

Additive manufacturing of lightweighted mirrors



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Mirror Tech Days

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- 3D printers for metal alloys and thermoplastics
- Enables complex shapes and freeform fabrication
- Electrolytic Nickel Phosphorus (NiP) deposition
- Single-point diamond turning (SPDT) capability
- Low cost prototype and engineering model



200mm Inconel 716 mirror











Concept Laser Xline 1000R printer





Selective laser sintering 630 x 400 x 500 mm Nickel based alloy (Inconel 718) Aluminum alloy (AlSi10Mg) Titanium alloy (TiAl6V4 ELI)



Stratasys 3D thermoplastic printers





Fortus 360mc 355 x 254 x 254 mm Fortus 900mc 914 x 610 x 914 mm



250 mm lightweight mirror design



250 mm diameter 25 mm thick 6.35 mm facesheet 4064 mm ROC 64% lightweighted < 0.5 kg 3 helicoil inserts for SPDT



250mm 3D printed mirrors



ABS



polycarbonate



Printed with Fortus 360mc ~0.5 mm NiP Ready for SPDT



- Additive manufacturing was added to SBIR subtopic S2.03 Advanced Optical Systems and Fabrication/Testing/Control Technologies for EUV/Optical and IR Telescope
- 4 out of 10 phase 1 proposals involve 3D printed optics
- 3 out of 5 phase 1 awards



12" dia. Inconel 718 mirror Dallas Optical Systems, Inc.



Low cost engineering model for a balloon borne UVOIR telescope

- >500 mm diameter thermoplastic primary mirror
- Secondary mirror
- NiP/SPDT for mirror surfaces
- Metal components for truss fittings and telescope mount
- Off-the-shelf carbon fiber composite tubes

Engineering evaluation for:

- Stray light suppression
- Assembly procedures at launch site
- Disassembly after landing
- Transportation to launch/from landing site