
First titanium 3D-printed part installed into serial production aircraft

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Airbus completed for the first time the installation of a titanium 3D-printed bracket on an in-series production A350 XWB. The bracket, built using additive-layer manufacturing (ALM) technologies (also known as 3D-printing), is part of the aircraft pylon, the junction section between wings and engines.

This is the first step towards qualification of **more complex 3D-printed parts to be installed on production aircraft.**

Additive-layer manufacturing “grows” products from a fine base material powder – such as aluminium, titanium, stainless steel and plastics – by adding thin layers of material in incremental stages, which enables complex components to be produced directly from computer-aided design (CAD) information.

3D-printed parts are already flying on some of Airbus A320neo and A350 XWB test aircraft. These include metal printed cabin brackets and bleed pipes.