

Finishing Techniques, Bury, Lancashire - 15/07/2014 - Precious partners focused and energized after a successful third quarter

In what has been the project's most significant meeting to date, the Precious project partners met at Finishing Techniques for their third quarterly meeting. This time around, the anticipation was quite high leading up to this meeting as partners were keen to show their progress over the previous three months with a couple of surprises in store.

Significant progress has been achieved this quarter with a large number of pieces being prepared, manufactured and then finished/polished.

Here are some of the key results presented and some of the reactions during the meeting.

Key results:

- 200 test samples built for use in post-processing experimental trials
- Alpha Release to project partners of the Delcam AM preparation software
- Prepared and built 16 test pieces to benchmark the Delcam AM software fixturing methods
- For the fixture benchmarking the results from these trials showed significant improvement in the preparation software development both in the placement and density of fixtures as well as in the ease of removal and reduction of witness marks on the manufactured pieces
- Prepared and built 11 jewellery pieces using the Delcam AM preparation software
 - Of the jewellery pieces built, some were very large with height in excess of 60mm. Two of these pieces have already been put through the manufacturing workflow from design, AM preparation, and manufacturing, through to finishing and polishing. One of these pieces, the Ojo, is displayed on the Precious roller banner and other documentation on the project website highlighting each step of the manufacturing workflow.
- Booklet detailing the manufacturing workflow of the Ojo banner piece
- Seminar focusing on identifying potential supply chain and business transformation possibilities of AM in the jewellery industry
- Summary of the online survey of hardware and software used

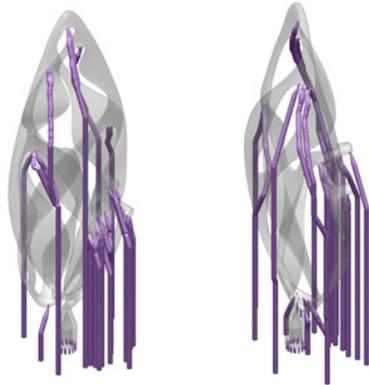
Reactions:

Johnathan Dean, Managing Director at Finishing Techniques and newcomer to the Precious quarterly meetings was thoroughly *"impressed with the amount of detail and effort that the project partners have put into their work at this early stage of the project."*

The *"partners are working well together and focused"* according to Technology Strategy Board Monitoring Officer, Helen Lucas.

With the Precious M80 machine coming fully online, Tony Staniorski, Technical Director at Cookson Precious Metals, is confident that the next batch of *"manufactured pieces will have high surface quality and fabulous details."*

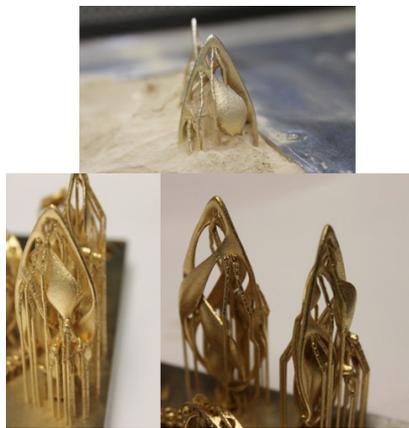
These results and reactions left the partners energized to continue with their work as they approach the halfway mark of the 2-year project. Stay tuned!



As-Prepared Ojos



As-Prepared Aorta



As-Built Ojos



As-Built Aorta



*Final polished Ojo with stone
(Piece designed by Lionel T. Dean of FutureFactories)*



Precious Consortium with their new roller banner



Checking out the finishing process at Finishing Techniques

Acknowledgements

This project is co-funded by The Technology Strategy Board, the UK's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org

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