

# Alchemie

## **The Digital Materials Science Company**

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#### Alchemie Technology: Precision Digital Coating

- Founded with the ambition to bring digital deposition capability using a much broader range of materials than is currently possible with industrial inkjet
- Our mission is to develop robust, scalable digital manufacturing technologies for materials fabrication
- We are a development-stage digital manufacturing company:
  - Based in Cambridge, UK, Europe's #1 technology cluster and within the University Of Cambridge eco-system
  - Developing unique proprietary technologies for scaled-up digital manufacturing applications
  - Applying our technology to a range of industry sectors







#### **Delivering product differentiation**



Unique 2.5D surface textures

3D effects

Advanced materials



Layered chemistry



Higher visual impact



Customisation / personalisation



#### Delivering new digital propositions

#### Digital

#### Physical



- Digital manufacturing is a transforming industries bridging the gap between the new digital world and physical products
- Enabling manufacturing process to become more flexible and better connected
- Enhancing the consumer experience



#### Our digital precision coating technologies



Delivering productivity through digital

- Instant on-the-fly digital control
- Customization and personalization delivered at low cost
- Instant changeovers and less materials waste



Broad materials palette

- Fluids: medium high viscosity fluids, complex rheology, corrosive, solvents, melts, high solids, volatiles
- Powders / solids



# Materials deposited in 2D and 2D+

- Precise and targeted delivery of chemistry
- Unique new layered surface structures
- 2D patterning
- 2D+ texture



### **TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS**



#### Systems for liquids and powders





#### 48PL: precision liquid coatings at high throughput

- Low-medium viscosity fluids via an array of hundreds of digitally controlled Piezoneedle<sup>™</sup> dispensers
- Non-contact:
- Precise digital control:
  - 2D features sizes ~ 500 μm / 50 DPI
  - Edge definition  $\sim \pm 100 \ \mu m$
  - Layer thickness  $0.1 \,\mu\text{m} 100 \,\mu\text{m}$
  - Surface topography up to ~ 15 mm
  - High uniformity coating < ± 5%
- High throughput:
  - Up to ~ 20 gsm at 100 m min<sup>-1</sup>
  - Viscosity up to 200 cPoise





#### Capability to deliver precise microscale features

Resonant frequency ~ 180 kHz, switching frequency ~ 2 kHz (~90 cycles per dispense)





#### 48PL coating head

The coating head is designed for low maintenance industrial use in demanding highthroughput manufacturing lines

Fluid feed tank



12 cm / 4.8" wide coating width

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#### 48PL digital imaging and coating capabilities

Images





Functional materials

Metallics



#### 48PL modules / machines



- 48PL coating heads can be configured as multi-head modules typically as banks of printheads to cover larger areas in single pass
- Web widths over 3 m wide are feasible
- Nozzle densities up to 100 NPI can be conveniently achieved



#### 48PL: Industrial materials supply systems

- Our material supply systems are designed for delivering complex and challenging fluids
- The systems are designed for lab development and pilot production:
  - Materials recirculation loop ~ 3 L in volume
  - Agitator for sedimenting fluids
  - Heating system to 80C
  - Vacuum meniscus pressure controller
  - 1 5 unique materials per system
  - Fully enclosed: suitable for volatile materials
  - Stainless steel construction
  - Manual control or PLC or PC interface
  - Pharmaceutical /medical device / food material compatible





#### 48PL vs Industrial Inkjet for Precision Coatings

Benefits of 48PL vs inkjet	48PL	Industrial Inkjet
Digitally controlled – software defined images/patterns	Yes	Yes
Wide viscosity range and suitable for complex fluids – pigment suspensions, printing inks	1 – 200 cPoise	5 - 10 cPoise
Compatible with large particles – use off-the – shelf particulates	Up to 200 μm	Up to 2 µm
Suitable for heated fluids – e.g: hot melt adhesives	20 – 150C	20 – 50C
Distance to substrate	1 – 50 mm	1-2 mm
48PL is significantly more robust than inkjet	Particulate containing environments OK IP rated enclosure	Sensitive to particulates
Maximum resolution for patterning and coating	50 DPI / 500 μm	600 DPI / 42 µm



#### 2. 1HV: precision coating with high viscosity materials

- 1HV delivers digital control using medium-high viscosity fluids using a specially designed highintensity Piezoneedle<sup>™</sup>
- The system is designed for single nozzle application using robotics/automated motion systems:
  - Features sizes 0.5 50 mm
  - Viscosity > 2500 cPoise (Honey)
  - Dispenser substrate distance 2 20 mm
  - Variable volume and coating thickness
  - High accuracy < 5% variation
  - High throughput: Suitable for use > 100 kg hr-1
- The system is designed for industrial use in demanding high throughput manufacturing lines



Various deposition tools



#### 1HV coating capabilities – digitally defined coating area





PCB conformal coating on components



Metal coating with defined edges

Plastic part coating on selected areas of 3D shapes



# 48PL/1HV: A uniquely wide viscosity and coating thickness range for digital fluid application



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#### 3. VibroJET – powder printhead

- VibroJET delivers digital coating capability with powders
  - We utilise our Piezoneedle<sup>™</sup> technology to accurately deposit microgram quantities of powder to digitally-defined locations with 2D feature size >1 mm
  - Layer thickness > 50 μm
  - Non contact
- The technology is suitable for single layer 2D+ coating (e.g: Tactile printing) or multi-layer layer-by-layer deposition
- Potential to create high resolution 2D+/3D structures from a wide range of powders





#### Vibrojet - high dispense precision



- Dispense precision < ±4% (CV) n=6</li>
- Linear time-dose response up to 30 seconds (R2 > 0.99)
- Organic chemical granules particle size = 180 249 μm



#### Vibrojet application – Braille printing



- Polymer powder dispensed and thermally fused in line
- Braille printer demonstrator developed and being commercialised

bmyet



#### Textile applications - vibrojet



• Digital alternative to silicone heat transfers



#### 4. PowderJET – precision powder coating

- PowderJET enables high accuracy deposition of homogeneous powder layers
- Suitable for multi-layer deposition
- PowderJet imaging method:
  - 1. Powder dispense
  - Printing on top enables high resolution (up to 1200 DPI) application of a liquid fixation chemistry
  - 3. Removal of unbound powder
  - Decouples powder from binder vs printing













#### 5. PiJET – direct write powder deposition

- PiJet directly writes stable, consolidated high aspect ratio powder structures
- The unique patented process involves the high velocity application of micronized powders
- The energy dissipated in deposition provides sufficient binding to fabricate stable structures directly from powders







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VibroJet

PowderJet

PiJet



#### How we work with our customers

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# **APPENDIX**

Confidential



#### Precise control of coat weight

	Mass /g	StDev (n:	=10)	CV	
2 cPoise		0.8729	0.0288		3%

- Typical variation in coat weight is < ±3% for 1 50 cPoise</li>
- Coat weight is controlled by switching frequency up to 2 kHz maximum throughput
- Discrete dispense volume ~ 100 nL, composed of a population of nL drops





48PL Data



#### Precision coating – dynamic coat weight control



- Deposition of 5 gsm at 10 50 m min-1, speed increase and throughput matching test (10 cPoise fluid)
- Demonstration of use of "on the fly" digital throughput control to maintain coat weight at increasing web speed ±10%

48PL Data



#### Precision coating onto profiled surfaces



- We can deliver well defined coating edges onto topologies that vary in height by up to ~ 10 mm
- High velocity coating spray cone with very low spread
- Suitable for structured substrates such as quilted textiles

