





Impact of 3D-Printing Technologies on the Transformation of Industrial Production in the Arctic Zone

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Abstract: Today the process of transition to a new technological order has become evident to everyone, especially in developed countries. One of the most urgent areas for ensuring the long-term competitiveness of industrial enterprises is the development of the Arctic zone. This region has many economic and logistical difficulties, the solution of which may lie in the use of advanced technologies of the new technological order, for example, 3D-printing technologies. The aim of the article is to study the transformation of the cost structure of industrial products as a result of integration of 3D-printing technologies into the production process of industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone. It was found that the structure of the main cost elements varies greatly, due to the ambiguity of replacing computer numerical control (CNC) (or other classical shaping technologies) with 3D-printing technologies, as well as the specifics of supply chains, which is quite urgent for the Arctic region. The results of empirical study necessitate the development of tools for predicting the economic viability of integrating 3D-printing technologies into the technological processes of industrial enterprises operating in the Arctic zone. Within the article, the authors substantiated and developed a fuzzy-multiple model for assessing the level of investment attractiveness of integration of 3D-printing technologies into the production process of an industrial enterprise operating the Arctic zone. One of the aims of this model is to answer the question of whether an enterprise should invest in a technological transition to 3D-printing technologies.

Keywords: 3D-printing technologies; industrial enterprise; production cost; design process; fuzzy logic; Arctic zone

1. Introduction and Statistics Overview

Industry, primarily manufacturing, plays a key role in the development of the world economy. According to L. Young (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial Development Report, 2016), development is impossible without industrialization, and industrialization is impossible without technology and innovation. Industry generates jobs with higher wages than agriculture, which contributes to structural economic changes in low-income countries and their transfer to the category of countries with medium and sometimes high incomes. According to UNIDO specialists, it is employment in industry that is crucial in terms of poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development goals of the United Nations [1].

Analyzing the dynamics of the world gross product by main sectors (agriculture, industry, services) from 1970 to 2000, services sector grew at a faster rate than industry (up 4.5% per year), but since 2000, the annual growth of all three sectors has been equalized and stabilized at about 2.5% [2].

As for geographical specifics, all countries are characterized by dynamic fluctuations in the industrial development index with the absence of an explicitly expressed trend. The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have maintained their leadership in the world industrial growth over the past four decades (especially China, but not Russia) [3–6].

The cost of world industrial output is 9/10 in the manufacturing sector. The developed countries have an even higher specific gravity [7–9]. Since the 1960s (in developing countries—since the 1980s), the world industry has taken a course of de-industrialization. On a global scale, the share of manufacturing value added in GDP (gross domestic product) in the period from 1962 to 2012 fell from 20.9% to 12.3% [10]. Figure 1 shows a graph of the change in this indicator for selected regions (USA and Canada, Eastern Asia, Western Europe, the countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)). In Western Europe, the US and Canada, the share of manufacturing value added in GDP is steadily declining according to the global trend (this trend is also characteristic for Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, and other economically developed countries). For the countries of the former USSR and Eastern Asia, the situation is reversed: the share of value added of manufacturing in GDP either grows, or the periods of recession and growth change. One of these two trends is also characteristic for the countries of Eastern Europe, South America, the Middle East and other developing countries [11,12]. The difference in the role of manufacturing in the national economy for developed and developing countries is quite obvious. Basically, this is due to the fact that the industry's opportunities to enhance the economic growth of developing countries are still clearly not exhausted [13–15].



Figure 1. The share of value added of manufacturing in GDP, % [16].

The statistics of geographical distribution of the value added of manufacturing industry in the world over the past three decades show that the share of North American countries fell from 23% to 20.9%, that of Western Europe fell from 40.7% to 27.5%, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region increased from 27.8% to 44.5% [17]. The situation is rather different with the absolute values of the index. In addition to the obvious trend—China's explosive 15-fold growth—one can see an increase in the value added by manufacturing industry not only in developing countries (BRICS countries, South Africa, Mexico and many others), but also in countries traditionally included in the group of economically developed countries (USA, Western Europe). This trend of reduction in the

share of manufacturing in GDP, while maintaining absolute growth is linked with the leading role of economically developed countries in global value chains [1,18,19].

There is a tendency of increasing efficiency in the manufacturing industry due to the reduction in employment and energy consumption, mainly in industrialized countries. If comparing China and USA (as representatives of developing and developed countries) in terms of such indicators as value added (\$bn.), manufacturing energy consumption (% of the world), manufacturing employment (% of total employment) in 1990 and 2015, it is obvious that growth in manufacturing occurs in parallel with a decrease in the number of employees due to automation and more rational use of human resources. In general, employment in world manufacturing increased by 13% during the period (in developed countries it fell by 31%, and in developing countries it increased by 30%). The energy consumption situation for the two countries is different: in China, manufacturing and industrial energy consumption are rising synchronously, while in the US the situation is inversely proportional [20–23].

The world manufacturing sector is characterized by a high level of competition, both at the country level and at the level of specific enterprises. At the same time, existing technological systems reach an optimizing peak, which generates the need for a qualitative change. The process of cardinal modernization involves changing one of the following elements of the production process [24–26]:

- circulating resources, in particular the integration of new materials for obtaining new properties
 of the final product, or obtaining a fundamentally new product, or reducing production costs;
- production technologies, which is expressed in the integration of new capital equipment.

The process of transition to a new technological order determines the need to create new production systems. These systems should be both of a new technological character and have a renewed territorial and organizational character. Due to the increasing scarcity of territories, but not the diminishing need for access to labor and the proximity of resources, it is the development of the Arctic zone that can be one of the vectors of modern industry development. In many respects, this is determined by the resource base of the Arctic zone, as well as by its general openness to mastering the main participants of the world industrial market. At the same time, logistic and infrastructure problems of this region should be considered. Despite the closeness to resources, the cost of organizing a single work unit is significantly higher than in many alternative regions of the world.

Arctic industry forms a significant part of world GDP. In particular, in the Russian Federation, about 20% of the extractive industries products and about 2% of the manufacturing products are produced in the Arctic zone. The main products are: non-ferrous metals, aluminum, apatite-nepheline ores, complex iron ores, phlogopite, vermiculite, ferrite strontium powders, building materials, aegirine, sphenic, titanium-magnetite, iron ore, apatite and baddeleyite concentrates. Most of the production facilities are located in the western part of the Arctic zone. This part is an "old-developed" region, as it was industrialized in the early 20th century. Despite of the high significance of the Arctic industry, its main development fell on the third technological order. Consequently, the technological development of the industrial complex of the Arctic zone is critical for the development of industry as a whole.

Thus, effective production facilities in the Arctic zone should primarily meet the following characteristics [27–30]:

- 1. Adaptability. Production complexes operating in the Arctic zone should be able to quickly and, in a non-resource-consuming way, adjust to new conditions of external and internal environment;
- 2. Scalability. Production complexes of the Arctic zone should be commensurately effective in the production of goods at both small and large scales;
- 3. Learning. Since the Arctic zone is unique, errors in the creation of such complexes are unavoidable. Therefore, without the existence of a system of accumulation and subsequent use of bad experiences, such complexes cannot exist;
- 4. Virtual openness. Such complexes should be able to communicate quickly and effectively with the managing, financial and other subsystems located outside the given territory.

The approach to the creation of production complexes operating in the Arctic zone is exceptionally individual. These complexes can be successful only in the case of the integration of both advanced and classic production technologies. 3D-printing technologies could become one of the most promising cases, since on their basis, the most adaptive and scalable production complexes can be built. 3D, or additive, printing is a generic name for technologies that involve production from a digital model (or CAD (computer-aided design) model) by layer-by-layer addition of material [31,32]. The integration of advanced production technologies, in particular, 3D-printing or additive technologies for industrial enterprises operating in the Arctic zone, may become one of the keys of their development.

2. Literature Overview

The consequences of integrating additive technologies into real sectors of the economy is a widely discussed problem in the scientific community [33–36]. This question is quite broad, and it determines the different directions of the researchers. For example, Gress and Kalafsky (2015) state that additive technologies can change the geography of production as a whole by influencing the structure of demand and consumption, as well as innovation and global supply chains [37,38]. Cozmei and Caloian (2012) consider economic advantages of additive technologies, such as reduction in fixed costs, absence of expenses and depreciation costs for additional equipment, reduced risk, and reduced management costs. They thoroughly consider the issues related to the fiscal burden on enterprises using additive technologies and conclude that the development of additive technologies will invariably lead to a global modernization of the taxation system, since at the moment it is not able to levy taxes from these enterprises in connection with the innovative nature of their activities [39,40].

Weller, Kleer and Piller (2015) argue that additive production is currently being positioned as the source of a new industrial revolution by producing unique products without the use of specialized tools and the production of complex structures in one operation, thereby potentially reducing the need for installation work. The authors believe that in monopoly conditions, the use of additive technologies will allow the profit of the enterprise to increase through the use of consumer surpluses, thanks to the construction of a flexible production system that implies individual orders. At the same time, competition will be stimulated, as additive technologies will reduce barriers and enable enterprises to function in several markets simultaneously, resulting in price reduction for end-users [41,42].

The most profound study in the field of the economy of additive production was carried out by Gebler, Schoot Uiterkamp and Visser (2014), stating that the greatest development of additive technologies will be in the sphere of small-scale production, production of unique products and expensive equipment. The most promising industries are aerospace and medical production. The authors were the first to consider a change in the cost structure when using 3D printing. Prices for raw materials for 3D printing are much higher than for raw materials in classic production methods; however, their efficiency is much higher. The cost of production can be reduced, since additive technologies allow the creation of lighter structures with complex geometry, which can result in fuel economy [43,44].

Mellor, Hao and Zhang (2014) note that additive technologies have been used exclusively in the prototyping area. However, it has become possible to create full-scale productions based on additive technologies. As the advantages of this technology, the authors distinguish the almost unlimited possibilities in the design of the final product, the lack of need for specialized equipment, and the low costs [45–50].

Thus, we can conclude that existing scientific research in this area focuses either on the global aspect of the development of additive production, not considering the specifics of the changes in production processes, or on particular cases of integrating additive technologies into specific technological processes. To determine the possibilities for integrating these technologies into production complexes created in the Arctic zone, it is firstly necessary to understand the specifics of changing the structure of production costs. The object of research is engineering for at the moment the vast majority of commercial developments in the field of additive technologies are primarily focused in this sector where additive technologies can replace classical methods of product forming, such as mechanical processing by means of CNC (computer numerical control) equipment.

3. Methodology

This study is conducted on data obtained from 10 enterprises working in the Arctic zone. It was based on a complex of quantitative information (accounting data, primary accounting data, production information, etc.) and qualitative information (in-depth expert interviews with management representatives of each company). The obtained results were processed using MS Excel. Let's consider the changes in the design process during the transition from CNC to additive technologies (Figure 2) [51–53].

Design process for CNC



Designing process for Additive Technologies



Figure 2. Design process for CNC and additive technologies.

Abbreviations in this figure stand for: CNC—machine tool with computer numerical control; CAD—computer-aided design; CAE—computer-aided engineering; CAO—computer-aided optimization; CAM—computer-aided manufacturing. According to Figure 2, testing the processability is completely excluded from the design process, because the principle of formation of additive technologies implies the possibility of obtaining almost any form layer-by-layer [54,55]. Software and hardware can obtain a form without human intervention, which makes it possible to completely abandon staff units such as production engineer and to reduce the cost of the final product.

Following the design phase, the production stage will also undergo significant changes [56,57]. Since the production process is almost impossible to universalize from a structural point of view, it will be easier to visualize changes through a model of production cost formation. In the enlarged form, the formation process of the production cost can be represented by the following additive model:

$$C = C_m + C_w + C_{eq} \tag{1}$$

where:

- C_m—total cost of materials;
- C_w—cost of wages;
- C_{eq}—cost of operation of equipment.

According to Model (1), each of the elements will undergo a change, since additive technologies assume fundamentally different materials. Moreover, this material has a much greater return on production waste, which is also due to the principle of formation. In this case, waste recycling is almost identical to that when using casting technologies [58,59]. The additive devices themselves also have their own characteristics, which certainly affects the cost of their operation. The structure of labor costs will also change, since the additive installation management process is much less

labor-intensive than the CNC control process [60]. Similar issues are also raised in [61–63]. A more detailed visualization of the structural changes can be seen in the extended additive model of the formation of the production cost:

$$C = \frac{C_m}{n} + \frac{T_p + T_a + T_{pr} + T_r + \frac{T_{pf}}{n}}{60} \times C_h + \frac{\left(\frac{P_{te} \times LF \times T \times P_{kh}}{E}\right)}{60} + \sum P_t \times \frac{T_t}{T_{tu}} + \frac{C_{dm} \times T}{T_m} + \frac{C_{da} \times T}{T_a} + \frac{P_c \times T}{T_c} + \frac{A_m \times V}{A_u} \times \frac{T}{T_{msup}}$$
(2)

where:

- C_m—aggregate price of all purchased materials (including transportation costs, etc.);
- N—number of products produced from one batch of material;
- T—piece-calculating time (time spent for production of one item);
- C_h—cost of one working hour of the machine operator or the machine tool setter (supposing that is the one person);
- T_p—processing time (time spent by the machine tool for processing the item);
- T_a—auxiliary time, including time for installation and removal of items, time for detaching and securing the item, time for management, time for measurement;
- T_{pr}—time for preventive maintenance (part of basic and auxiliary time);
- T_r—time for rest and personal needs (part of basic and auxiliary time);
- T_{pf}—time for preparation and finish works;
- P_{te}—the power of the machine tool;
- LF—load factor of the electric engine;
- P_{kh}—price of kilowatt hour;
- E—efficiency of the electric engine;
- Pt—purchase price of each tool used in the process of manufacturing;
- T_t—operating time of each tool;
- T_{tu}—permissible operation time of the tool until its complete unworthiness;
- C_{dm}—cost of annual depreciation of the machine tool;
- T_m—estimated working minutes of the machine tool per year;
- C_{da}—cost of annual depreciation of auxiliary equipment;
- T_a—estimated working minutes of auxiliary equipment per year;
- P_c—price of the necessary coolant;
- T_c—estimated working minutes of coolant before replacement;
- A_m—area occupied by the machine tool;
- V—value of the production unit rent per month;
- A_u—the area of the rented production unit;
- T_{msup}—supposed working time of the machine tool per month (in minutes).

The presented model formed the basis of the study methodology. Conducted quantitative studies and in-depth expert interviews made it possible to identify changes in the structure of this model during the transition to additive technologies, as well as the causes of these changes and key problems associated with them. The results of this comparison are presented in the next part of the paper.

4. Results

Considering the model, the cost of the material (C_m) consists of the cost of its acquisition (C_{m1}) , logistics costs (C_{m2}) , the cost of additional processing (C_{m3}) and the irreversibility of waste and rejects (C_{m4}) . Industrial additive installations assume the use of specialized materials of powder type; their cost considerably exceeds the cost of classical materials, due to the insufficient volume of their production. The situation with industrial costs is ambiguous, since on the one hand, the process of

storage and transportation is greatly simplified due to the greater variability of the transported volume, but on the other hand the number of their producers is quite few [64–66]. At the same time, the cost of additional processing is much lower, since there is no need for preliminary preparation of the material and the formation of blanks. The irreversibility of waste and rejects is much lower than in classical methods of metal-forming. In fact, the recyclability of waste and rejects can reach 100%. So,

$$\begin{array}{l} C_{m1-additive} \geq C_{m1-CNC} \\ C_{m2-additive} \geq C_{m2-CNC} \\ C_{m3-additive} \geq C_{m3-CNC} \\ C_{m4-additive} \geq C_{m4-CNC} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (3) \end{array}$$

With the general changes in the ratio between the elements of material costs, the composition of these costs does not change. Labor costs change insignificantly in terms of composition and structure. Processing time is an extremely variable indicator, unsuitable for comparison. Auxiliary time in the case of additive technologies will be significantly lower, since the production process is more automated [67,68]. Time for preventive maintenance, time for rest time and personal needs, as well as time for preparation and finish works remain virtually unchanged. So,

$$T_{p-additive} \ge T_{p-CNC}$$

$$T_{a-additive} \ge T_{a-CNC}$$

$$T_{pr-additive} \ge T_{pr-CNC}$$

$$T_{r-additive} \ge T_{r-CNC}$$

$$T_{pf-additive} \ge T_{pf-CNC}$$
(4)

The method for calculating electricity costs (C_{el}) retains the main mechanism, but load factor and efficiency of the electric engine are replaced by alternative indicators for the additive installation [69,70]. The energy consumption of modern additive installations is comparable to the energy consumption of CNC equipment:

$$C_{el-additive} \approx C_{el-CNC}$$
 (5)

Cost items related to material consumption and planned replacement of the coolant are completely eliminated and are replaced by alternative indicators for runout of structural elements of the additive installation (P_{ad}) (for example, an extruder). Since these elements are much more unified and durable, lower costs should be assumed:

$$P_t + P_c \ge P_{ad} \tag{6}$$

The cost of annual depreciation of the additive installation (C_{d-ad}) will be much higher, since its cost significantly exceeds the cost of alternative CNC equipment, even though it is necessary to purchase ancillary equipment:

$$C_{dm} + C_{da} \le C_{d-ad} \tag{7}$$

Other elements of the model remain unchanged. We see that the change in the composition and structure of the production costs is rather ambiguous. The enterprise can achieve a reduction in material costs only under conditions of a significant percentage of rejects and industrial waste. The company can achieve a reduction in labor costs only if the processing time is shortened, which is possible only in the case of geometrically complex products that are impossible to manufacture on CNC equipment [71]. The company can achieve lower equipment costs only if the additive installation has a longer useful lifetime. It can be concluded that the decision to integrate additive technologies into industrial enterprises operating in the Arctic zone is complex and ambiguous. This decision depends on many factors, and the result is subject to a high level of uncertainty. Therefore, the issue of forming an instrument for assessing the investment attractiveness of such a transition is extremely urgent. The authors' aim is to form a tool to determine the level of investment attractiveness of integration of additive technologies in the manufacturing process of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone.

5. Discussion

The specificity of the object makes the use of any common evaluation method ineffective. An accurate and adaptive model for assessing the prospects of investment attractiveness of integration of additive technologies cannot be based on purely statistical or exclusively expert information. The impossibility of using statistical methods of assessment is determined by the impossibility of obtaining a sufficient amount of empirical material for the formation of a reliable research base. On the other hand, expert methods carry subjective features, which greatly increase the risk of expert error. Increasing the accuracy of the results of estimating such phenomena lies in the field of applying the theory of fuzzy sets. Its methods are based on a system of expert assessments; however, unlike statistical and expert estimation methods, they make it possible to consider the level of uncertainty by using the membership functions (μ (x) \in (0, 1)) of a subset to a given set. Methodologically, the use of this modeling approach is limited by the need to involve a wide range of experts. In this case, the experts were representatives of the management system of 10 Arctic zone enterprises who were previously involved in this study.

The investment attractiveness of the integration of additive technologies is assessed on the basis of a system of indicators built on a hierarchical basis and defined in different measures. The first level of the system is presented by aggregated criteria, the aggregate interaction of which synergistically affects the level of investment attractiveness. It is proposed to use a cost approach, and to measure investment attractiveness through the potential for cost reduction. The second level of the system is represented by specific indicators that affect one or another criterion. These indicators describe the state of both the external and internal environment of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone. At the same time, they include both statistical and expert values. The system of these indicators is presented in Table 1.

No.	1st Level	2nd Level	Notation	Units	Direction of Influence
1	Potential reduction in material costs	The rate of material cost reduction	X1	%	^=>↑
2		The growth rate of the market capacity	X2	%	^=>↑
3		Comparative remoteness from the main producers of the material	Х3	Score	^=>↓
4		Comparative remoteness from the main consumers of the material	X4	Score	^=>↓
5		Number of non-returnable defected products	X5	%	^=>↑
6		Number of non-recyclable wastes	X6	%	^=>↑
7		The ratio of the price of the material to the analogues	X7	1/\$	^=>↓
8		The cost of pretreatment of the material	X8	\$	$\uparrow = > \uparrow$
9	Potential reduction in labor costs	Comparative level of personnel qualification	Y1	Score	^=>↓
10		Comparative number of staff	Y2	People	^=>↓
11		Potential increase in personnel wages	Y3	\$	^=>↓
12		Potential increase in labor intensity of maintenance staff	Y4	\$	^=>↓
13	Potential reduction in equipment operating costs	Comparative cost of additive installation	Z1	\$	^=>↓
14		Useful lifetime of the additive installation	Z2	Year	^=>↑
15		Comparative cost of additive installation service	Z3	\$	^=>↓
16		Power consumption level of additive installation	Z4	KWh/hour	^=>↓
17		Cost of auxiliary equipment and consumables	Z5	\$	^=>↓
18		Probability of equipment failure	Z6	%	^=>↓
19		Prevalence of additive installation	Z7	Score	^=>↑
20		Footprint	Z8	M2	^=>↓

Table 1. Indicators characterizing the investment attractiveness level of integration of additive technologies in the manufacturing process of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone.

The model has two linguistic variables:

Variable No. 1—level of investment attractiveness of integration of additive technologies in the manufacturing process of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone;

Variable No. 2—the level of each private indicator (20 indicators). The term-set of each linguistic variable consists of 5 subsets:

Linguistic variable No. 1:

- 1. Absolutely unattractive;
- 2. Practically unattractive;
- 3. The attractiveness is uncertain;
- 4. Attractive enough;
- 5. Extremely attractive.

Linguistic variable No. 2:

- 1. Extremely low value of the indicator;
- 2. Low value of the indicator;
- 3. The average value of the indicator;
- 4. Admissible value of the indicator;
- 5. High value of the indicator.

Each indicator is assigned its own level of significance (r_i). In accordance with the hierarchy of the system, it was established that indicators of the first level are of equal importance, since each of them characterizes a separate component that affects the integral indicator and cannot be considered in isolation from the others. The indicators of the second level are equally significant to the indicators of the first level; therefore, the significance shares are evenly distributed within each group. Figure 3 shows the hierarchical system of influence of indicators, together with the established significance of each of them.



Figure 3. Scorecard and significance levels.

As a classifier for the level of attractiveness of additive technologies integration, we take the most commonly used standard, the five-level 01-classifier by Nedosekin A.O., where the membership functions are trapezoidal triangular numbers [72]. This classifier has 5 node points, in which the value of the membership function is equal to one (0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9).

For each of the private indicators, a classifier of current values is generated. These classifiers are built on the basis of statistical information by industry, and the distribution criterion is the frequency of the hit of the indicator value in the interval. If the indicator is expert, the classifier is built on the basis of expert review.

Based on the results of the calculation of each of the private indicators, the recognition of their values by the criterion $\lambda ij \in (0, 1)$ is carried out. Based on the results of recognition of the values of private indicators, an integral indicator of the level of investment attractiveness of integration of additive technologies in the manufacturing process of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone is calculated. The obtained integral indicator is linguistically interpreted, similarly to private indicators. In the end, we get an interpretation of the level of perspectiveness of integration of additive technologies and the degree of confidence of the researcher in this interpretation.

6. Conclusions

In the article, the issue of changing the composition and structure of production costs at an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone while integrating additive technologies is considered in detail. It was found that the transition to additive installations will make it possible to abandon at least one staff unit—the production engineer—which will significantly affect the cost of product design. At the same time, production cost can change ambiguously. In this regard, a fuzzy model was developed to assess the level of investment attractiveness of the integration of additive technologies in the manufacturing process of an industrial enterprise operating in the Arctic zone. This model consists of a set of indicators that fully reflect the prospect of reducing the production costs. The linguistic interpretation of the final result makes it possible to answer the question of whether an enterprise should invest in a technological transition, and the linguistic interpretation of the intermediate results will help to understand why to do it. Further development of this model is its approbation. Based on the results of the approbation, it is supposed to clarify the fuzzy-logical classifiers of private indicators, as well as the specification of their composition and weights. This model will be useful for developed industrial enterprises operating in the Arctic zone, considering the integration of additive technologies, and for researchers in the field of advanced manufacturing technologies.

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