

AM EUROPE

Operated by CECIMO

MAPPING EUROPEAN ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CAPABILITIES - SUMMARY

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About this document

This document presents a selection of key findings and highlights from research conducted by AM Europe. It provides a concise overview of the research, bringing together the main insights, findings and conclusions in an accessible format. It is intended to offer a snapshot of the research and highlight the key takeaways for industry, research organisations and policymakers.

Please note that this document is a summary of the research. The full report, "Mapping European Additive Manufacturing Research Capabilities", is available upon request. For further information, or to discuss opportunities for collaboration across the manufacturing community, please contact AM Europe.

Turning Europe's additive manufacturing research into industrial capability

Europe has a strong additive manufacturing research base. The next challenge is turning that expertise into qualified, repeatable and commercially viable industrial production.

AM Europe's report, Mapping European Additive Manufacturing Research Capabilities, draws on evidence from 83 research organisations across 18 countries. It examines seven capability areas spanning materials, digital technologies, testing and industrial applications.

Metal additive manufacturing and advanced materials feature in 66 organisations. Circularity, repair and industrial uptake appear in 65, while testing, inspection and quality assurance feature in 63. The mapping also identifies capabilities in aerospace and defence, artificial intelligence, polymers and composites, medical applications and other specialist fields. These overlapping categories record evidence of activity rather than the scale or maturity of individual programmes. The findings show that Europe already has many of the technical foundations needed for wider adoption. Research centres combine materials development, process monitoring, qualification support and shared equipment. These capabilities can help companies improve resource efficiency, extend component lifetimes and strengthen supply resilience.

However, access remains uneven. Smaller businesses can struggle to identify suitable facilities, compare services and finance qualification. Inconsistent data formats and testing requirements make research results harder to reuse. Lengthy funding applications create further obstacles, while promising demonstrators may lack industrial ownership once public funding ends.

The report points towards a European policy agenda centred on accessible infrastructure, shared testing, reusable evidence and clearer routes from research to production. Sector specific demonstrators, stronger industrial partnerships and support for customer trials can help establish credible business cases.

AM Europe can support this transition by connecting research organisations, companies and policymakers around deployment needs. The priority is to translate Europe's research strengths into industrial capability that supports competitiveness, sustainability, defence readiness and medical innovation.

Contact AM Europe to request the full report and discuss opportunities for collaboration across the manufacturing community.