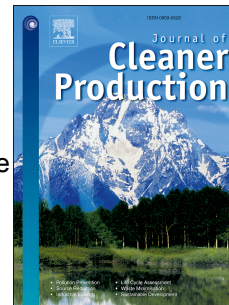


Accepted Manuscript

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C.A. Griffiths, J. Howarth, G. De Almeida-Rowbotham, A. Rees, R. Kerton



PII: S0959-6526(16)31087-3

DOI: [10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.07.182](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.07.182)

Reference: JCLP 7754

To appear in: *Journal of Cleaner Production*

Received Date: 28 August 2015

Revised Date: 14 July 2016

Accepted Date: 27 July 2016

Please cite this article as: Griffiths CA, Howarth J, De Almeida-Rowbotham G, Rees A, Kerton R, A design of experiments approach for the optimisation of energy and waste during the production of parts manufactured by 3D printing, *Journal of Cleaner Production* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.07.182.

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A Design of Experiments Approach for the Optimisation of Energy and Waste During
the Production of Parts Manufactured by 3D Printing

C.A. Griffiths, J. Howarth*, G. De Almeida-Rowbotham* A. Rees and R. Kerton

College of Engineering, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP

*School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, University of Manchester,
Sackville Street, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

*c.a.griffiths@swansea.ac.uk

Abstract

Direct digital manufacture and additive manufacture has expanded from rapid prototyping into rapid production and has the possibility to produce personalised high quality products with the batch size of one. Affordable additive manufacturing machines and open source software enables a wide spectrum of users. With a populace empowered with the possibility of producing their own products, this disruptive technology will inevitably lead to a change in energy and material consumption. With such an unpredictable impact on society it is timely to consider the economic and environmental issues of growth in this sector. This work demonstrates a Design of Experiments approach for part optimisation with a consideration of scrap weight, part weight, energy consumption and production time. The main conclusion of this study was that through optimisation of machine build parameters a desired response is possible and compromises between output responses such as scrap and production time can be identified. The research also showed that identical build parameters for different designs can yield different output responses, highlighting the importance of developing design specific models. The scientific value of the work lies in the contribution of new data sets for models in additive manufacturing. Together with the optimisation method adopted, the results allow for a more detailed and accurate assessment of the economic and environmental impact of 3D printed products at the design stage.

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