



## Science Museum explores the future of 3D printing

Replacement body organs, aeroplane parts and a music box will be among the printed objects on display in a new exhibition, [\*\*\*3D: printing the future\*\*\*](#), which opens at the Science Museum on 9 October.

The increasing availability and decreasing cost of 3D printing technology has led to an explosion of creativity among innovators, from big businesses and the medical industry through to small start-ups, students, hackers and artists. This exhibition will explore the rapidly evolving field of 3D printing and its growing impact on society.

Suzy Antoniw, Exhibition Leader, Science Museum said, "3D printing enables engineers and designers to manufacture things they couldn't make with traditional methods. Every day we learn about new ways in which people from across society are capitalising on the technology to realise their ideas and enrich people's lives. Our exhibition aims to shine a light on the latest developments and discuss where the technology may take us in future."

***3D: printing the future*** will introduce the latest technology and process behind 3D printing and take visitors on a journey through three key sectors in which the technology is driving innovation – industry, medicine and small-scale projects and businesses.

- The new ways in which the medical industry is researching 3D printing to fix our bodies by creating replacement parts, from teeth to ears and even simple organs.
- A glimpse into a medical future where doctors may be able to use 3D printing technology to create drugs that can be tailored to each patient's needs.
- How engineers are using 3D printing to create lighter and more efficient parts for aeroplanes and space probes – potentially saving airlines costs for fuel and materials.
- Carpenter Richard Van As and prop-maker Ivan Owen collaborated 10,000 miles apart to make a 3D printed mechanical hand, following an accident in which Van As lost four fingers. They made the designs for the "Robohand" freely available to anyone online; it has been downloaded more than 27,000 times from MakerBot's Thingiverse.com.
- An artwork - *Inversive Embodiment* by Tobias Klein – a sculptural piece printed in nylon using data from MRI scans of Tobias Klein's own body and the iconic structure of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The exhibition will also feature a number of miniature 3D printed figures created from 3D scans of visitors who will take part in workshops at the museum during the

summer holidays. These workshops are part of a [whole summer of 3D themed activities](#) at the Science Museum between 25 July and 1 September.

[\*\*\*3D: printing the future\*\*\*](#) is a free exhibition and will run in the Antenna gallery at the Science Museum for 9 months from 9 October 2013. Now a permanent exhibit.

### **Science Museum**

As the home of human ingenuity, the Science Museum's world-class collection forms an enduring record of scientific, technological and medical achievements from across the globe. Welcoming over 3 million visitors a year, the Museum aims to make sense of the science that shapes our lives, inspiring visitors with iconic objects, award-winning exhibitions and incredible stories of scientific achievement. [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)