



CUSTOMER PART APPLICATION AM TECHNOLOGY ECS Special Projects Shock Tube Strain Relief Clip Device to prevent the lead line from being pulled from the explosive charge Markforged Composite 3D Printer

## **THE PROBLEM**

One of the strengths of ECS Special Projects is in their core capability of R&D and bespoke product manufacture. Due to the nature of sub-sea EOD (explosive ordinance disposal) and autonomous ROV (remote operating vehicles), each solution is unique to an application, resulting in a product range that is high value and low unit volume. To use traditional manufacturing techniques would be costly, take weeks to manufacture and is restricted by minimum order quantities.

## **THE ADDITIVE SOLUTION**

Using Markforged composite 3D printers to design, develop and manufacture has strengthened ECS's ability to deliver innovative, bespoke solutions, and quickly. ECS use their 3D printer prominently in R&D. The high level of accuracy and functionality of the printed parts enables quick testing, design iteration and proof of concept. But further to R&D, the high quality of the 3D printed part has resulted in new revenue opportunities by manufacturing low batch volumes of end products for external customers.

# **OUTCOME OF ADDITIVE**

"We have been able to enhance the design of components for better functionality. Now, we have a flexible product that can be manufactured with or without threading – same design, easily adapted to each specific requirement. Due to 3D printing, we can choose to drop in a Nylon insert lock nut, or not, at the same low cost and short lead times."

# **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

TRADITIONAL FABRICATION	MACHINED IN NYLON. OUTSOURCED MANUFACTURE WITH A MIN. PURCHASE QUANTITY OF 200 UNITS AT £10 PER UNIT
USING ADDITIVE	ENHANCED CLIP, 3D PRINTED IN NYLON AND MICRO CARBON-FIBRE. PRINTED AS SINGLE UNIT IN SMALL BATCHES OF 50
COST SAVING	3D PRINTED COST PER PART 40p. CNC COST PER PART £10 COST SAVING: 96%
PART PERFORMANCE	PART RE-DESIGNED TO INCLUDE ABILITY TO DROP IN A NYLOC FOR ENHANCED PERFORMANCE



## **ABOUT ECS SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Established in 2011, ECS Special Projects, based in Dorset UK, is a specialist manufacturer of mechanical equipment and assemblies for marine, sub-sea, and defence industries. Supplying clients internationally, ECS Special Projects specialises in the research, development, design and manufacture of bespoke EOD products and innovative ROV autonomous solutions.

#### www.ecs-sp.co.uk

"Time is the best outcome of using Additive. To manufacture something traditionally is generally 2-3 weeks. Now we can design something and have it on our desks the following morning. The time saved and ease of quickly knocking up a concept and printing it is incredible"

#### **Steve Randall, Operations Director**

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