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ADDCIRCLES

2nd AM CONNECT CONFERENCE on Research and Industrial Advances in Additive Manufacturing

23 and 24 September 2026
Faculty of Polymer Technology,
Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

More information about
the conference on



About AM Connect

Introduction to the conference

AM Connect — the cross-border Additive Manufacturing (AM) event of the year — brings together leading experts, researchers, and innovators from Austria, Slovenia and beyond, to explore the forefront of AM technology. The conference serves as a dynamic platform for discovering the latest trends, sharing cutting-edge research, and fostering meaningful collaborations that will shape the future of manufacturing.

AM Connect is designed to unite industry professionals and academic researchers who are actively engaged in advancing the field of Additive Manufacturing. Through keynote presentations, technical sessions, and networking opportunities, the event encourages knowledge exchange, promotes community building, and addresses real-world challenges across diverse industrial sectors.

This conference is organized within the framework of the ADDCIRCLES project, funded by the INTERREG SI-AT program, which supports cross-border cooperation in additive manufacturing between Slovenia and Austria. By connecting expertise, resources, and visions from both sides of the border, AM Connect aims to strengthen the regional AM ecosystem and accelerate innovation for a more sustainable and competitive manufacturing future.

Main goals

- ☐ Share knowledge and practical expertise in additive manufacturing across national and sectoral borders
- ☐ Foster networking and collaboration between industry professionals and research institutions active in AM
- ☐ Strengthen the Slovenia–Austria AM community and its connections to the wider European AM landscape
- ☐ Explore current developments and emerging trends in AM across materials, processes, and applications
- ☐ Showcase innovative AM solutions and provide a platform for industry and research to present and discuss their work
- ☐ Provide exhibition opportunities for companies and organisations active in the AM space

Conference topics

- ☐ Medical & Dental Applications of AM
- ☐ Mobility, Automotive & Aerospace
- ☐ Civil Engineering
- ☐ New Materials and Sustainable Feedstocks for Additive Manufacturing
- ☐ In-Process Monitoring, AI and Defect Control
- ☐ Design, Toolpaths and Machine Innovation
- ☐ European and National AM Projects and Initiatives

Overview

- ☐ Cost: Free of charge | Duration: 2 days | Language: English
- ☐ Target group: Industry professionals and researchers working in additive manufacturing
- ☐ Contact: Zala Lorber: zala.lorber@ftpo.eu, +386 31 471 210

Scientific committee

- ☐ Janez Slapnik, UP FTPO
- ☐ Sandra Schulnig, CUAS
- ☐ Damir Godec, University of Zagreb
- ☐ Daniel Omidvarkarjan, IWK
- ☐ Clemens Holzer, TU of Leoben
- ☐ Joamin Gonzalez-Gutierrez, LIST
- ☐ Johannes Gartner, TU Delft and AM Austria

Organizing committee

- ☐ Zala Lorber, UP FTPO
- ☐ Maja Mešl, UP FTPO
- ☐ Mathias Brandstötter, CUAS
- ☐ Ram Dušić Hren, TECOS
- ☐ Surisetty Jyothsna, Wood K plus
- ☐ Branka Mušič, ZAG
- ☐ Thomas Petschnig, GPS

Day 1 – 23 September 2026 (Industry & Sector Focus)

Advanced Industrial Applications of AM

08:15–09:00	Registration & Coffee	
09:00–09:30	Opening Session - Welcome by Conference Chair, ADDCIRLCES project leader & CUAS Representatives - Remarks from Government & Regional Authorities	Blaž Nardin, UP FTPO (SI), Maja Mešl, UP FTPO (SI), Mathias Brandstötter, CUAS (AT), Sandra Schulnig, CUAS (AT), Katja Pokeržnik, GZS (SI), Oliver Kathol, BABEG (AT)
09:30–10:15	Keynote 1 - Politics Meets Production: The Future of Additive Manufacturing in the EU	Johannes Gartner, Delft University of Technology (NL)
10:15–10:45	Exhibitor Spotlight + ADDCIRCLES Use Cases	All exhibitors
10:45–11:25	Networking Coffee & Exhibition	
11:25–12:45	Session 1: Medical & Dental Applications of AM	
11:25–11:45	Is the Future of Healthcare 3D Printed?	Naomi Nathan, MGA Medical (DE)
11:45–12:05	Advanced biofabrication strategies for drug delivery and hierarchical tissue regeneration	Luis A. Diaz-Gomez, iMATUS, University of Santiago de Compostela (ES)
12:05–12:25	Individualised Medical Devices: At the Crossroads of Materials, Additive Manufacturing and Regulation	Igor Drstvenšek, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor (SI)
12:25–12:45	Additively Manufactured Dental Materials: The Decisive Role of Processing	Franziska Schmidt, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin (DE)
12:45–13:40	Lunch & Exhibition	
13:40–15:00	Session 2: Mobility, Automotive & Aerospace	
13:40–14:00	Satellite and Aeronautic Components Manufactured by Advanced Metal Processing	Michael Kitzmantel, RHP-Technology GmbH (AT)
14:00–14:20	Additive Manufacturing Pathways for Lightweight Metal-Polymer Hybrid Structures	Sergio T. Amancio Filho, TU Graz (AT)
14:20–14:40	From Idea to Product: In-House Development and Manufacturing	Toni Karimović, Orqa d. o. o. (HR)
14:40–15:00	Mobile Additive Manufacturing: strategies for on-site fabrication in construction	Gido Dielemans, TU Munich (DE)
15:00–15:40	Networking Coffee & Exhibition	
15:40–17:00	Session 3: Civil Engineering	
15:40–16:00	3D Printing in Construction: Leaping into the Future	Lucija Hanžič, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (SI)
16:00–16:20	Concrete 3D Printing – How to speed up!	Andreas Trummer, ITE, TU Graz (AT)
16:20–16:40	The buildings of 2050 are already standing	Joyh Design OG (AT)
16:40–17:00	3D Concrete Printing: From Technology to Economic Reality	Luka Zevnik, Zevnik Lab (SI)
17:30–20:00	Conference Dinner @ Hiša Ančka	

Day 2 – 24 September 2026 (Research and Innovation Focus)

Cutting-Edge Research & Emerging Innovations

08:15–09:00	Registration & Coffee	
09:00–09:45	<i>Keynote 2 – 4D Meta-Materials and Printing for a Simpler Future</i>	Mahdi Bodaghi, Nottingham Trent University (UK)
09:45–11:45	Session 4: New Materials and Sustainable Feedstocks for Additive Manufacturing	
09:45–10:05	Biodegradable amino acid phosphoramidates for high resolution photo 3D printing	Stephan Haudum, JKU Linz (AT)
10:05–10:25	The Use of Dynamic Covalent Chemistry to Improve Interlayer Adhesion	Jure Dobnik, UP Faculty of Polymer Technology (SI)
10:25–10:45	REBONE: Engineering the Biodegradability of AM-Prepared Fe–Mn Alloys Through Microstructure and Oxide Design	Črtomir Donik, Institute of Metals and Technology (SI)
10:45–10:55	Abstract: Flexible shape memory electrothermal nanocomposites for additive manufacturing	Joamin Gonzalez-Gutierrez, Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LU)
10:55–11:05	Abstract: Comparing Vitrimers Chemistries and Annealing Conditions in Additive Manufacturing	Jaka Vaupot, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (SI)
11:05–11:15	Abstract: Green solvents for polyolefin-based feedstock production for laser powder bed fusion	Cedric Kundert, OST Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (CH)
11:15–11:25	Abstract: Vitrimers-Based Enhancement of Interfacial Adhesion in Multi-Material Additive Manufacturing of PP and ABS	Rebeka Lorber, UP Faculty of Polymer Technology (SI)
11:25–11:35	Abstract: Step-by-step microstructural evolution of Ti-6Al-4V in laser powder bed fusion	Snehashis Pal, University of Maribor (SI)
11:35–11:45	Abstract: PLA/Kraft Pulp Biocomposite for Additive Manufacturing and Injection Molding: A Multi-Method Characterization Framework	Muhammed Jusufagić, University of Sarajevo (BA)
11:45–12:15	Networking Coffee	
12:15–13:45	Session 5: In-Process Monitoring, AI and Defect Control	
12:15–12:35	Artificial intelligence quality assessment in additive manufacturing: past, present, future	Sergey Shevchik, Empa — Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Science and Technology (CH)
12:35–12:55	From real-time 3D printing defects detection using thermal imaging to 3D printing digital twin	Christophe Roua, COGIT Composites (FR)
12:55–13:15	In-Process-Control based on AI-tools	Thomas Gruber, Trivion GmbH (AT)
13:15–13:35	Mechanisms of Pore Suppression in Magnetically Assisted Laser Melting	Toni Ivas, Empa — Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Science and Technology (CH)
13:35–13:45	Abstract: Simulating Mode I Fracture and Crack Propagation in Ti-6Al-4V Lattice Structure Manufactured via Laser Powder Bed Fusion Additive Manufacturing	Bahman Paygozar, TOBB University of Economics and Technology (TR)
13:45–14:30	Lunch	
14:30–16:30	Session 6: Design, Toolpaths and Machine Innovation	
14:30–14:50	Multi-Axis 3D Printing – Non-Planar Slicing Approaches, Use Cases and Potentials	Daniel Omidvarkarjan, Eastern Switzerland

This conference is funded by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Slovenia-Austria Interreg program.

		University of Applied Sciences (CH) (on-line)
14:50–15:10	Bio-inspired Topology Optimization	Petar Čurković, FSB, University of Zagreb (HR)
15:10–15:30	Generative Design of Pseudo-Stochastic Metamaterials for Advanced Protective Equipment	Jasmin Kaljun, FME, University of Maribor (SI)
15:30–15:50	Design for AM: From manufacturability assessment to manufacturability-driven design optimisation	Panagiotis Stavropoulos, University of Patras (GR)
15:50–16:10	Laser Powder Layer Fusion (L-PLF) – An innovative alternative to Laser Powder Bed Fusion (L-PBF)	Stefan Weger, Graz University of Technology (AT)
16:10–16:20	Abstract: From Room Temperature to the Limit: Thermomechanical Characterization of Additive Manufactured High-Temperature Thermosets for Tooling Applications	Collin Mann, Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau (DE)
16:20–16:30	Abstract: Surface improvement of additively manufactured metal parts	Joško Valentinčič, University of Ljubljana (SI)
16:30–16:50	Networking Coffee	
16:50–17:30	Session 7: European & National AM Projects & Initiatives	
16:50–17:00	AM Education: Addcircles, TransAC & VET5.0	Sandra Schulnig, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (AT)
17:00–17:10	SEAMAC: Strengthening the Excellence of Additive Manufacturing Capabilities	Joško Valentinčič, University of Ljubljana (SI)
17:10–17:20	Transition (M-Era.Net)	dr. Lidija Korat Bensa, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (SI)
17:20–17:30	Circuit (Horizon Europe)	dr. Petruša Borštnar, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (SI)
17:30–18:00	<i>Closing Session & Farewell Networking</i>	

How to get there?

Conference location: UP Faculty of Polymer Technology, Ozare 19, 2390 Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia ([MAP](#))

By public transport

- Public transport connections to Slovenj Gradec are available but not very convenient, as they often require multiple transfers and limited schedules. Regional buses operated by Nomago connect nearby towns with Slovenj Gradec, while trains run by Slovenske železnice stop at the nearest stations in Velenje and Dravograd, from where you must continue by bus or car. If you plan to arrive by public transport and need help coordinating the final part of your journey, please let us know in advance so we can assist.

By car from Ljubljana

- Driving from Ljubljana is straightforward. Take the A1 motorway toward Celje, then continue toward Velenje. From Velenje, follow the regional road directly to Slovenj Gradec. The entire route is well marked and offers a smooth drive through central Slovenia.

By car from Villach/Beljak or Klagenfurt/Celovec

- If you are arriving from Villach or Klagenfurt, follow the Austrian A2 toward the Slovenian border and cross at Holmec. After entering Slovenia, continue through Ravne na Koroškem before reaching Slovenj Gradec. This is the most direct northern approach and typically the quickest for travellers coming from Austria.

By car from Graz

- From Graz, take the A9 south toward Slovenia and continue toward the Holmec border crossing. After entering Slovenia, follow the main road through Ravne na Koroškem before reaching Slovenj Gradec. This route is simple, efficient, and well marked, making it a convenient choice for travellers coming from eastern Austria.

Carpooling option

- Please indicate this option when registering for the event or contact Ms Lorber (zala.lorber@ftpo.eu). We will then send you access to the carpooling spreadsheet. Use the spreadsheet to offer or look for a ride. Please note that carpooling is self-organised by participants.

Recommended accommodations

- [Hiša Ančka](#)
- [Farm Stay Rotovnik Plesnik](#)
- [Farm Stay Lešnik](#)
- [Colatio Boutique House](#)
- [MaxLux Apartments](#)
- [Hotel Korošica](#)
- [Hotel Wada](#)

Media Support of the Event

