

Materialise CEO, Wilfried Vancaeren, is Chosen the Most Influential Figure in Additive Manufacturing

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Leuven, Belgium. As part of the celebrations for TCT Magazine's 20th year in print, readers were invited to nominate and vote for the Top 20 Most Influential Figures in the Additive Manufacturing industry. Now, with all the votes counted, TCT has announced that industry professionals from around the world have selected Materialise's Wilfried Vancaeren as the most influential person in Additive Manufacturing today.

It is five years since TCT conducted a reader-poll of the most influential members of the industry — and my, how things have changed. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this poll shows that readers' perceptions of what exactly the industry is, and what it encompasses has changed significantly. Many of the names from 2007 did not even register to feature on a top 20 or even 40. Many of the names on this list are new, and embody the diversification of the industry. This is likely the last time you will see a 'mixed' list like this from TCT as we

will run the maker and consumer top 20 over on www.profiles.one in the future and the industrial Top 20 here in TCT. I am glad to run the Top 20 in this format however — while the names, their positions on the list and lack of other will no doubt cause furious headlines from some quarters, I believe that the list will represent the thought leaders of a group of technologies with shared heritage. [Fried Vancaeren is, in my opinion, a worthy winner — having met him several times I am

always struck by his thoughtful nature and quiet manner as much as his vision, passion and commitment to Materialise and the wider industry. The other names on the Top 5 are also truly representatives of AM and 3D printing now. From Abe Reichental's ever-growing 3D Systems empire to Ben Petris' open-source MakerBot ecosystem, these individuals and their companies are shaping the industry today and for the future.

A pioneer in his industry, Wilfried (Fried) Vancaeren has been developing breakthroughs in the medical and industrial applications of Additive Manufacturing (AM) at Materialise for more than 20 years. Passionate about AM and firm in his belief that it can help create a better and healthier world, Wilfried is committed to using the technology to make positive changes in people's lives. By choosing Fried as the most influential figure in AM, other professionals in the industry have acknowledged Fried's vision for this technology and Materialise's success in bringing this vision to life under his leadership.



Wilfried Vancaeren, Materialise

After finishing a Masters in Electro-Mechanical Engineering in 1985, Wilfried Vancaeren worked as a Research Engineer and Consultant at the Research Institute of the Belgian Metalworking Industry, which is where he first discovered 3D printing.

Passionate about this new technology and firm in his belief that it could help create a better and healthier world, he started Materialise in July 1996, where he remains CEO to this day. Wilfried holds several patents related to the technical and medical applications of 3D printing and remains committed to using the technology

to make positive changes in people's lives. In recognition of his work, he was awarded the RTAM/SMIE Industry Achievement Award in 2011, which is considered one of the highest honours in the 3D printing industry.



Abe Reichental, 3D Systems

provider of end-to-end solutions that are transforming entire industries by empowering professionals and consumers worldwide to create and make. Abe is a passionate maker and community service leader. He is



Terry Wohlers, Wohlers Associates

five continents. He has been interviewed by Bloomberg BusinessWeek, The Economist, Forbes, Fortune, USA Today and others, and has appeared on several television news programs. Terry's annual report is one of the most often quoted sources of

In the words of TCT Magazine Editor, James Woodcock, "*Fried Vancaeren is, in my opinion, a worthy winner – having met him several times, I am always struck by his thoughtful nature and quiet manner as much as his vision, passion and commitment to Materialise and the wider industry.*"

Fried had this to say about his first place position on TCT's Top 20 list, "*I am honored to have been chosen the most influential figure in an industry that I have long believed has the power to change the world in a very positive way. To receive this incredible recognition from my peers lets me know that I am on the right path with my vision of changing people's lives through AM and will motivate me, and in fact all of us at Materialise, to strive even harder to make this vision a daily reality in the work we do.*"

The full TCT Top 20 list can be read [here](#) in the Anniversary Issue of TCT Magazine

