Slam Dunk: General Lattice, EOS, DyeMansion Join Forces with Wilson to Create Industry's First Airless Prototype Basketball

Chicago (Feb. 20, 2023) General Lattice, EOS, and DyeMansion joined forces with Wilson Sporting Goods Co. to elevate the game, unveiling the industry's first 3D-printed Airless Prototype Basketball. This collaborative effort showcases the groundbreaking capabilities of additive manufacturing and highlights benefits of teamwork within the industry.

Additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, provides unparalleled design freedom compared to traditional manufacturing methods and is transforming the sports industry through digital innovation. The three companies worked closely together, with General Lattice providing computational design services, EOS providing the 3D printing at its technical center, and DyeMansion providing post-processing with their surfacing and coloring solutions.

GL Labs, General Lattice's enterprise solutions team, worked with Wilson to bring to life their concept by streamlining the design and iteration process through the use of its computational design tools and workflows. "The flexibility GL Labs and its tools provide enables customers to integrate data throughout the design process to reach optimal solutions faster" Nick Florek, CEO at General Lattice explained.

Once the design was finalized, EOS 3D printed the Airless Prototype with an EOS P 396 using specialized materials.

"What Wilson is doing with its Airless Prototype is such a great technology showcase, demonstrating yet again how to achieve entirely new ideas with mature applications," said David Krzeminski, Ph.D., senior consultant with Additive Minds at EOS. "We regularly see AM innovation in the business-to-business space, but lately, innovative organizations, like Wilson, are getting creative and exploring how to leverage AM for prototyping and production, and mass customization products that give consumers exactly what they want in the products they purchase."

DyeMansion added the finishing touches to create the smoothed finished surface and colorful outer skin by utilizing their VaporFuse Surfacing and DeepDye Coloring technology.

"With basketball being a "low equipment" sport, changing the most critical element, the basketball, is no small venture," said Lester Hitch, Application Consultant at DyeMansion North America. "It was the focus of our team in North America to fine tune the vapor smoothing treatment creating a consistent finish that matched Wilson team's expectations based on experience making basketballs."

Combining their respective areas of expertise, the collaboration between Wilson, General Lattice, EOS, and DyeMansion illustrates the possibilities of additive manufacturing and computational design. This joint effort enables design innovation, turning ideas into reality like never before.

General Lattice
Founded in 2019, General Lattice designs and builds leading digital material solutions, enabling creators around the world to push the boundaries of innovation. Dedicated to simplifying the adoption of additive manufacturing, General Lattice offers both software (GL Frontier) and service-based solutions that enable customers to rapidly scale applications into production. The company is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. To learn more about General Lattice, Inc., visit www.generallattice.com or contact info@generallattice.com. Follow the company on Instagram @generallattice.

EOS
EOS provides responsible manufacturing solutions via industrial 3D printing technology to manufacturers around the world. Connecting high quality production efficiency with its pioneering innovation and sustainable practices, the independent company formed in 1989 will shape the future of manufacturing. Powered by its platform-driven digital value network of machines and a holistic portfolio of services, materials and processes, EOS is deeply committed to fulfilling its customers' needs and acting responsibly for our planet.

DyeMansion
DyeMansion is the global leader in post-processing solutions for industrial polymer 3D-printing that turns 3D-printed raw parts into high-value products. The Munich-based company's Print-to-Product workflow combines industry-leading hardware with the widest range of color and surfacing options on the market. Through close collaboration with customers across all industries, the 3D-finishing technology and expertise continuously grow with the market. Reduced cost per part, unmatched quality, and high sustainability are core values that drive each innovation of the fast-growing company.