



**University of
Sunderland**

CUSTOMER STORY

Discover how the University of Sunderland invested in multiple Stratasys 3D printers from SYS Systems to boost the knowledge employability of its students by getting hands on with world-leading technology.

PROJECT BRIEF

Named one of the UK's Top 40 universities in the Guardian University Guide 2025, the University of Sunderland has long been at the forefront of higher education and cutting-edge research. Its partnership with SYS Systems, UK Platinum Partner for Stratasys, has enabled the institution to equip students with the tools and skills they need to become industry ready.



To remain competitive among the UK's top universities, the University of Sunderland continually invests in the best facilities and equipment.

The School of Computer Science and Engineering has been a long-standing advocate of 3D printing technology but recognised the need to elevate its capabilities to maintain its status and attract high-achieving students.

Dave Knapton, Associate Head of School – Computer Science and Engineering, said: "We teach traditional engineering programs, but also the latest and current digital technologies, trying to train students to be able to develop a more sustainable world.

"The university has had 3D printing capabilities for a long, long time but the recent investment in the very best technology really shows itself in the materials that we can now print, and also the quality of those prints."

The university's goal was clear: to integrate the latest advanced systems to showcase the very best in 3D printing technologies and provide students with an unparalleled learning environment.



THE SOLUTION



To meet its goals, the University of Sunderland partnered with SYS Systems, a leading provider of Stratasys 3D printing technology. The university began with a Stratasys J850 PolyJet printer and has since expanded its capabilities with three additional systems, each offering unique benefits.

Dr Spyros Fakiridis, Lecturer in Engineering, said: “The fact that we have four machines here at the University of Sunderland proves that our relationship with SYS Systems has been positive and that we're only looking to extend that relationship further.”

The printers include the Fortus 450, the world’s most popular industrial FDM 3D printer, which enables the production of durable, end-use parts with precision, the F770, a large-format FDM 3D printer which offers increased printing flexibility and the option for more extensive projects, the J850, a multi-colour, multi-material 3D printer offering unparalleled accuracy and surface finish, and the Origin One, specialised in high-performance materials such as elastomers and medical-grade polymers.

This comprehensive set-up supports a variety of applications, from student projects to research initiatives and collaborations with industry partners.



It sets us up as a **centre of excellence**.
It allows us to work with industrial partners and do extra research work.



THE BENEFITS



The benefits of incorporating Stratasys 3D printing technologies into the university's curriculum are both immediate and far-reaching.

The machines can produce production-grade parts, with an advanced selection of material choices across the four different machines providing flexibility, but also highlighting to students how cost-effective and efficient 3D printing is when compared to traditional methods.

The hands-on experience that students are able to gain with industrial-grade equipment sets them up for a future in engineering, with more and more manufacturers turning to 3D printing to gain an advantage. By having access to such technology as the Stratasys machines, students can themselves gain an edge in terms of their employability and prepare them for real-world challenges.

Its not just the benefits to the students that the university profits from, with the Stratasys technology creating broader opportunities to support advanced research, develop industry partnerships and engage with local businesses.

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It's hugely important for students to have access to machines like these, it allows them to develop, rather than just using cheap, basic 3D printers. They can actually do more complex design work that can push the limits.

Dr Aidan Bowes, Engineering Lecturer and Programme Leader





Watch the full customer story on the
SYS Systems YouTube channel.

Contact us.

Get in touch to request a FREE
consultation with a member of our team.

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