



NASA Awards a \$127,000 STTR Research Grant to PADT and ASU for Advanced Research in 3D Printing

The Grant Represents the Strength of 3D Printing in Arizona Exemplified by the Strong Cooperation Between Industry and Academia

TEMPE, Ariz. - Aug. 14, 2018 - [PRLog](#) -- To further advance their longstanding cooperation, [PADT](#) and Arizona State University ([ASU](#)) were awarded a \$127,000 Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I grant from NASA. The purpose of the grant is to accelerate biomimicry research, the study of 3D printing objects that resemble strong and light structures found in nature such as honeycombs or bamboo. The research is critically important to major sectors in Arizona such as aerospace because it enables strong and incredibly light parts for use in the development of air and space crafts.

"We're honored to continue advanced research on biomimicry with our good friends and partners at ASU," said Rey Chu, principal and co-founder, PADT. "With our combined expertise in 3D printing and computer modeling, we feel that our research will provide a breakthrough in the way that we design objects for NASA, and our broad range of product manufacturing clients."

PADT recently partnered with Lockheed Martin and Stratasys to help NASA develop more than 100 3D printed parts for its manned-spaceflight to Mars, the Orion Mission. This grant is another example of how PADT is supporting NASA efforts to use 3D printing in spacecraft development. Specific NASA applications of the research include the design and manufacturing of high-performance materials for use in heat exchanges, lightweight structures and space debris resistant skins. If the first phase is successful, the partners will be eligible for a second, larger grant from NASA.

"New technologies in imaging and manufacturing, including 3D printing, are opening possibilities for mimicking biological structures in a way that has been unprecedented in human history," said Dhruv Bhate, associate professor, Arizona State University. "Our ability to build resilient structures while significantly reducing the weight will benefit product designers and manufacturers who leverage the technology."

"PADT has been an excellent partner to ASU and its students as we explore the innovative nature of 3D printing," said Ann McKenna, school director and professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Arizona State University. "Between the STTR grant and partnering to open our state-of-the-art Additive Manufacturing Center, we're proud of what we have been able to accomplish in this community together."

This grant is PADT's 14th STTR/SBIR award.

To learn more about PADT and its 3D printing services, please visit www.padtinc.com.

About Phoenix Analysis and Design Technologies

Phoenix Analysis and Design Technologies, Inc. (PADT) is an engineering product and services company that focuses on helping customers who develop physical products by providing Numerical Simulation, Product Development, and 3D Printing solutions. PADT's worldwide reputation for technical excellence

and experienced staff is based on its proven record of building long-term win-win partnerships with vendors and customers. Since its establishment in 1994, companies have relied on PADT because "We Make Innovation Work." With over 80 employees, PADT services customers from its headquarters at the Arizona State University Research Park in Tempe, Arizona, and from offices in Torrance, California, Littleton, Colorado, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Austin, Texas, and Murray, Utah, as well as through staff members located around the country. More information on PADT can be found at www.PADTINC.com.

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