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AM Metal Substrates for Inkjet-Printing of Smart Devices

Lisa-Marie Faller, Matic Krivec, Anze Abram, Hubert Zangl

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# **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

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#### Abstract

A study to characterize surface and structural properties of 3D-printed metal substrates for multilayer inkjet-printing is presented. Such substrates can enable and alleviate the fabrication of smart and functional packages, implants or spare parts. For the characterization, a multilayer structure composed of an insulating layer and a superposed conductive layer is inkjet-printed onto the various 3D-printed metallic substrates. The printing is done using equivalent settings for all substrates. The characterization is based on microscopic and Focused Ion Beam (FIB) images, as well as profilometer and contact angle measurements of the substrates. Furthermore, microscopic images and four-point-probe resistance- and profilometer measurements are carried out, to gain insight into the quality of the multilayer print. We show the diversity in surface and structural properties of 3D-printed substrates, also for those fabricated using the same process. Also, the 3D-printed samples exhibit different wettability properties than metals processed using standard processes. Finally, we can also demonstrate the suitability of selected substrates for inkjet-printing.

Keywords: 3D-printed metals, Surface characterization, Profilometer measurements, FIB measurements

#### First and corresponding author:

Lisa-Marie Faller
Institute of Smart System Technologies
Alpen Adria Universität Klagenfurt
Universitätsstrasse 65-67
9020 Klagenfurt, Austria
Email: Lisa-Marie.Faller@aau.at

Phone: +4346327003563 URL: www.aau.at/sat

#### Third author:

Anze Abram Jozef Stefan Institute Jamova Cesta 39 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia Email: Anze.Abram@ijs.si

### Second author:

Matic Krivec Carinthian Tech Research (CTR) Europastrasse 12 9500 Villach, Austria Email: Matic.Krivec@ctr.at

#### $Fourth\ author:$

Hubert Zangl Institute of Smart System Technologies Alpen Adria Universität Klagenfurt Universitätsstrasse 65-67 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria Email: Hubert.Zangl@aau.at

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