

Build Preparation

What is build preparation?

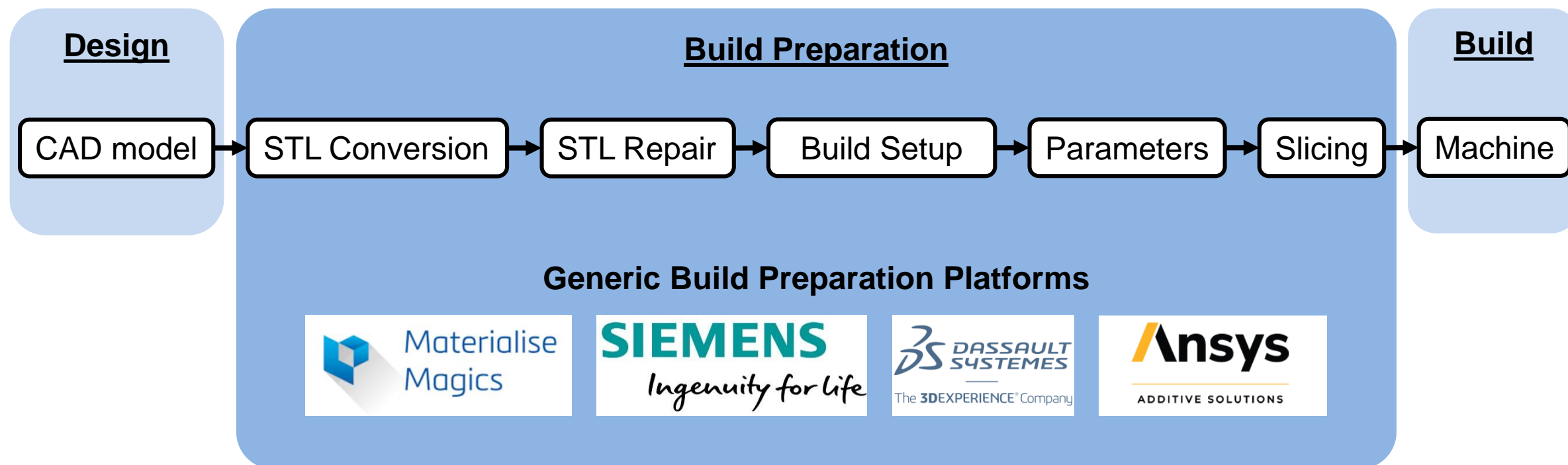
Purpose

Workflow

Capabilities

Build Preparation

Workflow



Build Preparation

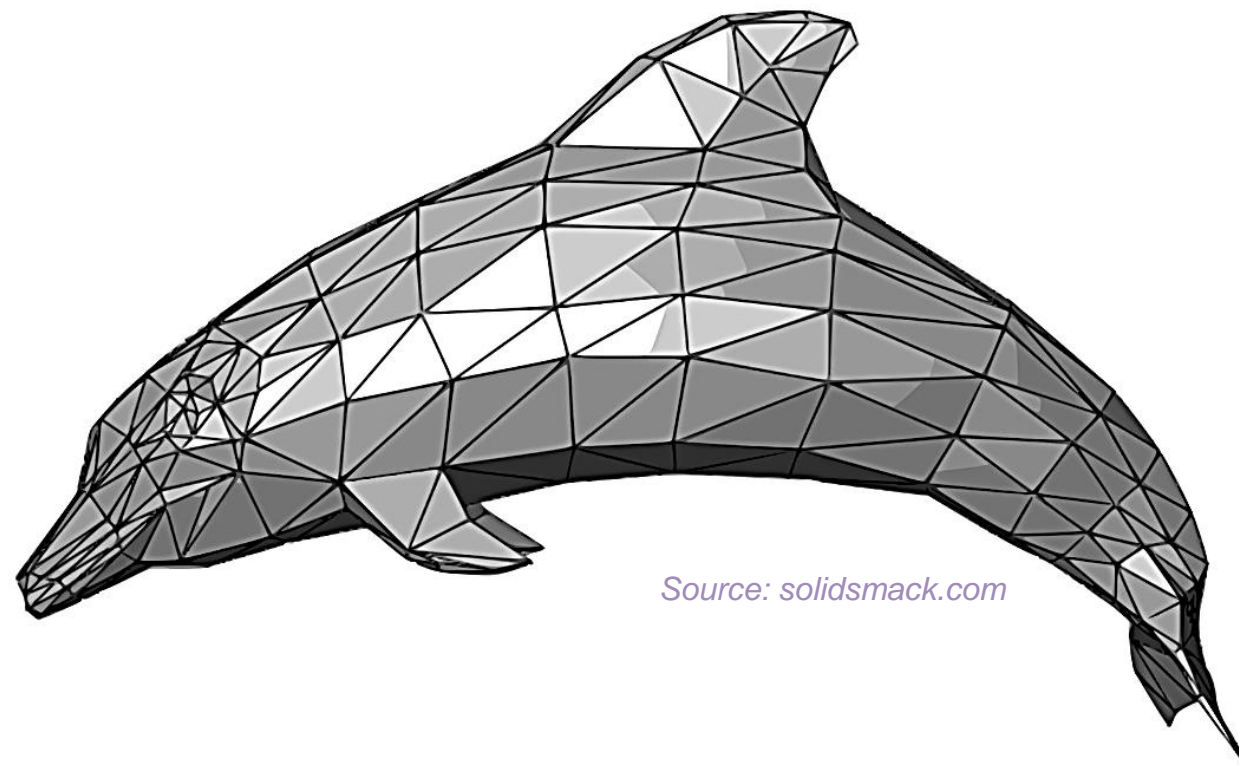
Common & New AM File Formats

Increasing
popularity

Most
popular

	3MF	STL	OBJ	VRML
Always print-ready	✓	✗	✗	✗
Unit aware	✓	✗	✗	✓
Full color capability	✓	✗	✓	✓
Textures in one file	✓	✗	✗	✗
Tray support	✓	✗	✗	✓
Contains support structures	✓	✗	✗	✗

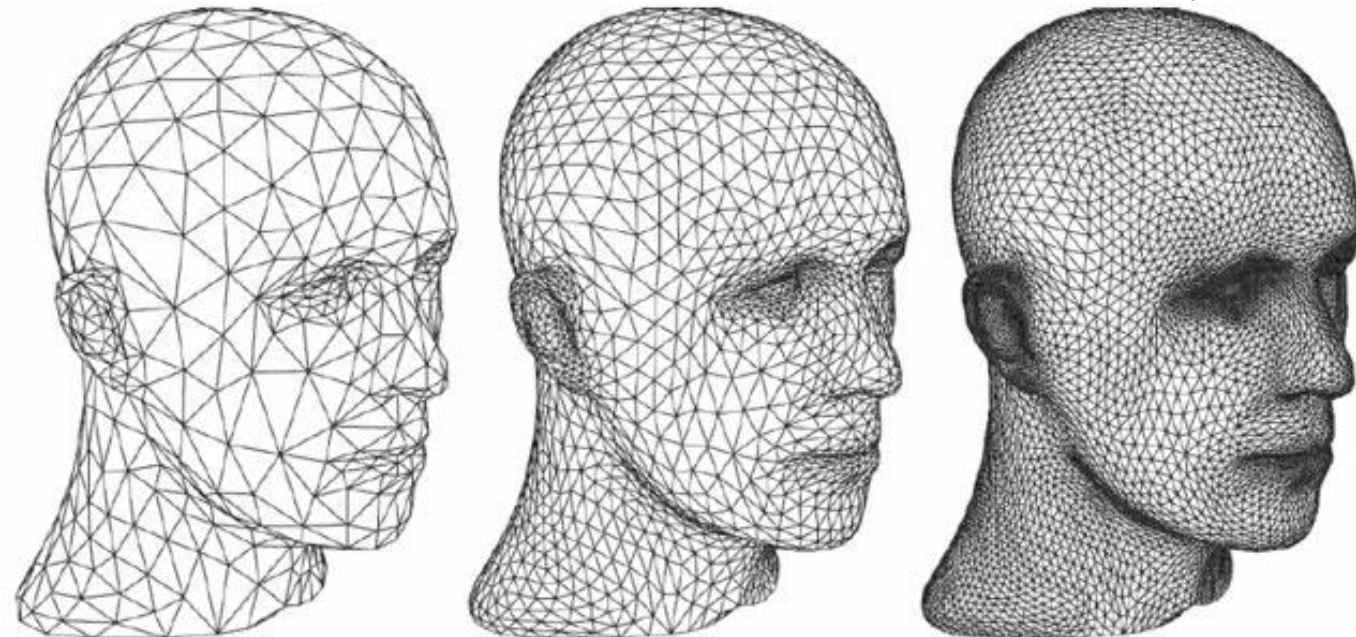
Source: 3mf Consortium



Build Preparation

Resolution

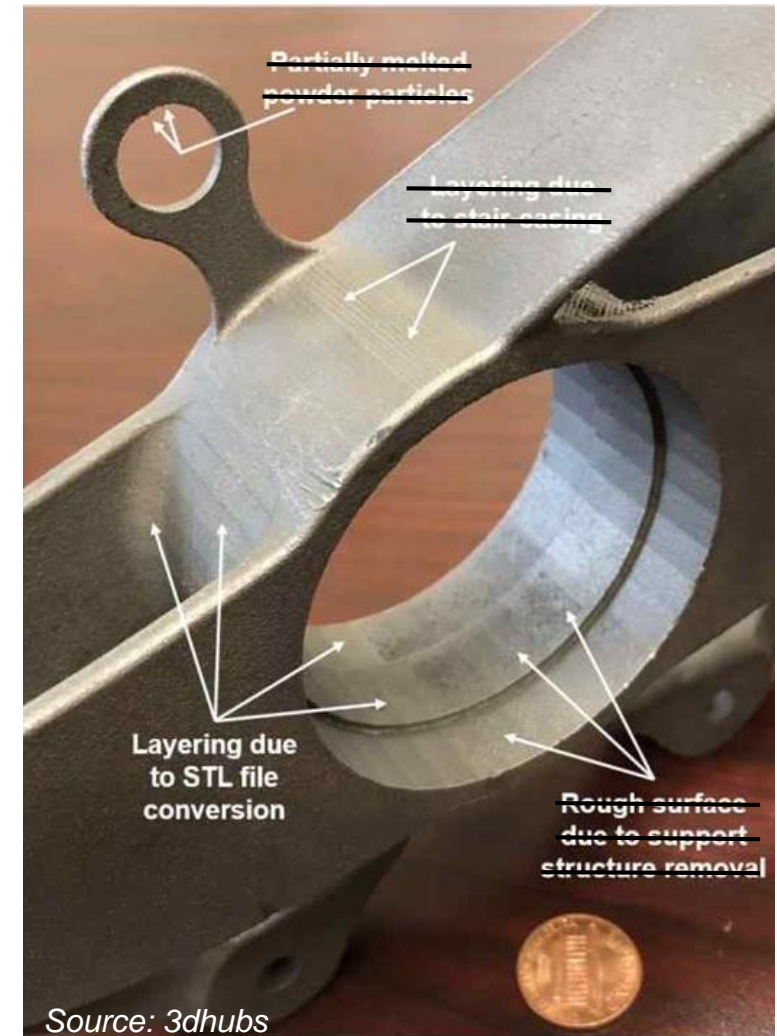
Source: sculpteo.com



Loss of features
Reduced triangles
Faster & Smaller File Size

Greater resolution
Increased number of triangles
Slower & Greater File Size

Resolution + File Size

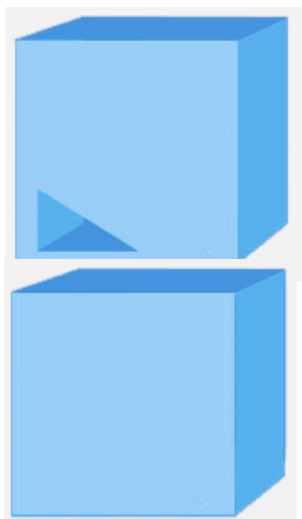


Source: 3dhubs

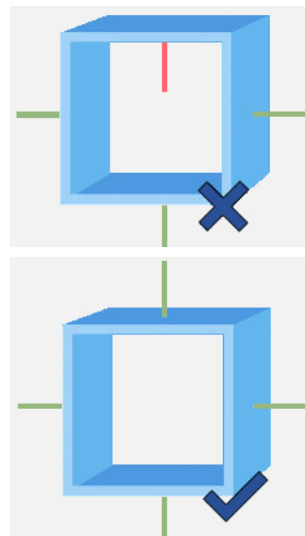
Build Preparation

Errors/Fixing

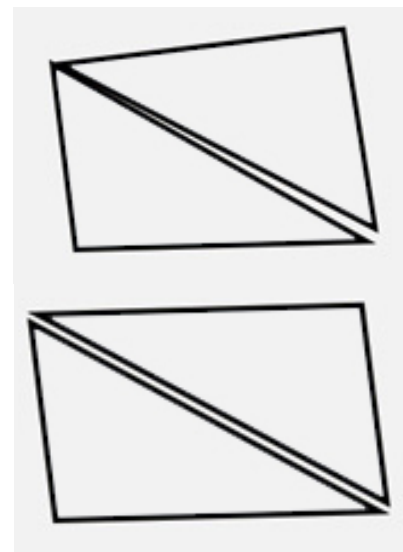
Holes/Gaps



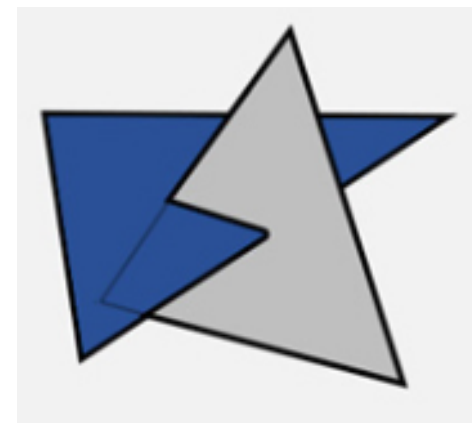
Inverted Normal



Bad Edges



Intersection/Overlapping

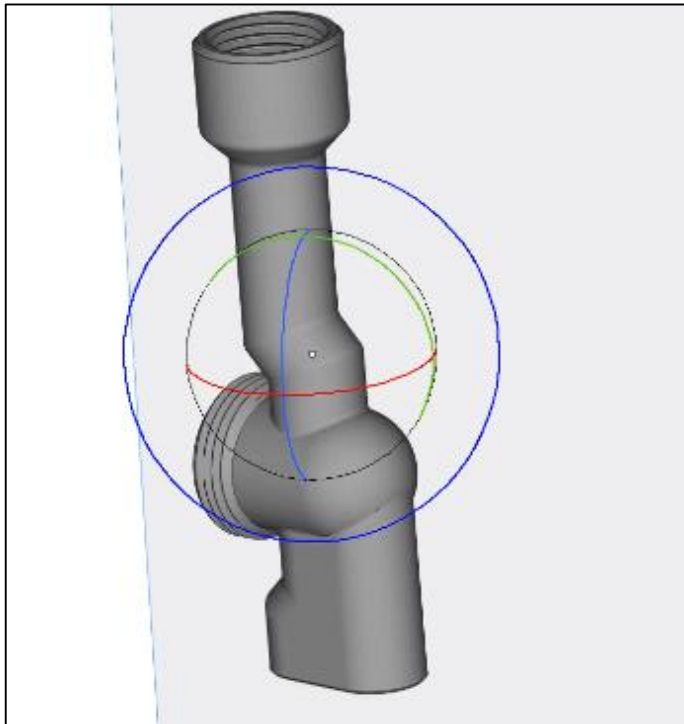


Source: Materialise

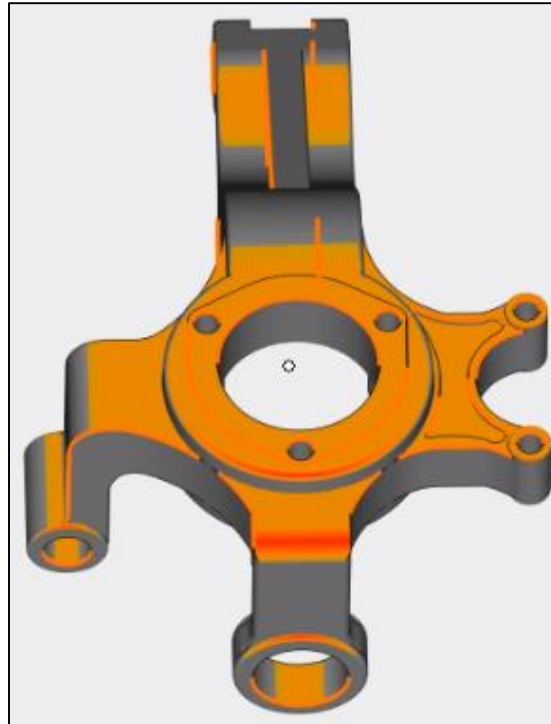
Build Preparation

Orientate/Supports

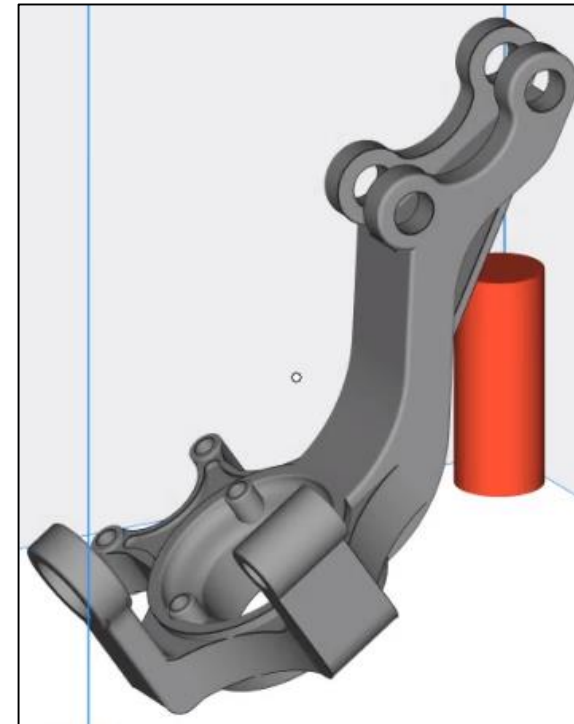
Orientate



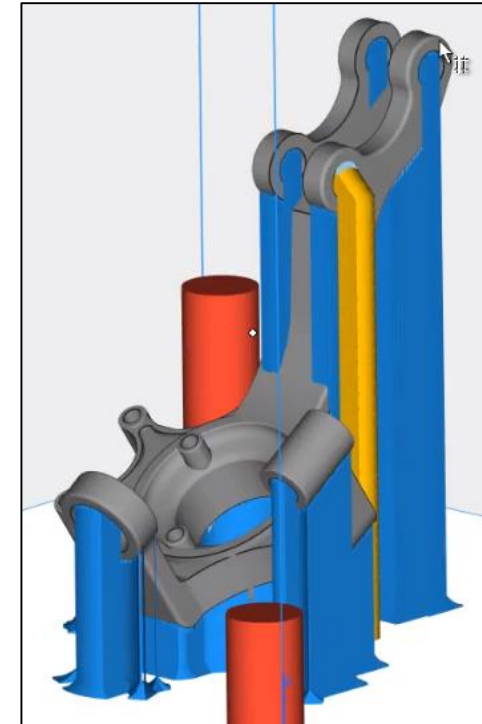
Overhang Regions



Select orientation



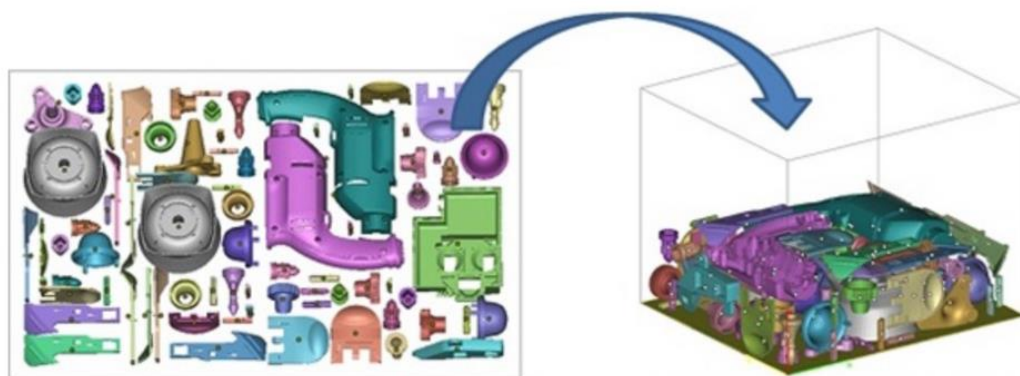
Support



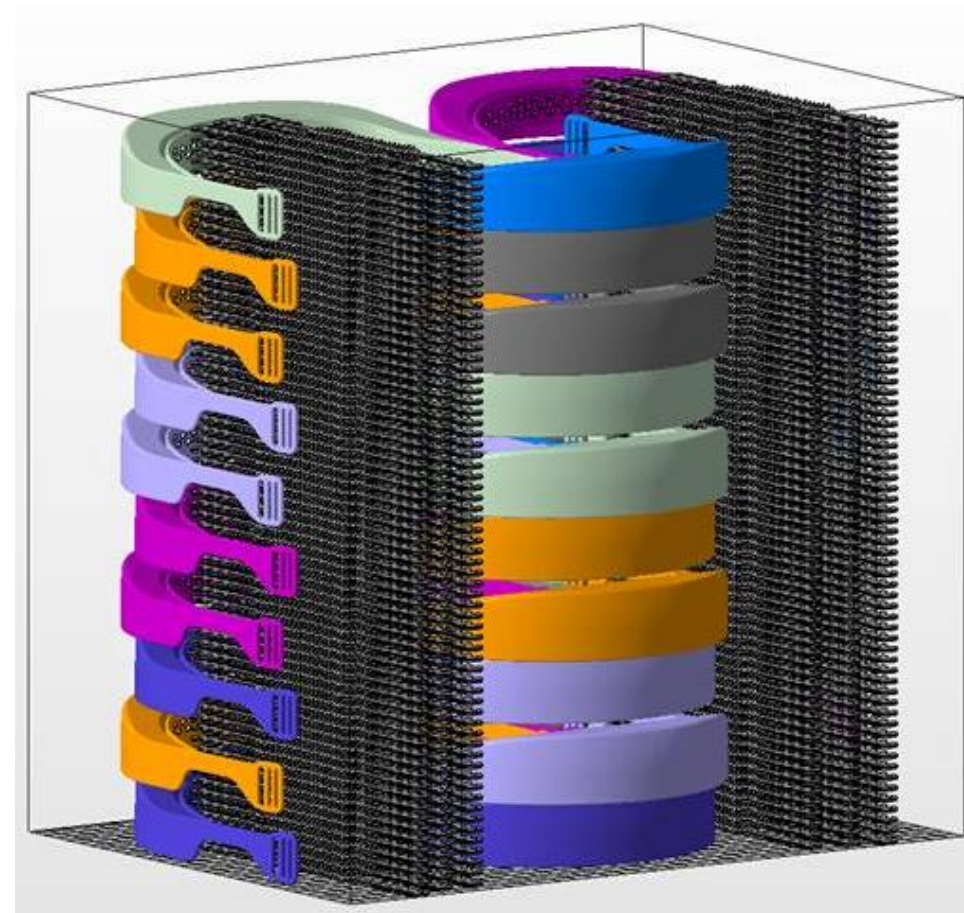
Source: Materialise

Build Preparation

Nesting/Layout



Source: AMFG

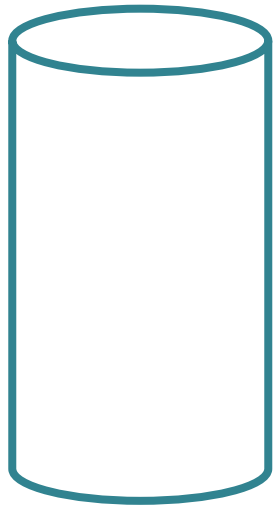


Source: MTC

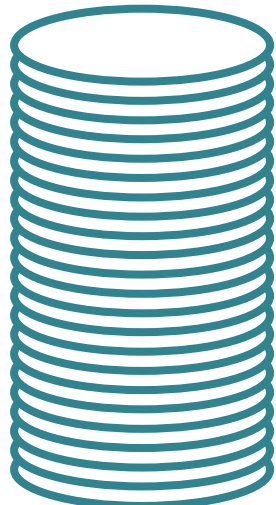
DEMO

Build Preparation

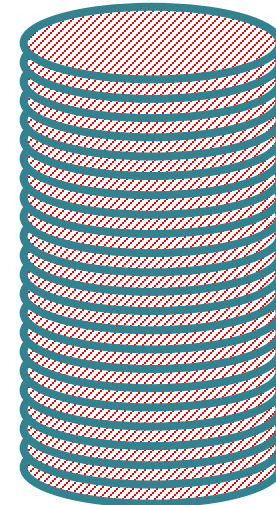
Build Layout/Nesting



Model ready for manufacture



Slicing to numerous layers



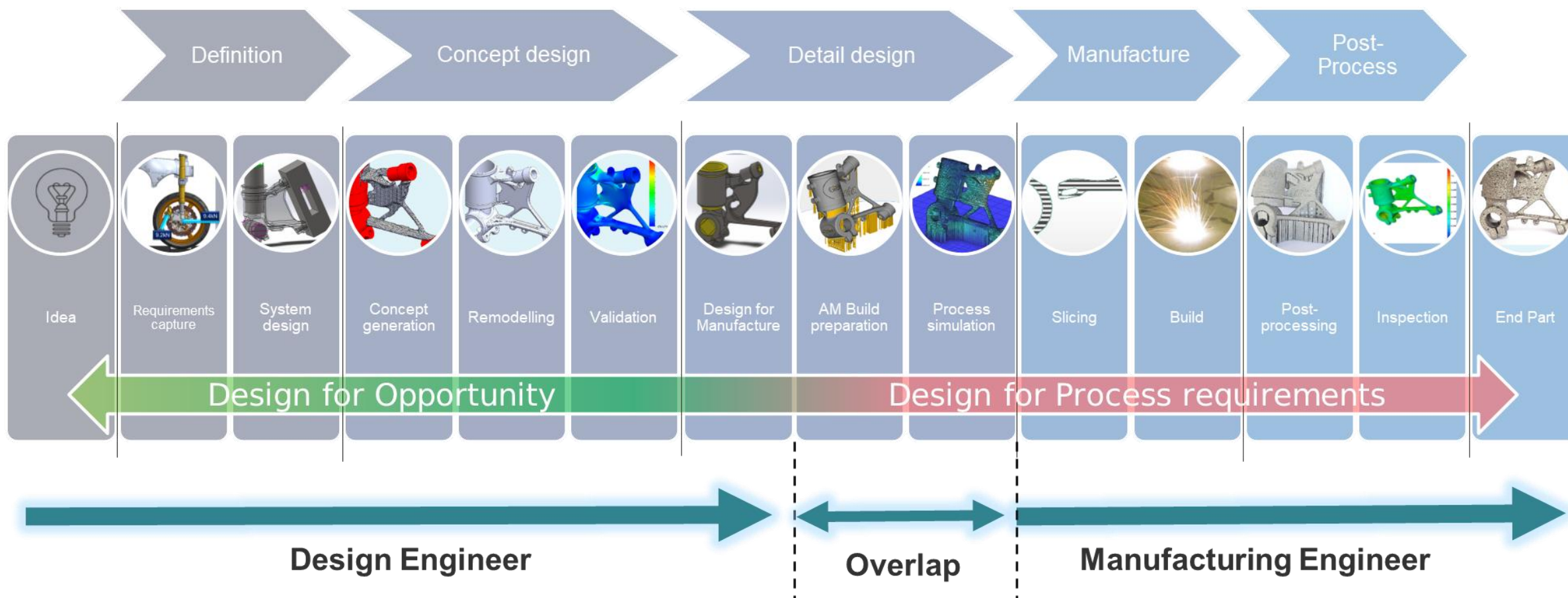
Toolpath generation and parameters



Manufacture

Build Preparation

Workflow



Build Preparation

Checklist

- 1. Is the design suitable for AM?**
 - Consider all the DfM considerations
- 2. Are you exploiting the design freedom offered with AM?**
- 3. How is part performance affected by AM?**
 - Has the design been better optimised for its application? Is it worse?
 - Have you considered and accounted for AM material characteristics? How will this be monitored?
- 4. Cost and technical feasibility comparison with another manufacturing method**
 - Why use AM if you can use a cheaper method of manufacture
- 5. Have you considered the post-processing requirements during design?**
- 6. Have you accounted for all the build risks?**
 - If not, you will need to ensure this is accounted for during build preparation

Build Preparation

Summary

- Build preparation is used to fix, orientate, support, organise the build layout and slice
- Build preparation software is used to de-risk a build failure
- There are generic build preparation software available as well as more specific versions from machine providers