

INNOVATION THROUGH 3D PRINTING TECHNOLOGY

ABOUT METRO OPTICS INC. Since 1971, Metron Optics has designed and manufactured high-precision, high-quality inspection mirrors, marking pens, and accessories for customers worldwide. The company works with a range of industries, including aerospace, military, electronics, agronomy, and medical. Metron Optic's products are made in the USA and RoHS and REACH compliant.

THE CHALLENGE. To continue to innovate and serve its clients' changing technology needs, Metron Optics wanted to explore what it would take to evolve its manufacturing operations to include additive manufacturing (3D printing). The company's interests included how to minimize risk of adoption, recommended designs for the additive process, and a solution selection for the best additive manufacturing machine options.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. CMTc, part of the MEP National Network™, undertook a two-phase approach over three months to evaluate Metron Optics' options and create a plan. First, CMTc performed an additive manufacturing assessment to evaluate Metron Optics' parts portfolio and determine if additive manufacturing would be a good fit. This initial work produced a technology adoption roadmap that provided input for the next phase. Second, to validate applicability for Metron Optics' operations, CMTc conducted a proof of concept and validation exercise. To do so, CMTc completed a test case by designing and producing a representative Metron Optics part on several additive manufacturing machines and processes.

"A big thumbs up to CMTc and its very knowledgeable, experienced, and helpful advisors who helped us streamline our manufacturing procedures. Looking forward to our next project together."

-Charles Kempf, CEO

RESULTS



\$150,000 in retained sales



\$22,500 in cost savings



\$11,000 in new investment

CONTACT US



690 Knox Street
Suite 200
Torrance, CA 90502



(310)263-3060



www.cmtc.com

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