

Special Issue

4D Printing: State-of-the-Art, Recent Trends and Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

Four-dimensional printing stems from the possibility expressed by Tibbits in 2013 of combining 3D printing and smart materials to create parts that, under specific energy stimulation, can change shape and/or functionality. This opens up an exciting new world where research can explore the three dimensions of space and time. The field is rapidly developing, primarily focusing on active materials.

This emerging field is filled with excitement, requiring creativity, interdisciplinarity, and an epistemological approach that is open to applications. While the bottom-up approach is valuable, it is not the only path to successfully integrating science and technology into clever and robust usage. It is important to explore alternative approaches and, if possible, invent new methods. This Special Issue aims to explore a fraction of the long journey towards short-, mid-, and long-term robust and exciting applications that harness the potential of 4D printing.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Frédéric Demoly

1. ICB UMR 6303 CNRS, Université Marie et Louis Pasteur, UTBM, 90010 Belfort, France

2. Institut Universitaire de France, Rue Descartes, 75005 Paris, France

Dr. Jean Claude André

CNRS-UL, University of Lorraine, 54000 Nancy, France

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Applied Sciences
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
applsci@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giulio Nicola Cerullo
Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza L. da Vinci 32,
20133 Milano, Italy

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