
Rapid.Tech 3D Enters a New Chapter Under Independent Leadership

Members of the former Advisory Board establish RapidTech 3D e.V. – the additive manufacturing community takes responsibility for the future of this long-established industry platform

Lupburg, Germany, October 7, 2026 – After more than two decades, Rapid.Tech 3D is entering a new chapter. Dedicated members of its former Advisory Board have founded **RapidTech 3D e.V.**, an independent non-profit association. Its mission is to preserve and further develop the platform and community that have grown around Additive Manufacturing (AM) over the past 20 years.

The initiative follows Messe Erfurt's decision not to continue Rapid.Tech 3D in its previous event format. **With the consent and support of Messe Erfurt, the established event is now set to continue under independent, community-led leadership.**

"The opportunity to continue Rapid.Tech 3D as a community-driven initiative is anything but a given. Michael Kynast and the Messe Erfurt team, together with the Advisory Board, have built an exceptional platform over many years. The Free State of Thuringia has also provided early and continuous support for Rapid.Tech and the transfer of additive manufacturing technologies into industry. Their constructive support for this transition provides the foundation for the next chapter," says **Carl Fruth, Board Member of RapidTech 3D e.V.**

By AM Experts, for AM Experts

The association aims to provide an independent platform for knowledge sharing and professional exchange in additive manufacturing and related production technologies. Its focus will be on emerging technologies, industrial applications, start-ups, scientific advances and new business models.

The scope will deliberately extend beyond traditional AM topics. **Artificial Intelligence, Physical AI, automation and new manufacturing concepts** are expected to play a much greater role in future programmes.

"Additive manufacturing has established itself as a strategic key technology across numerous industries. To maintain and accelerate this momentum, we need places where experts can openly exchange experiences, ideas and best practices. That is exactly what Rapid.Tech has represented for more than two decades. With RapidTech 3D e.V., we are laying the foundation to ensure that this exchange – by experts, for experts – continues into the future. Because long-term innovation does not emerge from individual companies alone, but from strong, interconnected ecosystems of experts," says **Dr. Karsten Heuser, Board Member of RapidTech 3D e.V.**

A central objective of the new association is to strengthen Rapid.Tech's technical and scientific character. **Technical substance, practical experience and open, sometimes challenging discussions will take precedence over corporate marketing.**

Industry, academia, start-ups and the next generation of AM professionals will be brought together rather than separated into isolated groups.

The event concept itself will also evolve. Options under discussion include a flexible format with rotating host locations and changing technological focus areas.

Founding Membership Open Until October 31

RapidTech 3D e.V. invites additional supporters from industry, academia and the wider additive manufacturing community to become part of its founding network.

Individuals, companies and scientific institutions can apply for **founding membership until October 31, 2026**, helping shape the future direction of Rapid.Tech 3D from the very beginning.

About RapidTech 3D e.V.

RapidTech 3D e.V. was founded in 2026 by members of the former Rapid.Tech 3D Advisory Board. The association aims to connect scientific knowledge with industrial experience, identify emerging technological developments at an early stage, and foster professional exchange throughout the additive manufacturing community.

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