

## 3D<sub>f</sub> FIBRE PRINTING

We print 3D.  
But instead of one, there are hundreds  
nano and micro filaments



### Working principle

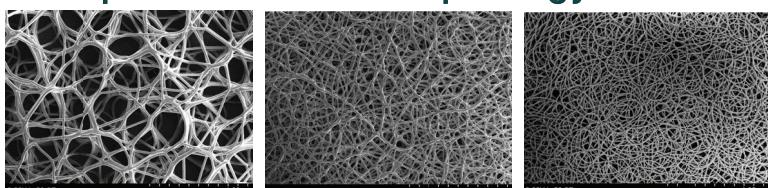
3D<sub>f</sub> printers print many nano and micro filaments instead of a single filament. Such modification of traditional 3D printing technique introduces high-voltage electrostatic field which turns polymer filament into nano and micro sized fibres and pores.

These printers are fully customized to users requirements and are comprised of FDM unit, high voltage unit and climate control unit, packed in a compact and mobile installation. A combination of analogue and digital controls allow of continuous real time adjustment of polymer feed rate, voltage, travel speed, tip-to-collector distance, indoor temperature and humidity.

#### The FDM unit features:

- upside-down design, minimizing the probability of matrix defects due to dripping.
- filament based spinning, where only a small portion of filament is heated thus minimizing polymer degradation and related toxicity of fibres.

### Examples of matrix morphology



### Applications of fibrous matrixes:

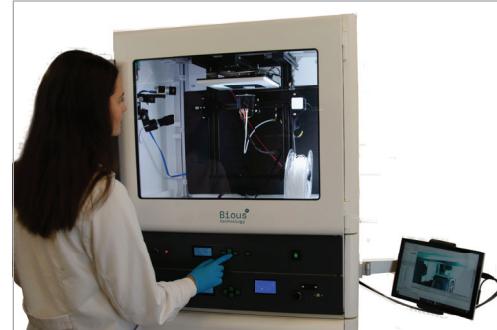
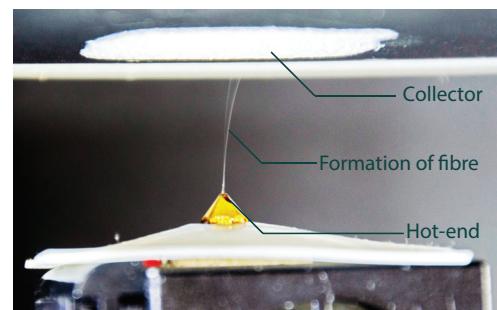
- Tissue engineering
- Drug delivery
- Filtration
- Reinforcement materials
- Electrodes and sensors
- Catalysis
- Smart textiles
- Solar cells
- Food industry
- CO<sub>2</sub> separation
- Adsorption
- Carbon nanotubes
- Ceramics
- Electrolyte membranes
- Fuel cells

### Types of materials for 3D<sub>f</sub> (not limited to):

- Poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone)
- Polylactic acid
- Polyamide
- Polybutylene succinate
- Poly(lactide-co-glycolide)
- Poly(methyl methacrylate)
- Polyether block amide
- Polyurethane

### Potential additives:

- Cellulose
- Elastin
- Chitosan
- Wheat protein
- Dextran



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## Unit Specifications:

Printing base:	FDM printer (filament based, printing area 250x250 mm)
Voltage:	5-20 kV
Tip-to-collector dist.:	5-30 mm
Polymer feed rate:	5-15 mg/s
Polymer melting T:	100-270 °C
Polymer filament diam.:	1.75-3.0 mm
Inside T:	20-35 °C
Inside RH:	30-80 %
Dimensions LxWxH:	830x620x1840 mm
Unit weight (w/o climate control):	65 kg
Unit weight (w/climate control):	105 kg

## Configurations and Options

- Temperature- Assisted Fibre Formation (Cryogenic Solution/ Melt);
- Micropatterned Electrowiring;
- Near-Field Electrospinning;
- Post-Processing (Plasma, UV, chemical hydrolysis);
- Collecting in Liquid.

## Matrix specifications

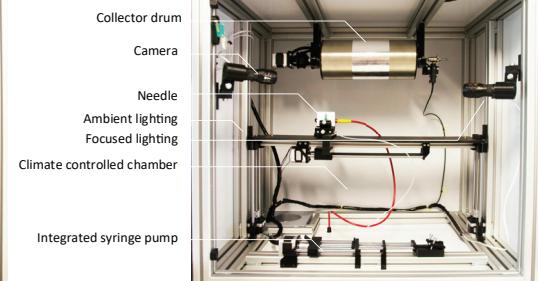
Fibre diameters	0.5-100 µm (3Df, melt) 0.1-30 µm (solution)
Pore diameters	5-200 µm (3Df, melt) 0.5-20µm (solution)
Porosity	70-95%
Matrix Morphology	Random, oriented, mixture

The installation may feature the 3D fibre printer, or conventional solution electrospinning or melt electrospinning setup.

Recent application:  
[doi.org/10.1016/j.bej.2022.108531](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bej.2022.108531)  
EPO and LT patent pending.



**Polymer melt (FDM filament based) electrospinning setup**



**Polymer solution electrospinning setup**

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