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Authors: Hao Yi, Lehua Qi, Jun Luo, Daicong Zhang, Ni Li

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# Direct fabrication of metal tubes with high-quality inner surfaces via droplet deposition over soluble cores

Hao Yi<sup>1,2</sup>, Lehua Qi<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Jun Luo<sup>1,2</sup>, Daicong Zhang<sup>1,2</sup> and Ni Li<sup>3,\*\*</sup>

1. School of Mechanical Engineering, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an 710072, China

2. Key Laboratory of Contemporary Design and Integrated Manufacturing Technology, Ministry of Education, Xi'an 710072, China

3. Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, California State University, Los Angeles, 90032, USA

First author's E-mail address: yihao@mail.nwpu.edu.cn (H. Yi) or yihao19881116@gmail.com (H. Yi).

\* Corresponding author: qilehua@nwpu.edu.cn (L. Qi); Tel: +86-029-88460447; Fax: +86-029-88491982.

\*\* Corresponding author: nli12@calstatela.edu (N. Li); Tel: +1-323-343-4495.

## Abstract:

Droplet-based 3D printing is very promising for the fabrication of complex thin-wall microwave devices such as antenna horns and waveguide tubes since it can print a shell by utilizing only several layers of droplets. However, due to the naturally scalloped shape of metal droplets, conventional droplet-based 3D printing methods cannot produce thin-wall tubes with high-quality inner surfaces that can meet the requirement of electromagnetic transmission. Here, combining the conventional casting procedure and droplet printing, a hybrid printing process is proposed. Uniform aluminum droplets were first rotationally deposited on a soluble core, and then the core was dissolved and left behind a tube with a high-quality inner surface. The deposition parameters (i.e., number of layers and deposition frequency) were adjusted according to the rotation of the core to form a dense shell over its surface. A hexagonal metal tube was fabricated

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