DOHERTY COUPLERS & ATTACHMENTS
NEWS RELEASE

R&D Investment Builds Strength

Investment into Research & Development is on the increase. Thanks, in part, to government initiatives and funding in this area, we are now seeing the results of the increased accessibility to new technologies and equipment aiding the speed and success of R&D efforts. In particular, the 3D printer is allowing businesses to find improvements faster than ever before.

While modern CAD software remains the staple in every R&D department worldwide, the ability for the 3D printer to then produce a design prototype in a matter of hours is a quantum leap forward for the manufacturing industry. The days of sending off designs to be handmade at huge cost and effort will soon be gone. Using the 3D printer a business can produce a prototype, make design tweaks, produce another prototype and continue on this process until they have a final product ready to go into production.

Technical director at Doherty Couplers and Attachments, Paul Doherty, explains, "Often there is a need to actually touch and feel a part to gauge its suitability and prove its performance prior to committing to production. The 3D printer enables us to rapidly produce prototype parts without incurring the cost of expensive, one-off fabrications." Also known as Additive Manufacturing, the latest 3D printers are now able to produce actual components for end use, making this a very cost effective way for small companies to manufacture low volume, custom designed components.

Recognized as a world-leading manufacturer of high quality couplers and attachments, Doherty's investment into a 3D printer is providing the business with a fast and cost effective means to find opportunities for improvement in their existing products as well as explore new ideas.

"We have a constant focus on product development," says Doherty. "In the short term the 3D printer will help us to improve our ability to ensure design enhancements are fit for purpose and will work in the real world. Our next challenge is to refine the design of our coupler to make it more cost efficient to manufacture. This will likely require key components to be cast and the 3D printer is ideal for initial casting pattern development."

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