

Press Release

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Victoria Hand Project Expands Prosthetics Access in Ukraine with BASF Forward AM and UltiMaker Partnership

With amputees in war-torn Ukraine nearing half million, the Canadian non-profit organization Victoria Hand Project (VHP) is combining innovative materials from BASF Forward AM with UltiMaker 3D Printers' robust construction to provide high-performance prosthetics to those in urgent need.

"By harnessing the print quality and mechanical properties of Forward AM Ultrafuse® PLA PRO1 in addition to the exceptional dependability from UltiMaker, Victoria Hand Project creates prosthetic hands that not only meet functional requirements, but also empower users. These hands are not just tools; they become symbols of resilience, self-assurance, and durability in the daily lives of amputees," states Michael Peirone, CEO of Victoria Hand Project.

Established in July of 2015, VHP has formed clinical partnerships in 11 countries and created a network of compassionate professionals who rely on the patronage of generous donors to continue to spread hope and restore independence to individuals facing limb loss.

BASF 3D Printing Solutions GmbH
Speyerer Straße 4, 69115 Heidelberg
Germany

Phone: +49 6221 67417-900
E-Mail: sales@basf-3dps.com
Web: www.forward-am.com

Registered Office:
69115 Heidelberg
Germany

Commercial Register:
Amtsgericht Mannheim
HRB 728371

Managing Director:
Martin Back

By utilizing innovative 3D printing technology and materials, VHP works with unwavering dedication to create affordable and customizable prosthetic arms -- the Victoria Hands. As they continue to expand, VHP depends on trusted Additive Manufacturing collaborators like BASF Forward AM and UltiMaker to provide the needed support to facilitate long-term, sustainable prosthetic care around the globe.

Martin Back, CEO and Managing Director of Forward AM feels honored to support this project. "We are proud to partner with Victoria Hand Project and to jointly support the people in need in Ukraine. As an industry leader in 3D printing, we strive to consistently provide best-in-class materials and solutions for applications limited only by our customers' imaginations. But the opportunity to support VHP -- an organization using Additive Manufacturing to reshape the lives of amputees around the world -- is something that goes beyond the day-to-day tasks of doing business. It adds a feeling of deep purpose and a stronger sense of why we do what we do. It's not just printed plastic. It's hope, independence, and a better quality of life," he said.

- » **Strength, Versatility and Consistency with Forward AM's Ultrafuse® PLA PRO1** – This innovative material delivers exceptional print quality resulting in precise and detailed prosthetic components. These high-resolution prints made with Ultrafuse® PLA PRO1 not only enhance the aesthetics of the prosthesis but more importantly contribute to the functionality of the hand itself as the material is optimized for quality, speed, strength, and reliability resulting in performance levels which exceed those of traditional filaments.

- » **Trusted Reliability and Performance with UltiMaker 3D Printers** – With their robust construction and stable functionality, UltiMaker printers and software provide users with comprehensive engineering solutions by delivering exceptional dependability through their consistent 3D printing. These state-of-the-art machines are also easy to operate, which is crucial for clinicians who may be inexperienced with this pioneering technology.

Victoria Hand Project seeks to fundraise \$200,000 to support their “Hands for Ukraine” campaign

With the launch of this campaign, VHP will raise funds to support on-demand prosthetic care for individuals living in Ukraine. According to reliable news sources, as of January 30, 2023, over 40,000 Ukrainians have been injured in the war. Experts estimate between 25% and 35% of that number are amputees who will need specialized medical support. This is in addition to the already 400,000 existing amputees in the region, most of which have little no access to prosthetic care. Ukrainian groups also predict that the need for care will continue to grow due to conditions of war throughout the country.

In January of 2023, through the help of donations from generous supporters, VHP completed a successful pilot project in Ukraine. A team member traveled to two partner sites to conduct initial training, set up equipment, and to demonstrate fittings by providing five in-need amputees with prosthetic arms. VHP now seeks to makes these partnerships in Ukraine permanent and on-going by training local prosthetists and technology experts to 3D print, assemble, and provide Victoria Hands on-demand to those who need them.

The full expansion into Ukraine will include:

- Fully equipping two partner sites in Lviv and Vinnytsia with 3D printing and scanning tools
- Fully equipping both partner sites with supplies for prosthetic fittings
- Fully funding high-quality prosthetic care for 100 Ukrainian amputees and laying groundwork for many more to receive care
- If the fundraising efforts exceed the initial goal set, additional monies will be added to increase the number of prosthetic arms being produced.

“We are thrilled to be a long-term partner of Victoria Hand Project and continue to support its mission to deliver prosthetic hands to people in need. With the UltiMaker 3D printing ecosystem on location, clinicians can print parts on-demand, providing better prosthetic support to their communities. By expanding access to prosthetic care with 3D printing, we believe we can help address the needs of

individuals with limb loss or limb differences, promoting empowerment, inclusivity, and overall well-being,” states Nadav Goshen, CEO of UltiMaker.

Donations can be made at: <https://www.victoriahandproject.com/ukraine>

About BASF 3D Printing Solutions

BASF 3D Printing Solutions GmbH, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, is a 100% subsidiary of BASF New Business GmbH. It focuses on establishing and expanding the business under the Forward AM brand with advanced materials, system solutions, components and services in the field of 3D printing. BASF 3D Printing Solutions is organized into startup-like structures to serve customers in the dynamic 3D printing market. It cooperates closely with the global research platforms and application technologies of various departments at BASF and with research institutes, universities, startups and industrial partners. Potential customers are primarily companies that intend to use 3D printing for industrial manufacturing. Typical industries include automotive, aerospace and consumer goods. For further information please visit: www.forward-am.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 111,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €87.3 billion in 2022. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the United States. Further information at www.basf.com.

About UltiMaker

UltiMaker is a global leader in 3D printing, focused on shaping the future of manufacturing and product development. With a wide range of cutting-edge 3D printing solutions, including the popular S and Method series, and an extensive portfolio of 3D printing materials, UltiMaker is paving the way for innovation across industries. As part of its dedication to advancing education, UltiMaker also offers the MakerBot sub-brand and Sketch series, providing one of the most comprehensive 3D printing ecosystems for classroom learning. With a focus on reliability, precision, and innovation, UltiMaker is empowering customers to push the boundaries of what is possible. Learn more at www.ultimaker.com.