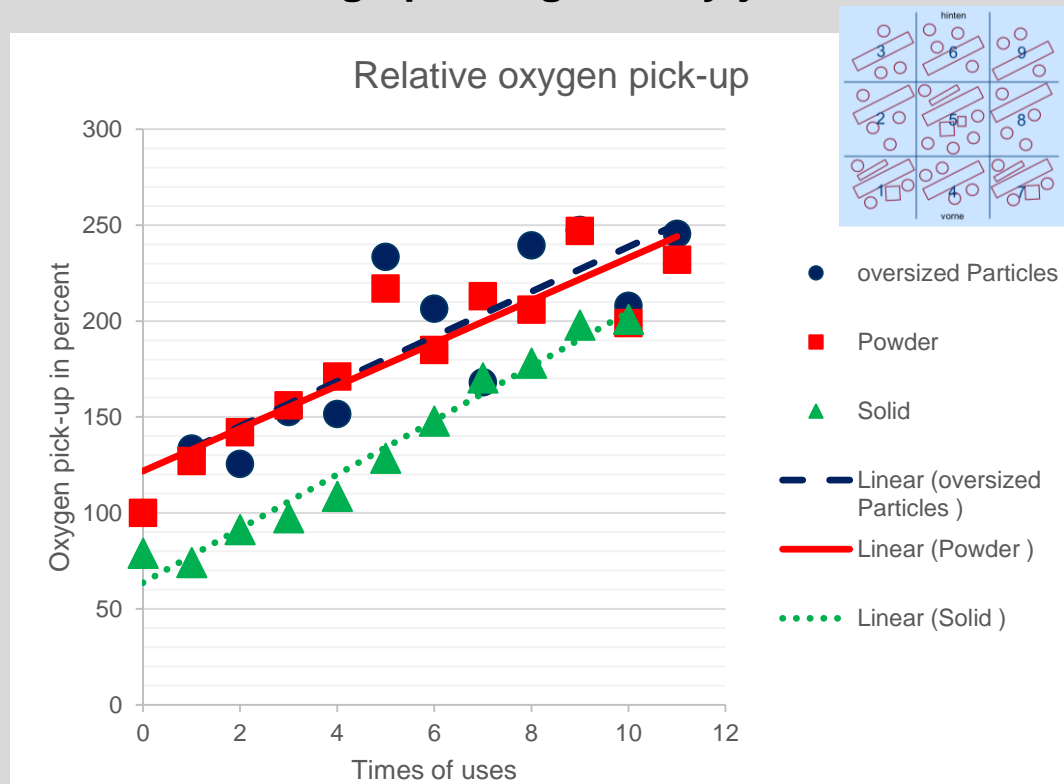
Testing method	FAI	LRIP (series introduction)	Series
OT defect type I and II	100 %	100 %	100 %
X-Ray / CT	100 %	Part specific share.	-
Metallography	5 components, 1 process sample	1 process sample per build job	1 process sample per build job
FPI	100 %	100 %	100 %

OT and X-Ray/CT to be performed in parallel for FAI and LRIP

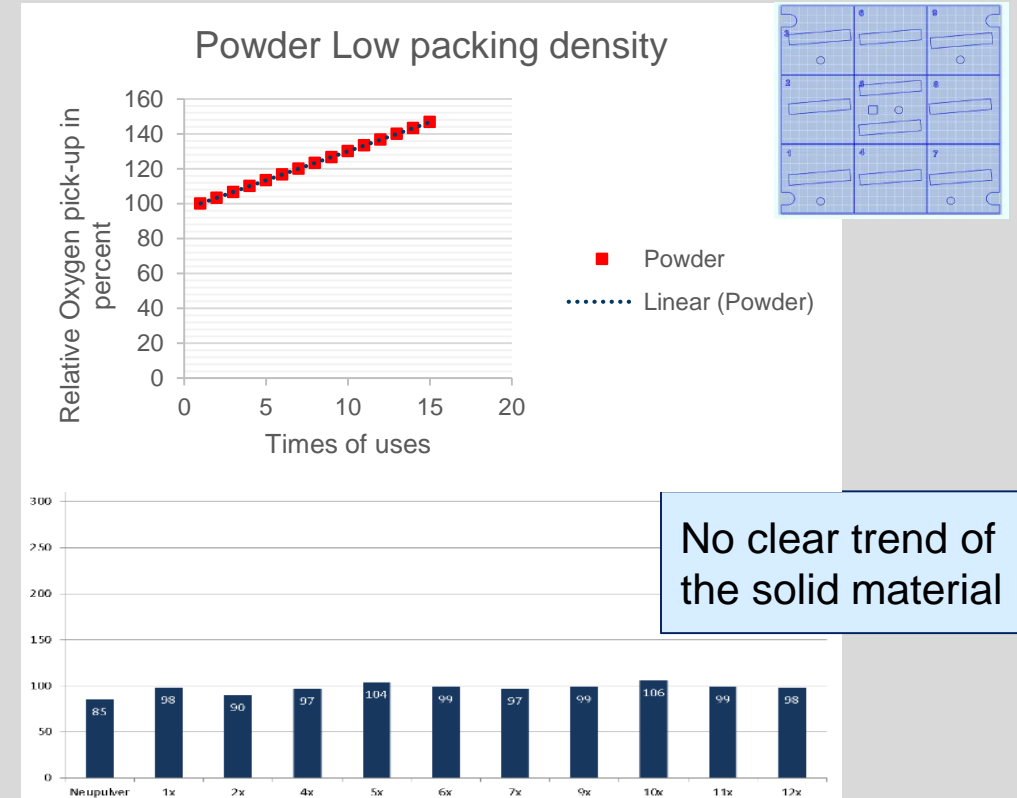
Issues in powder recycling

Oxygen pick-up for reference jobs

High packing density-job



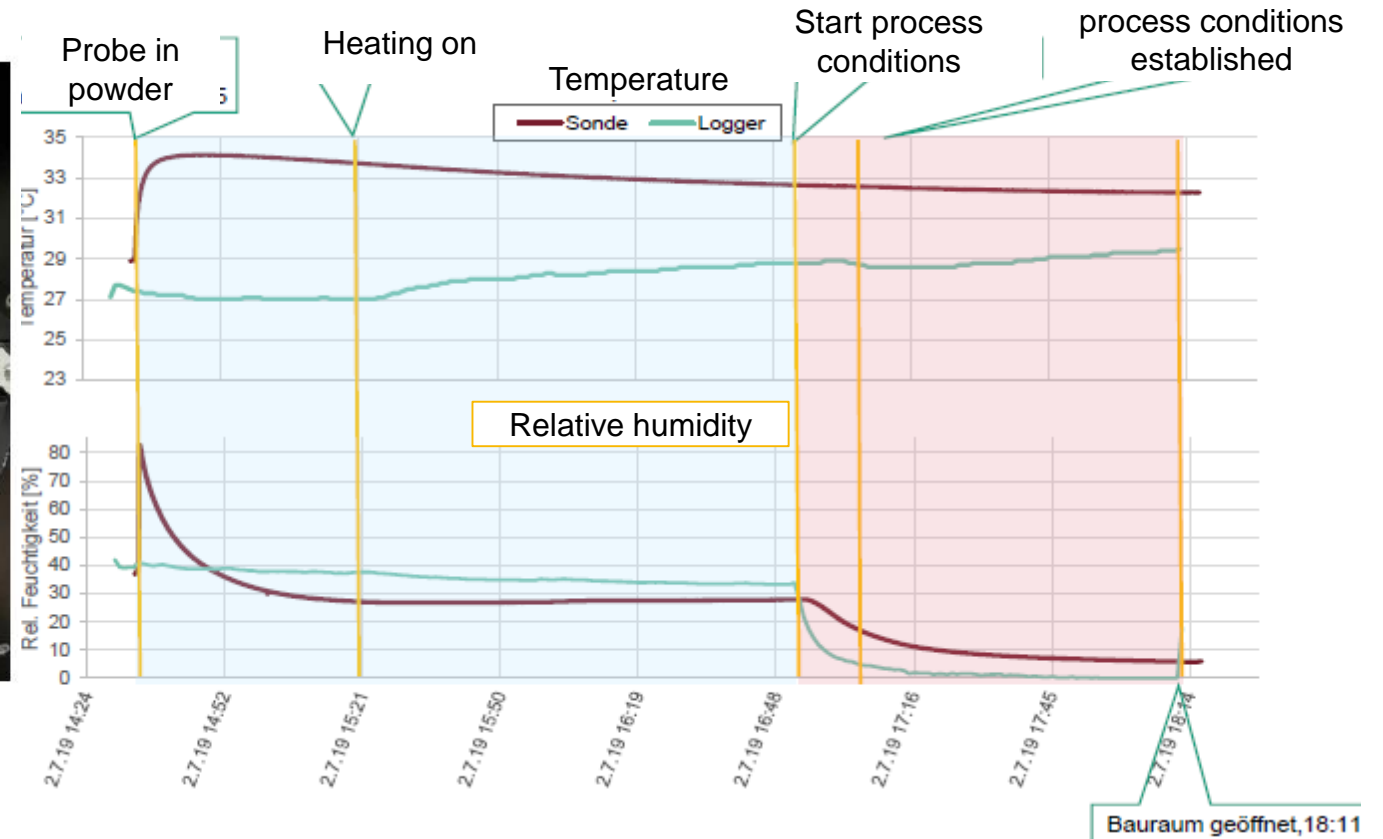
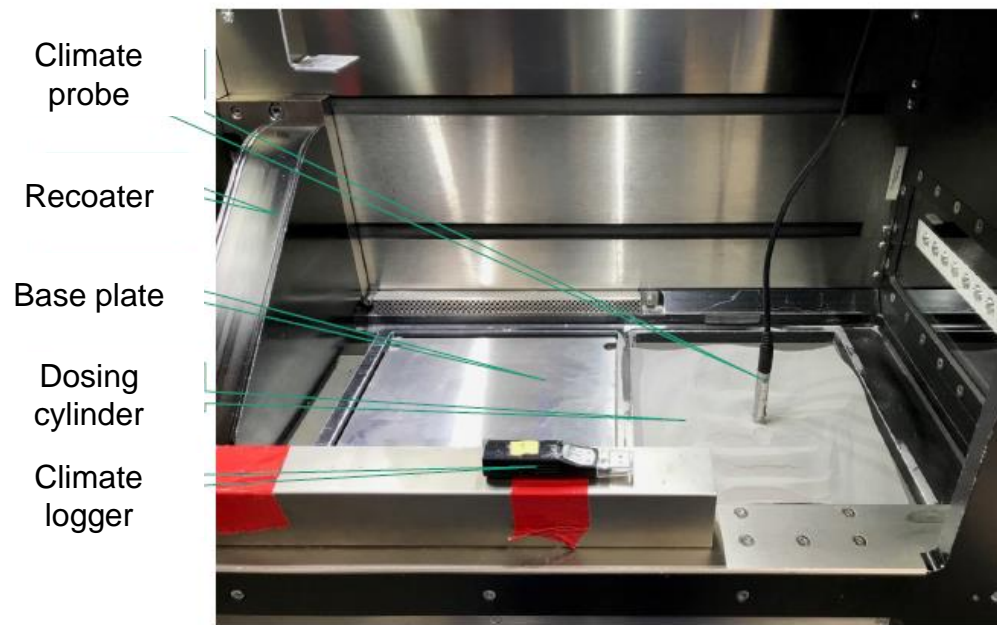
Low packing density-job



Degree of oxygen up-take is job-dependent
Accepted „times of uses“ vary in a wide range

Environmental exposure – powder humidity II

Scenario: Preparing a LPBF machine



Humidity in LPBF process is widely independent from original powder condition

Boundary conditions & basic strategies

Standard requirements

e.g.

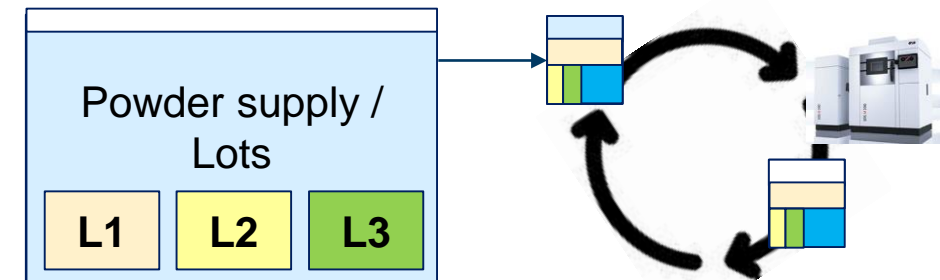
ASTM F3055 (AM with IN718, section 7.3)

- Powder blends are allowed unless otherwise specified
- Powder used to create the powder blend meets the requirements...
- Lot. numbers are documented and maintained
- Used Powder is allowed
- Proportion of virgin powder to used powder shall be recorded for each production run
- Maximum number of times used powder can be used
- Maximum number of times any portion of a powder lot can be processed

Collective ageing



Continuously adding new powder



„Collective ageing“ might cause systematic scrap of powder and creates a large stock next to production with a great variety of powder condition.

Traceability in a refreshing powder cycle

Experiment of thought

Scenario: Boroscope boss

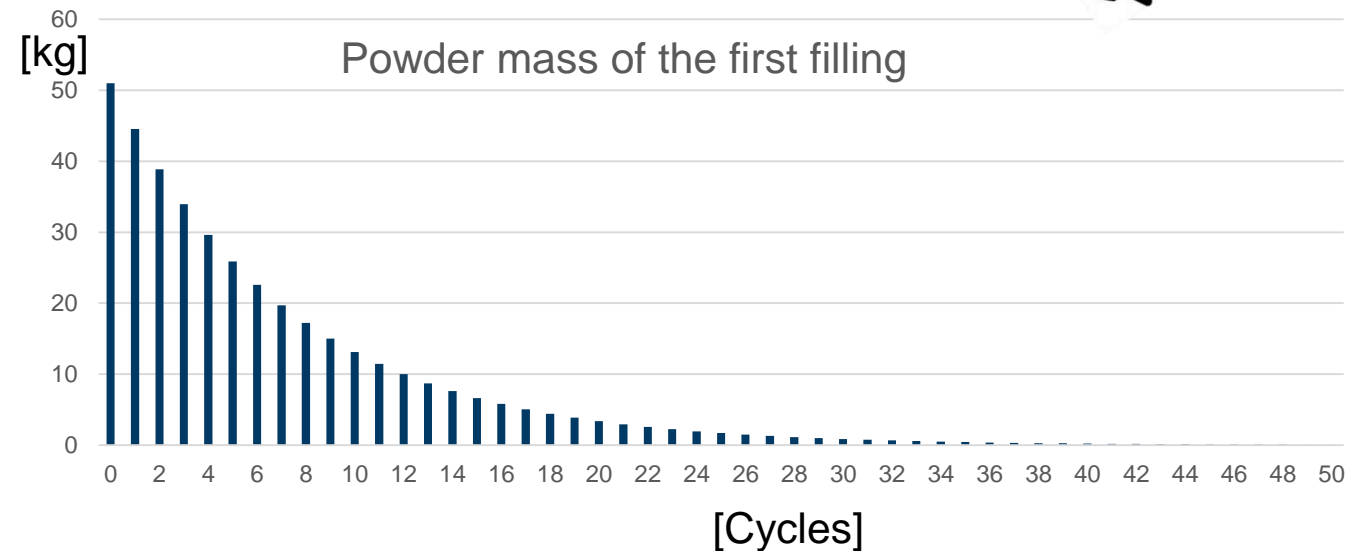
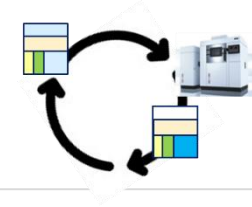
Lot Size of powder: 1500 kg

Machine filling: 51 kg

Material usage: 5 kg (part incl. Losses)

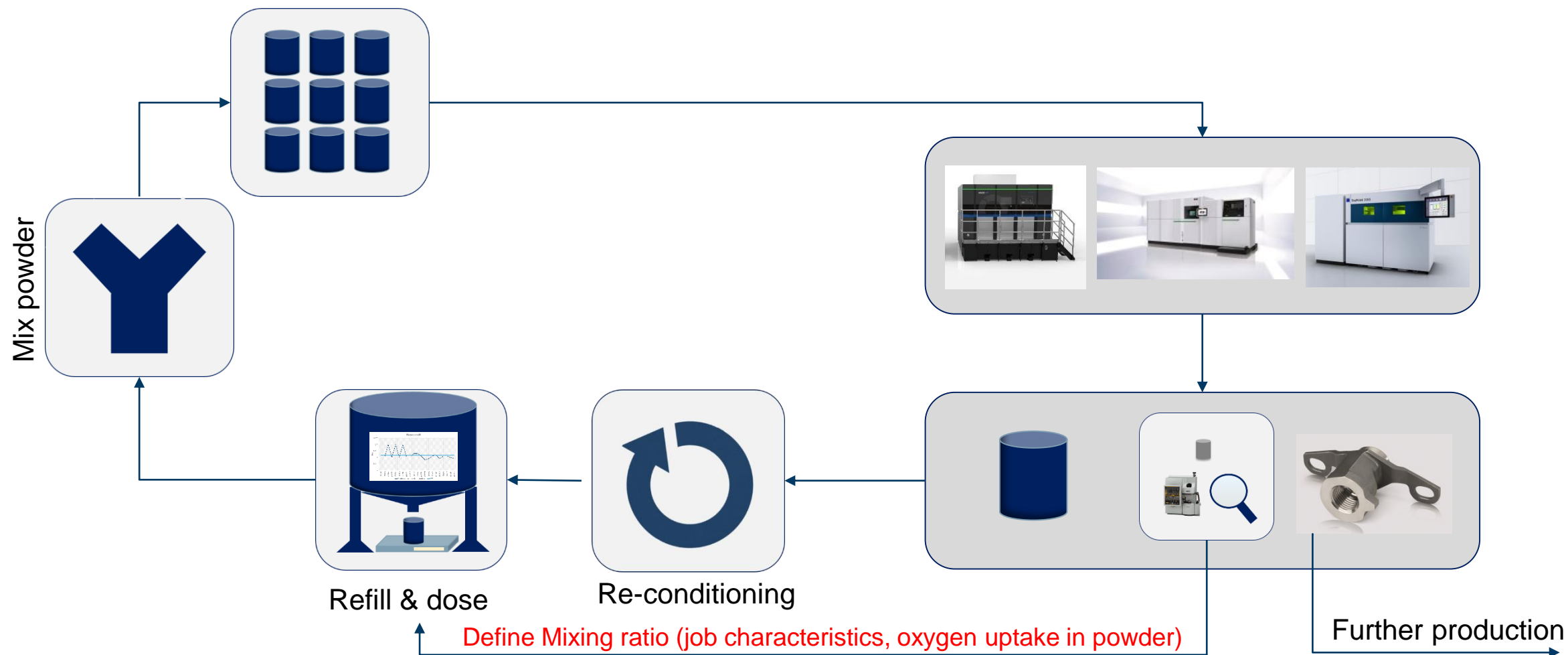
=> 300 Refills from one Lot (max)

Refill-Strategy



Number of refills	50	75	100	150
Machines with same Lot	6	4	3	2
Residual amount	57 g	1,9 g	0,064 g	7×10^{-8} g

Outlook: future recycling scheme



A close-up, low-angle shot of a jet engine's compressor section. The image shows several rows of curved, metallic compressor blades. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, emphasizing the metallic texture and the complex geometry of the blades. The perspective creates a sense of depth and scale.

Thank you