



3DGence: no compromises

3DGence entered the 3D printer market just over a year ago and the path the company set out to follow has already proven to be a very successful track. Not only did 3DGence get a nomination for developing the best new printer, they were also awarded best new Polish company of the year, as was decided by a specially selected group of experts for the 'Centrum Druku 3D's 3D print awards'. The quality of 3DGence's printers soon got recognized outside of Poland as well and next to its headquarters in their homeland, the Polish company opened an office in San

3DGence is a young Polish manufacturing company that has set out to build 3D printers which are of excellent quality, easy to use, and look great, all at the same time. The latter can already be confirmed easily from a vast distance. The modern and colourful printers the company produces are true pieces of art that immediately attract the attention, which has proven to be a true asset at the trade shows that 3DGence attends. Once you've seen the printers operate, you simply need to learn more about their quality and user-friendliness, which is why 3D fab+print travelled to Poland, to meet the team behind 3DGence. We spoke with Jakub Sołtysik, Marketing and PR Manager at 3DGence, who was more than willing to talk about their history, their plans, and of course their products.

By Jolanda Heunen

Francisco at the beginning of this year and just signed a contract with their first US distributor. There are also plans in

the making to open a production facility in the US. In addition, 3DGence was granted another token of appreciation: they received a major financial investment from Michał Sołowow, one of Poland's biggest stock exchange investors, in October of this year. This has accelerated the speed at which 3DGence are able to develop themselves even further. The investment has provided 3DGence with virtually limitless opportunities for realising and perfecting all the goals they wish to reach, as well

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as for developing their products and services even further.

How it all began

“3DGence started off as an idea from a few friends who saw a niche in the market,” Mr Sołtysik tells. “They got together to create 3D printers that are reliable and can produce great results without making any compromises, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.”

The founders of the company are Patryk Kadlec, Grzegorz Kowalczyk and Dr Roman Foltyn, who are very experienced people as well as specialists in their field. Their plans to become a highly-regarded player in the 3D printing market evolved quickly and by the end of 2014 3DGence was already growing rapidly and the company decided to move to their present headquarters in the Silesian University of Technology in Katowice, Poland.



3DGence’s choice to relocate to these premises was twofold: here they found the appropriate amount of space that was needed for the expansion. In addition, the relocation enabled 3DGence to establish a close collaboration between the company’s employees and the technicians of the Silesian University. Being based in the Silesian University in Gliwice, 3DGence has been granted

access to the vast amount of knowledge and experience that this prestigious institution holds. Many (new) employees of 3DGence are university students and they are all passionate about technology, inventions, and innovation.

In a big production hall the team members work closely together to produce 3D printers for global distribution. In addition, 3DGence’s bright and spacious, two-floor office space contains a conference room, a kitchen, and an exposition space that is dedicated to 3DGence’s most important items: their 3D printers.

Quality products

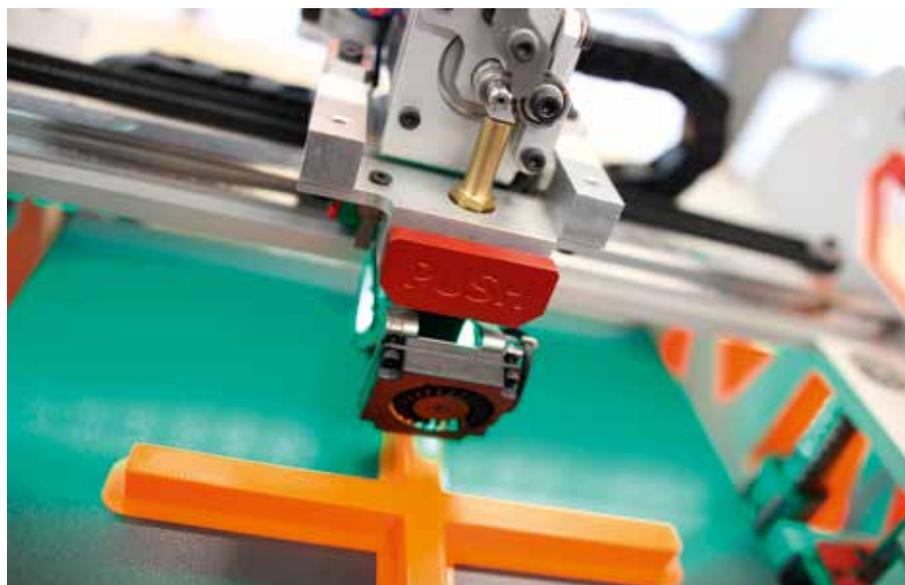
3DGence has already developed two printers in the past year, the 3DGence ONE and the 3DGence PRO. Both 3D printers were designed with the industrial user in mind. The devices that 3DGence develop and build differ from other devices on the market on a number of points. Mr Sołtysik explains why this is: “We have a number of patented solutions, which make the everyday use of our printers simple and stress-free. Our printers give great results and can work without any interruption, as well as with almost any filament available on the market.”



CMO Patryk Kadlec giving a demonstration

3DGence ONE

The 3DGence ONE printer is the flagship 3D printer that distinguishes itself from other devices on the market by means of a number of unique features that make this professional printer very user-friendly. One of these features is the patented hot end with its quick replacement module that 3DGence has called ‘PUSH’. The moment a user wishes to replace the hot end, for example to clean it, a simple press on the big red PUSH button will do the trick, pulling the hot end out without the need to use any tools at all. It allows for a quick hot end exchange, making it



Patented hotend with quick replacement PUSH module

“Our printers are designed to be reliable and of high quality, that’s why our technical team is constantly looking for ways to improve them and make the printers we develop even easier to use.”

really easy to swap a printing filament or to change a nozzle. In addition to this handy feature, the 3DGence ONE contains a print bed with a printing area of 235x255x195mm that consists of ceramics, which makes printouts stick to it without the need for additional solutions, such as blue tape or glue. The table is easily lifted and it leaves a natural looking printout texture quality. The pressure within the nozzle is controlled by a special system, which makes choosing the right temperature for a filament a simple automatic process. On the first setup, the 3DGence ONE printer examines its table in 500 different spots using the nozzle tip. This process is called auto calibration and it detects



any possible surface irregularities. Then, it uses the gathered data to perform an auto compensation, which guarantees the same nozzle-to-table distance, at all points of the print.

Dedicated hotkeys can be used for a real-time printer control and allow the user to raise or lower the table at will. They can also be used to quickly add or

subtract the desired amount of printing filament

3DGence ONE runs on branded software called Repetier Host, which allows for a lot of flexibility during the printout setup

3DGence PRO

3DGence’s latest development is the 3DGence PRO, a printer that was designed especially for professional 3D printer users. It has a patented double-extruder design, which enables it to print from two different filaments. In addition, the 3DGence PRO has a large heated bed (340x260x340 mm), an enclosed heated chamber, and a very high print layer resolution (up to 0.1 mm). All of 3DGence’s printers are available in various colours and allow for future customization.

Customised solutions

Asked about what 3DGence has set out to achieve, Mr Sołtysik replies: “We have set out to offer complete 3D printing solutions for business owners around the world. 3D printers, printer heads, and materials, all dedicated to different industries and different customer needs.”

Whenever the team behind 3DGence encounters a challenge whilst developing a 3D printer, these challenges are addressed promptly.

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Constant innovation in progress

use,” Mr Sołtysik continues. “We also conduct regular team meetings, and we gather feedback from customers and the community as a whole. Once we’ve processed the information that is collected in these ways we respond to issues immediately.”

In addition to the development and production of 3D printers, the company offers a constantly growing amount of 3D printing materials, and they also give advice in terms of technology. Earlier this year 3DGence teamed up with start-up 3YourMind GmbH, a German company whose mission it is to provide all-round 3D printing solutions to companies worldwide. This is a spin-off of Berlin’s Technical University, so they are leveraging from vast 3D experience and knowledge in multiple industries.

Sales activities have taken place practically all over the world since the early



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beginnings of 3DGence, however, most customers are based in the US and in Western Europe. The industries that 3DGence delivers to are diverse, yet the most important industries that 3DGence delivers to are automotive, medical, dental, aerospace, architecture, and the gaming industry. Mr Sidorowicz adds: “Our 3D printers are also used to produce spare parts, and companies use our printers for quick prototyping and low volume manufacturing as well, all over the world. General Motors and Wielton are amongst our clients, and since early 2015 our 3D printers are also shipped via the distribution chain of ABC Data, one of the largest distributors of electronic equipment in Europe.”

In addition, 3DGence has just signed a contract with their first US distributor: DesignBox3D. This knowledgeable reseller thoroughly evaluates a 3D printing company before a decision is made to agree in carrying their products. Another token of how much 3DGence is appreciated in the 3D printing industry.

Conclusion

Considering the youth of the enterprise and what the experienced team has managed to establish already, 3DGence is a company to keep a close eye on in

the future, as they definitely know what they are capable of and where they are heading to. As Mr Sołtysik puts it: “We build 3D printers in Poland, from scratch. We make no compromises, only use the best components, and we go for nothing less than perfect printout quality. Our printers have a number of user-friendly patented solutions which make them stand out from the competition.”

Thanks to its high quality products, the company has built a solid customer base already and established an excellent reputation, both in Poland and abroad. The investment that Mr Sołowow has made into the team behind 3DGence shows both trust and that expectations are high for this company. Mr Sołowow currently holds 49 percent of the shares, while the rest belong to the founders of the company. With its solid base and un-



3DGence ONE

der his wings 3DGence securely strives forward to becoming one of the leading companies in the worldwide 3D printing market.



Patryk Kadlec, CMO 3DGence

Mr Kadlec has been successful in business for many years. He is an expert in the development of web applications for business use, as well as in widely used models of monetization. He is also a racing driver by heart and an extreme sports enthusiast. Patryk is a true adventurer and the most familiar face of the company.

Grzegorz Kowalczyk, CEO 3DGence

Mr Kowalczyk has over twenty-five years of business experience. He is a founder as well as a co-owner of DIAMENTPOL, a leading, globally active diamond tools manufacturer, that exports products all over the world.

Roman Fołtyn,

Technical Consultant 3DGence

He is considered to be one of the greatest German engineers of our time, who has accomplished distinguished achievements in electronics and mechanics as well as in the field of 3D printing. Dr Fołtyn has experience with designing high technology in the fields of medicine, industrial equipment, the military industry, aviation, and the automotive branch.

Andrzej Głuchowski, **Vice President of Operations** **3DGence**

Mr Głuchowski has over twenty years of experience in managerial positions in companies in the industry of high technology, telecommunications and venture capital.

