Special Issue

Recent Progress in 3D/4D Printing

Message from the Guest Editors

Three-dimensional printing (3D printing) is a "bottom-up" material-accumulation manufacturing technology. This novel technology is not only simple to operate but also has a lower manufacturing cost and can be quickly generated. Moreover, 3D printing technology can fabricate bespoke objects with intricate internal structures. Therefore, 3D printing has been a representative technology of the third industrial revolution. In recent years, 3D printing technology has been widely applied in various fields. Four-dimensional (4D) printing is an additive manufacturing (AM) process that combines 3D printing with smart (stimuli-responsive) materials. The structures obtained by 4D printing technology are spacetime dependent and can change their shape and/or properties over time when exposed to different external stimuli and these changes can be pre-designed and well-controlled. Recently, 4D printing has attracted significant interest from various disciplines. Therefore, the development of 3D/4D printing technology is of great significance for the progress of industry.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Hesheng Xia

State Key Laboratory of Polymer Engineering Materials, Sichuan University, Cheng Du, China

Dr. Xiaomeng Zhang

School of Material Science & Engineering, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, China

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

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Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.7.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker
Lehrstuhl für Polymermaterialien und Polymertechnologie, University of Potsdam, 14476 Potsdam-Golm, Germany

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