

International Space University and MPO, an Isle of Man based company, start common activities in 3-D printing

As demonstrated on the International Space Station (ISS), 3-D printing is a powerful tool to produce in situ parts rapidly, eliminating potential long transport times and delays. This is particularly the case for small but essential (spare) parts.

With the existing know-how within the International Space University (ISU), research with a strong commercial potential has been agreed with Manx Precision Optics Ltd. (MPO), a highly specialized company involved in precision optics and led by Dr. H. Kessler, an EMBA graduate from ISU and the Isle of Man.



MPO Ltd production facilities

This pilot project with a high potential will allow validating the concept of producing essential components on the spot. If successful, it could generate the growth of a new commercial sector as well as experience in producing parts on traffic and weather dependent places, hence the high interest for the Isle of Man.

ISU and the Isle of Man have a long-standing relationship, which is also expressed in the International Institute of Space Commerce (IISC), based in Douglas and strongly supported by the local government in view of promoting space activities on the Isle.

As stated by Dr. Kessler, CEO and owner of MPO:

“The calibre and motivation of ISU students and academic staff is second to none and pooling our resources to work on this exciting project is a fantastic opportunity to push forward the current boundaries of technology.”

Prof. Peeters, president ISU and Director of IISC added:

“We are delighted to work together with an ISU alumnus and strong IISC supporter. On board of the International Space Station, 3-D printing has already shown its enormous potential in fabricating spare parts or other essential items, cutting down transport costs and delays.”

After concept validation, the market potential of the specific application will be further jointly examined and developed.

About the International Space University (ISU) – www.isunet.edu

The International Space University (ISU), founded in 1987 in Massachusetts, US and now headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is the world's premier international space education institution. It is supported by major space agencies and aerospace organizations from around the world. The graduate level programs offered by ISU are dedicated to promoting international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation in space activities. ISU offers the Master of Space Studies program at its Central Campus in Strasbourg. Since the summer of 1988, ISU has also conducted the highly acclaimed Space Studies Program at different host institutions in locations spanning the globe. ISU programs are delivered by over 100 ISU faculty members in concert with invited industry and agency experts from institutions around the world. Since its founding in 1987 on the campus of MIT, with Sir Arthur C. Clarke as its Founding Chancellor, more than 4000 students from over 100 countries have graduated from ISU.

About Manx Precision Optics Ltd. (MPO) – www.mpo.im

MPO Ltd is a high-precision optics manufacturer based in the Isle of Man.

In July 2015 MPO achieved another milestone by attaining ISO 9001:2008 certification for its production of high precision optical components.

The company has a very experienced workforce and covers the full range of optical manufacture, from grinding and polishing to coating and assembly. Its modern manufacturing facility allows us to offer a wide range of optical components off the shelf and also offer tailor-made solutions at highly competitive prices.