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TRACE LABORATORIES' NEW STEREOGRAPHY AND RAPID PROTOTYPING PROGRAM GETS ITS CUSTOMERS DESIGN MODELS IN HOURS

PALATINE, IL – In order to assist customers with their design needs, and to help facilitate their time to market with new products, Trace Laboratories has added stereolithography and rapid prototyping services to its list of programs. With the new capabilities, Trace can produce a physical, three-dimensional part, a conceptual model, or a master pattern – usually in just a couple of hours.

Using a recently acquired, in-house 3D Systems Viper si2 Stereolithography system (SLA), Trace can produce rapid prototype parts – allowing customers to hold physical, plastic, scaled, (and in some cases functional) models of their design in a very short timeframe. Two modes of resolution are available: Standard resolution for the best balance of build speed and part resolution, and high resolution for ultra-detailed small parts and features.

The SLA machine uses a computer-controlled laser to cure a photosensitive resin, layer by layer, to create the 3D part. The timeframe for prototype creation varies based on product sizing. With smaller designs, multiple pieces can be produced simultaneously.

The material used in the SLA process is Huntsman SL7540 which creates parts that can be tested rigorously while maintaining the integrity of the part. This material is suitable for use in a wide range of automotive, engineering and electronics applications.

The standard finish of SLA parts includes support removal, sanding surfaces, and glass bead blasting. The natural finish of the SLA parts is an opaque color, but a clear finish is also available. SLA parts can be painted or dyed in an array of colors without changing the overall size of the part.

In order to create the part prototype, Trace only needs an STL, STP, or AutoCAD format file. If a 3D CAD platform is not available, Trace Laboratories can provide the necessary tools and personnel to create the file.

Trace's Stereolithography and Rapid Prototyping services are provided out of the Trace Laboratories – Central facility in Palatine, IL.

For more information on Trace Laboratories' Stereolithography and Rapid Prototyping Program, or any of the lab's other extensive testing capabilities, contact **Trace Laboratories - Central, Sales Department, 1150 West Euclid Avenue, Palatine, IL USA 60067. Phone: 847-934-5300.**

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Trace Laboratories is a US based, internationally accredited, independent, full service testing and analysis laboratory, with two state-of-the art test facilities - Trace East in Maryland and Trace Central in Illinois, and a satellite office in Denver. Trace offers a wide range of testing services, including: environmental simulation, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), failure analysis, mechanical, HALT/HASS, lead free/tin whisker, printed circuit board, reliability/durability, thermal, UL, vibration and shock, electrical, water analysis, chemical analysis, SLA and rapid prototyping services, consulting, and training to a variety of industries.

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