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## Wohlers Report 2007 Indicates Extraordinary Growth in Additive Fabrication

**Average unit sales growth, compounded annually, was 37.4% over the past 18 years.**

May 7, 2007

Wohlers Associates released its most recent findings last week in *Wohlers Report 2007*, a global study on the state of the 3D printing, additive fabrication and rapid manufacturing industry. Wohlers Associates has been tracking the developments and trends in additive fabrication, also known as rapid prototyping, since 1988. According to the report, average unit (machine) sales growth, compounded annually, was 37.4% over the past 18 years. Annual unit sales have grown by more than 26 times -- 157 units to 4,165 -- from 1993 to 2006.

"The popularity of 3D printers is driving the growth of the industry," said Terry Wohlers, principal author of *Wohlers Report 2007* and president of Wohlers Associates. 3D printers are low-cost variations of additive systems that reportedly are office friendly, easier to use and less expensive to operate. "3D printing grew from nothing to nearly 15% of the installed base in its first four years."

3D printers sold over the past four years (2003-2006) represent 68% of the total number of additive systems installed during this period, according to the report. An estimated 77.4% of the 3D printers sold in 2006 came from Stratasys and Z Corp. Additive systems from these two companies have been the most popular in recent years and have led much of the industry's growth. More than half (57%) of the Stratasys installed base was shipped in the past three years, even though the company has been shipping systems for 16 years. Nearly half (48.8%) of the Z Corp. installed base was shipped in the past two years. Z Corporation has been shipping systems for 11 years.

The report indicates that rapid manufacturing -- the direct production of finished goods from additive fabrication -- is the next frontier. Many companies in the aerospace, motor sports, medical, dental and consumer product industries are now using additive processes for custom and short-run production. Wohlers Associates believes that rapid manufacturing will eventually grow to become the

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largest application of additive fabrication.

The softbound publication includes 32 charts and graphs, 47 tables, 97 photographs and illustrations, and eight appendices. The 220-page report sells for \$475 in the United States and \$495 in all other countries. The report's table of contents and additional information on the market and industry are available at the company's [Web site](#).

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