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EBM Direct Digital Manufacturing & Prototyping System to Be Installed at NCSU

University Will Use Arcam System from Stratasys to Perform Advanced Research and Material Qualification for Aerospace and Medical Applications

MINNEAPOLIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

(NASDAQ:SSYS) Stratasys today announced North Carolina State University has chosen its Arcam A2 Electron Beam Melting (EBM) system to perform advanced research and material qualification in the aerospace, biomedical and high-tech industries. This is the university's second EBM purchase.

Stratasys is the exclusive North American distributor for Arcam EBM systems, which manufacture parts or prototypes from metal.

Using the EBM system, NCSU will primarily conduct research related to qualifying new superalloys for applications where high strength or resistance to high temperature is required. For example, the A2 will allow the university to further its work with NASA to qualify new materials for aerospace applications using metals such as aluminum, titanium, nickel and high temperature copper.

In the biomedical field, the university will use the A2 to research new metals that can be used in bone implants, allowing medical device manufacturers to optimize a part's flexural stiffness and fatigue life.

"Due to the A2's larger build envelop options, we can make parts that are twice as large as we can make with our other EBM system. This opens up a lot of opportunities for our research," said Dr. Denis Cormier, Associate Professor in the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at North Carolina State University. "With the Arcam A2, we will be able to evaluate the EBM process as an alternative to forging and casting, and we will help qualify new materials for commercial and government applications. We look forward to using the new system to push the boundaries of our advanced research."

NCSU's system is slated for mid-July installation.

Materials offered for Arcam EBM systems include F-75 Cobalt Chrome; Ti6Al4V Titanium, the most widely used titanium alloy; and Ti6Al4V ELI Titanium, which features improved ductility and fracture resistance at low temperatures.

Stratasys Inc., Minneapolis, makes prototyping and direct digital manufacturing systems and

it offers prototype and part manufacturing services. According to Wohlers Report 2007, Stratasys supplied 41 percent of all systems installed worldwide in 2006, making it the unit market leader, for the fifth consecutive year. Stratasys owns the rapid prototyping process known as fused deposition modeling (FDM). The process creates functional prototypes and end-use parts directly from any 3D CAD program using ABS plastic, polycarbonate, PPSF, and blends. The company holds over 180 granted or pending rapid prototyping patents globally. Stratasys products are used in the aerospace, defense, automotive, medical, education, electronic, and consumer product industries. On the Web: www.Stratasys.com.

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