

# Microstructure & Mechanical Properties of Direct Metal Laser Sintered (DMLS) SS316L in the As-Printed and Heat Treated Condition

**Nidhish Sagar, Anigani Sudarshan Reddy\*, Dheepa Srinivasan\***

*Undergraduate (Materials) at IISc*

**\*INTECH DMLS PVT LTD.**

**India's 1<sup>st</sup> service provider of 3D printing**

Report submitted by **Nidhish Sagar**  
as part of Summer Internship at INTECH, DMLS  
Under the guidance of **Dr. Dheepa Srinivasan**

**Work carried out at Materials Engineering Department, IISc, Bangalore**

July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018



INTECH DMLS PVT LTD  
Sinteneering Innovations



INTECH DMLS PVT LTD  
Sinteneering Innovations

INTECH DMLS PVT LTD, Bangalore- All rights reserved

[www.intech-dmls.in](http://www.intech-dmls.in)

INTECH\_005\_2018  
SS316L DMLS Characterization

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTECH DMLS PVT LTD
Sridhar Balaram
Naniah M A
Raghunandan M
Chidanand Hiremath
Production Team INTECH-DMLS

Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	
Prof Suryasarathi Bose	Project Faculty
Krishnamurthy A	XRD
Esakkiraja R N	Furnace
Pooja S G	SEM
Shailendra Verma	SEM, XRD
M A Wadood, Sarthak Jadhav, Shirin P	Co-Interns
Shashidhara S	Tensile Tests
Sandeep, Ananth Prof. A S ShetraBalan	AIMIL (Particle Size Distribution) VIT (Surface Roughness)

# Background on Additive Manufacturing

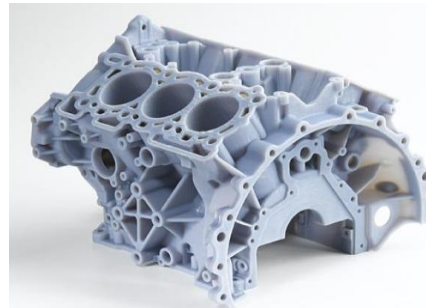
Additive Manufacturing technology is seen as an emerging technology for repair as well as new make (near net shape) applications. The advantages of the process are in being able to result in near net shape, complex parts, with weight savings

## Additive Manufacturing Applications

### Aerospace



### Healthcare



### Automotive Parts



# Background – SS316L

Stainless Steel alloy 316/316L is a chromium-nickel molybdenum austenitic stainless steel developed to provide improved corrosion resistance to Alloy 304/304L in corrosive environments.

Grade 316L, the low carbon version of 316 and is immune from sensitisation (grain boundary carbide precipitation). Thus it is extensively used in heavy gauge welded components (over about 6mm).

Post-weld annealing is not required when welding thin sections.

The addition of molybdenum improves general corrosion and chloride pitting resistance. It also provides higher creep, stress-to-rupture and tensile strength at elevated temperatures.

It is readily used in a variety of parts for applications in the industrial, architectural, and transportation fields.

## Objective – Characterization of DMLS SS316L

- To optimize parameters for dense part in the As-Printed sample without any Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIPing).
- To characterize DMLS SS316L (Stainless Steel 316L) and evaluate its suitability for orthopedic implant materials.



## Properties of SS316L

- 1) High Tensile Strength
- 2) Resistance to corrosion
- 3) Biocompatibility
- 4) Excellent welding characteristics.



**The objective of this analysis is to characterize DMLS SS316L in the as printed and heat treated condition, for mixed powder (Praxair & Oerlikon) and bulk sample (Praxair)**

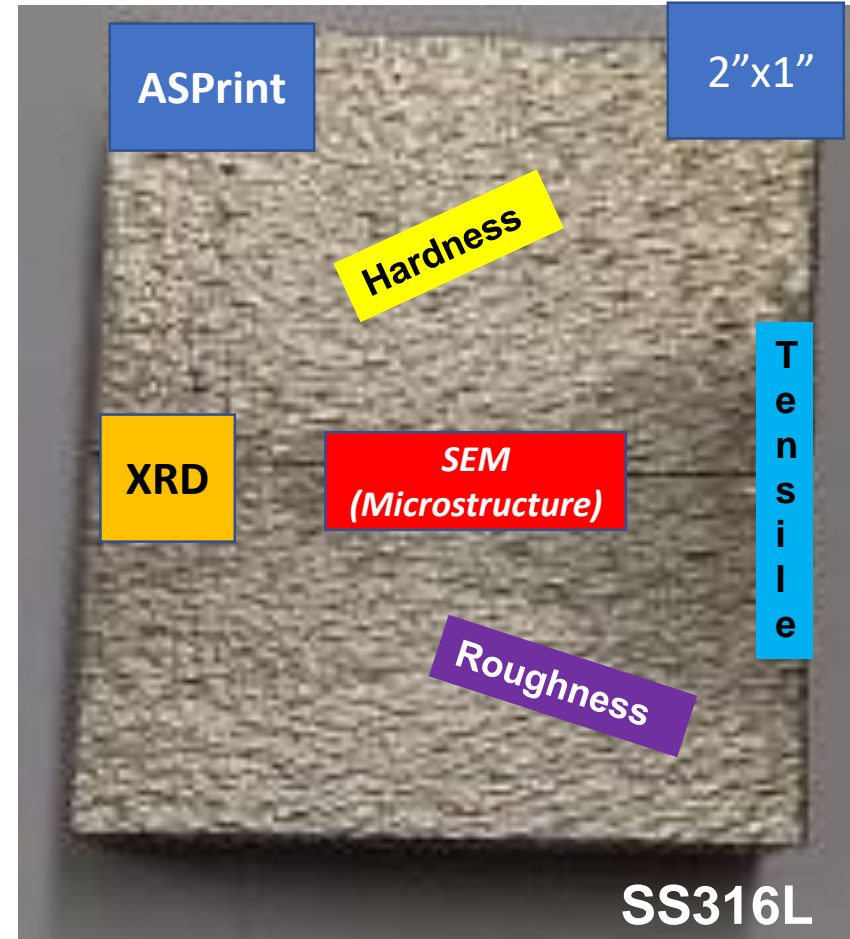
- a. Roughness
- b. Hardness
- c. Microstructure (porosity, particle size analysis, chemistry and phases)
- d. X-ray diffraction (phase analysis)
- d. Tensile strength (Room Temperature) - small scale testing

**in order to serve as a baseline for building various products**



# Characterization DOE

Particle Size Analyser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malvern 3000; Dry Method; Size Range (10nm to 3.5mm)</li> </ul>
Surface Roughness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mahr MarSurf GD 120</li> </ul>
Microstructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zeiss Axiocam HRc with Axiovision &amp; ImageJ software</li> </ul>
Microhardness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future Tech FM 800 Tester Load=300gf; Vickers Method</li> </ul>
SEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEI Quanta200</li> <li>• ThermoFisher EDS</li> </ul>
X-Ray Diffraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xpert PRO PANalytica Cu K<sub>α</sub> λ=1.54 Å ; Angle Range (20-100) deg, Step Size: 0.033, Step Time: 118.5 sec</li> </ul>
Tensile Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instron 5987, 2 KN, Strain Rate: 0.006mm/s</li> </ul>
Heat treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Heat Treatment tests were done on SS316L</li> </ul>



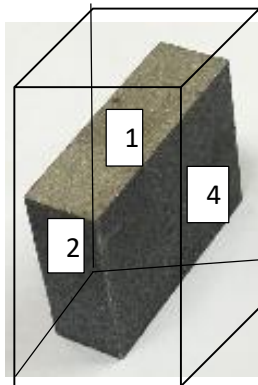
**Etchant** for SS316L As-Printed

**Glyceregia:** (15cc HCl, 10cc HNO<sub>3</sub>, 5 drops of glycerine); Dip for 10-15 seconds

# Nominal Composition of SS316L (wt%) *from EOS Data Sheet*

Element	Fe	Cr	Ni	Mo	Mn	Si	Cu	P	S	N
Percentage	62-64	17-19	13-15	2.25-3	2	0.75	0.5	0.025	0.01	0.1

Process Parameters for DMLS sample	May not be accurate
Laser Power	250-300W
Beam Diameter	80μm
Layer Thickness	20-80μm
Hatch Distance	80-120μm
Scan Speed	800-1000mm/s
Powder Size	35μm



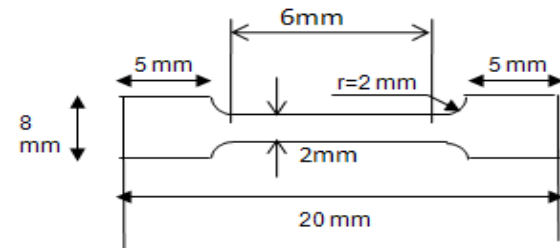
Transverse  
direction

Longitudinal (build)

Legend: Cube

- 1 Top surface (where name/code is)
- 2 Transverse surface used
- 4- Side surface (Any side can be Longitudinal)

## Tensile Sample

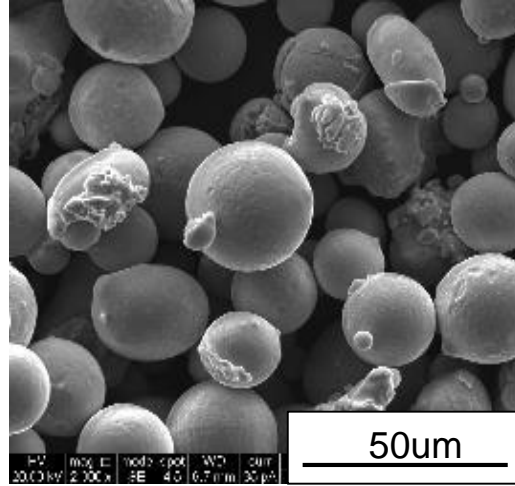
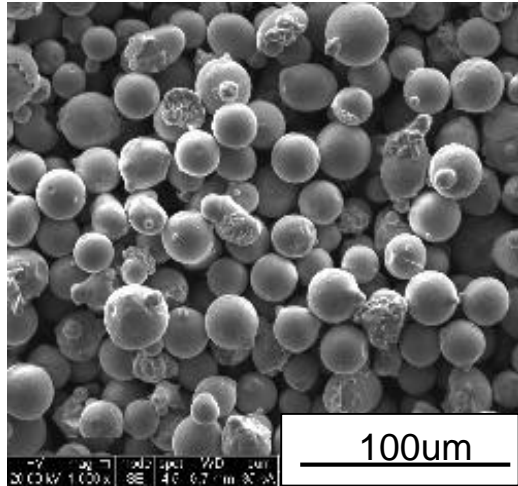


**GaugeLength:** 6mm  
**Thickness:** 0.5mm  
**StrainRate:** 0.006 mm/s

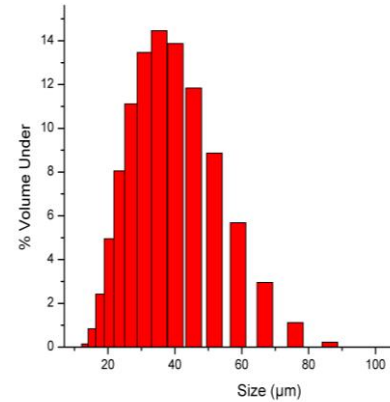




# Powder Characterization



# Particle Size Distribution



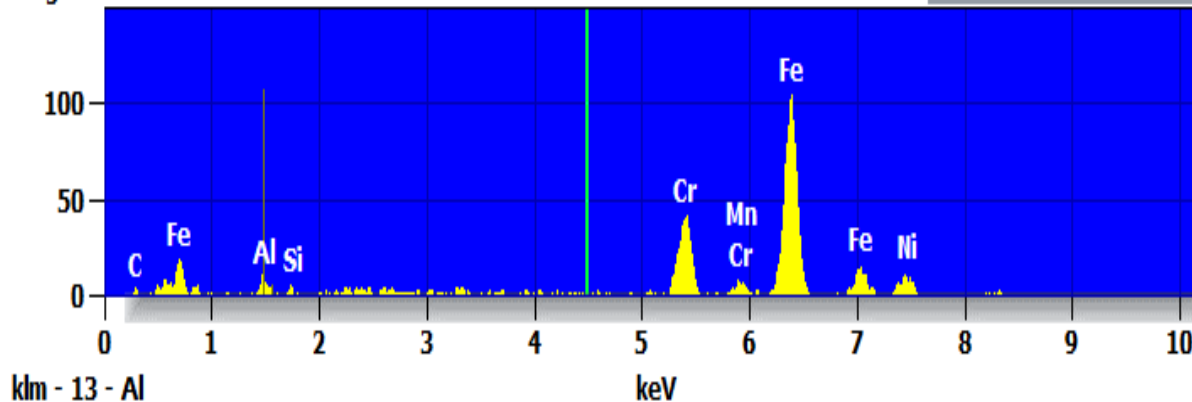
Particle Range	Avg.Size µm
Dv10	21.77
Dv50	33.676
Dv90	51.802

# Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS)

Full scale counts: 106  
Integral Counts: 5089

Base(3)

Cursor: 4.500 keV  
3 Counts



# Composition of SS316L (wt%)

Fe	66.54
Cr	18.32
Ni	11.63
Mn	2.04
Si	0.99

Average Particle Size was found to be approx : 34 µm



# Surface Roughness

## Glass Bead Blasting Conditions

Pressure	7.5 bar
Time	5 min
Distance bw gun & workpiece	Average 155 mm
Angle between gun and workpiece	45 deg

## Glass Bead Blaster



$$R_a = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i|$$

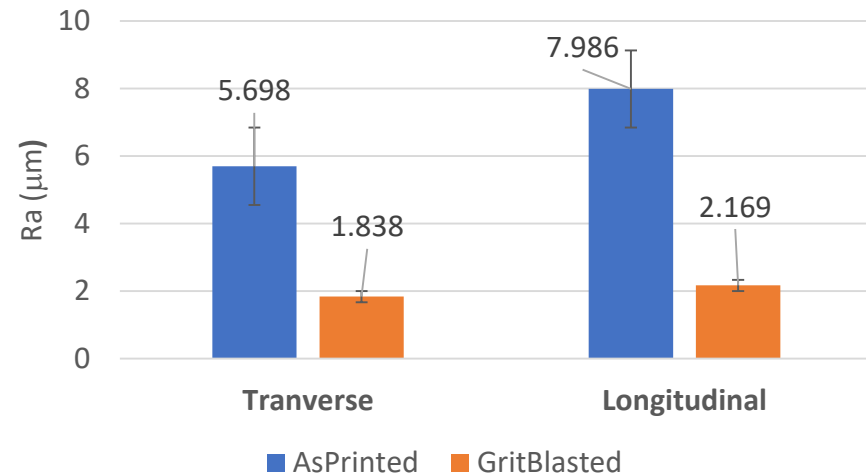
Left: As-Printed



Right: Glass Bead Blasted



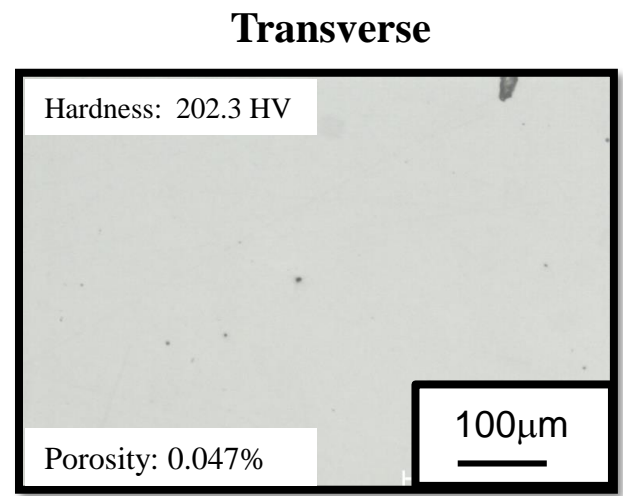
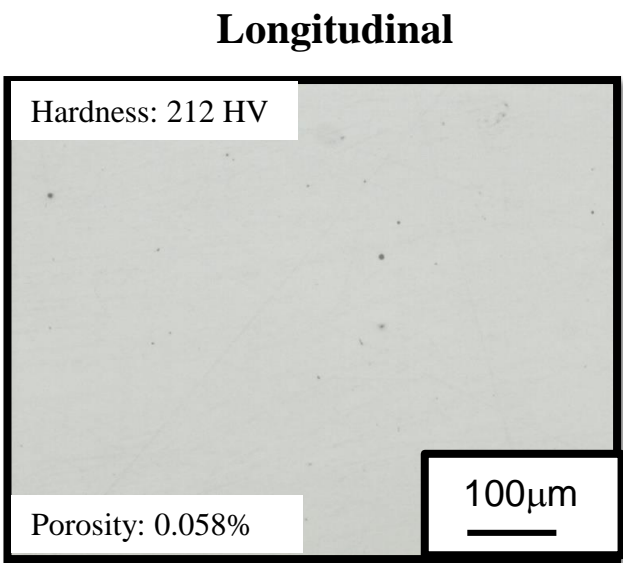
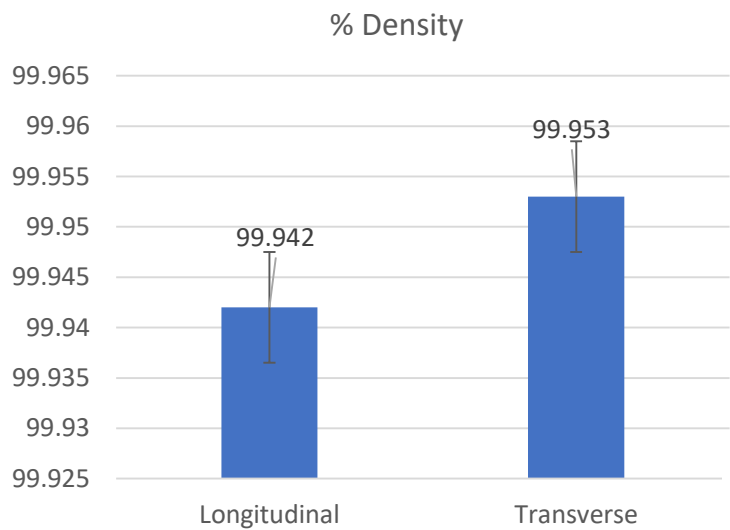
Comparison Graph Ra (μm)



**Roughness decreases by almost 70% upon glass bead blasting in both Transverse and Longitudinal directions**



# Porosity: Optical Images

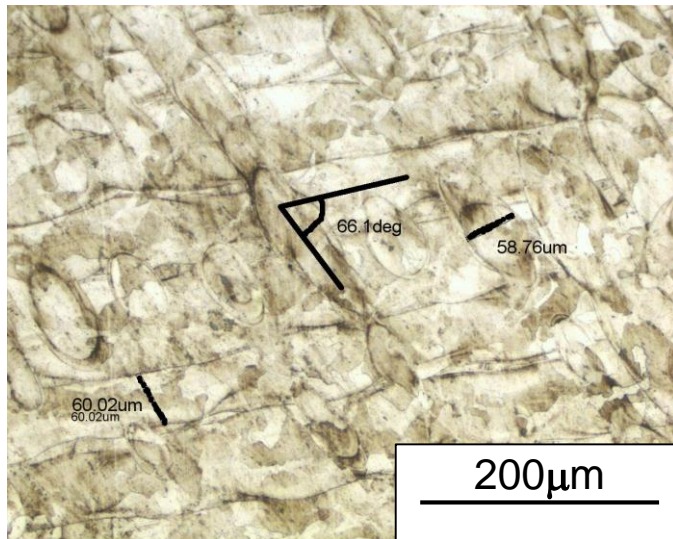


**% Porosity:**  
**Longitudinal: 0.058%**  
**Transverse: 0.047%**  
**Overall: 0.053%**

*Porosity is slightly higher when viewed from longitudinal surface compared to transverse surface.*

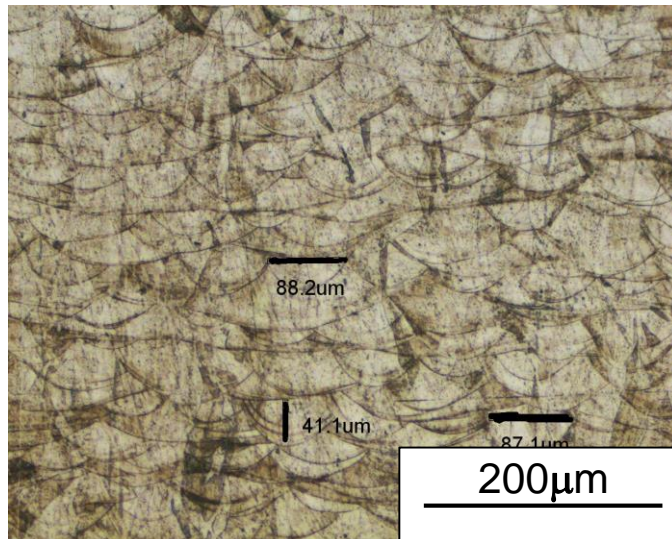
# Optical Microstructure

## Transverse



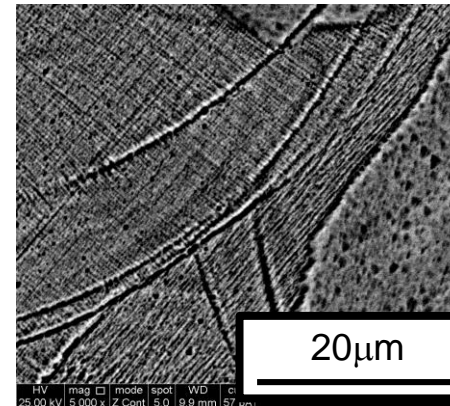
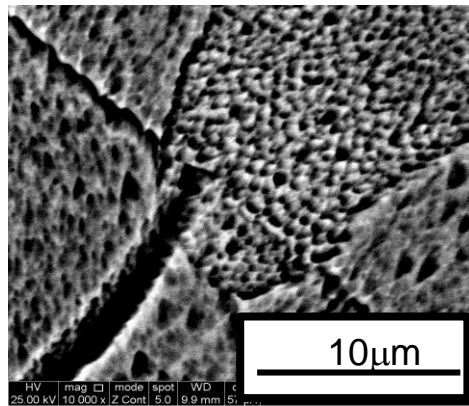
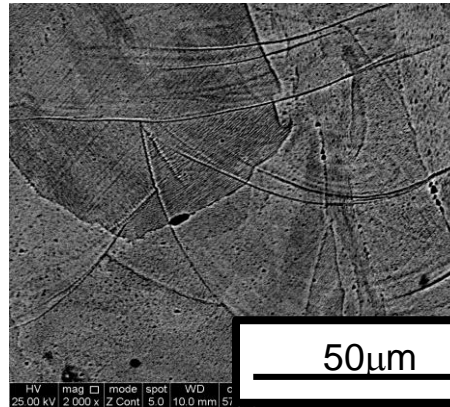
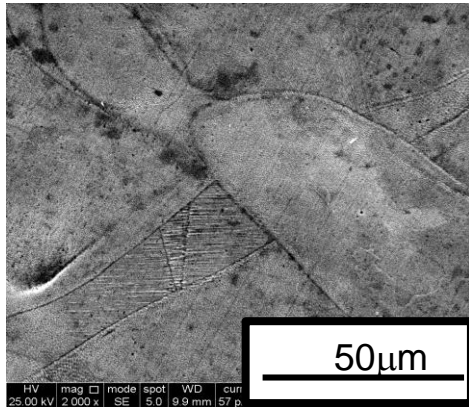
**Average width : 59.4 microns**  
**Angle between layers of 3D printed sample as measured was: 66.1 degrees**

## Longitudinal



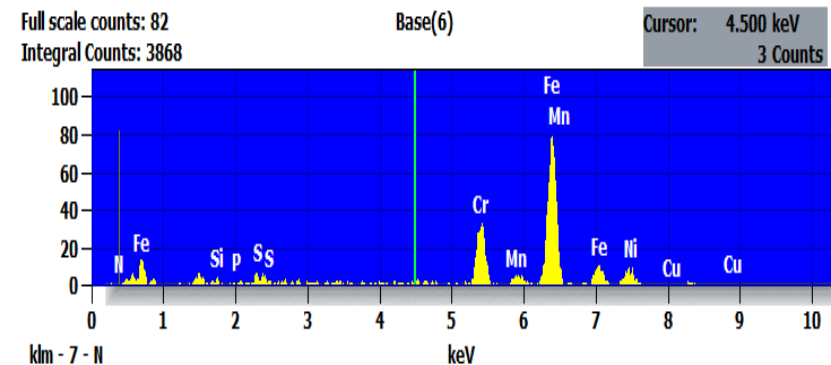
**Average Diameter: 87.65 microns**  
**Average Depth: 41 microns**

# Scanning Electron Microscope Images (Microstructure)



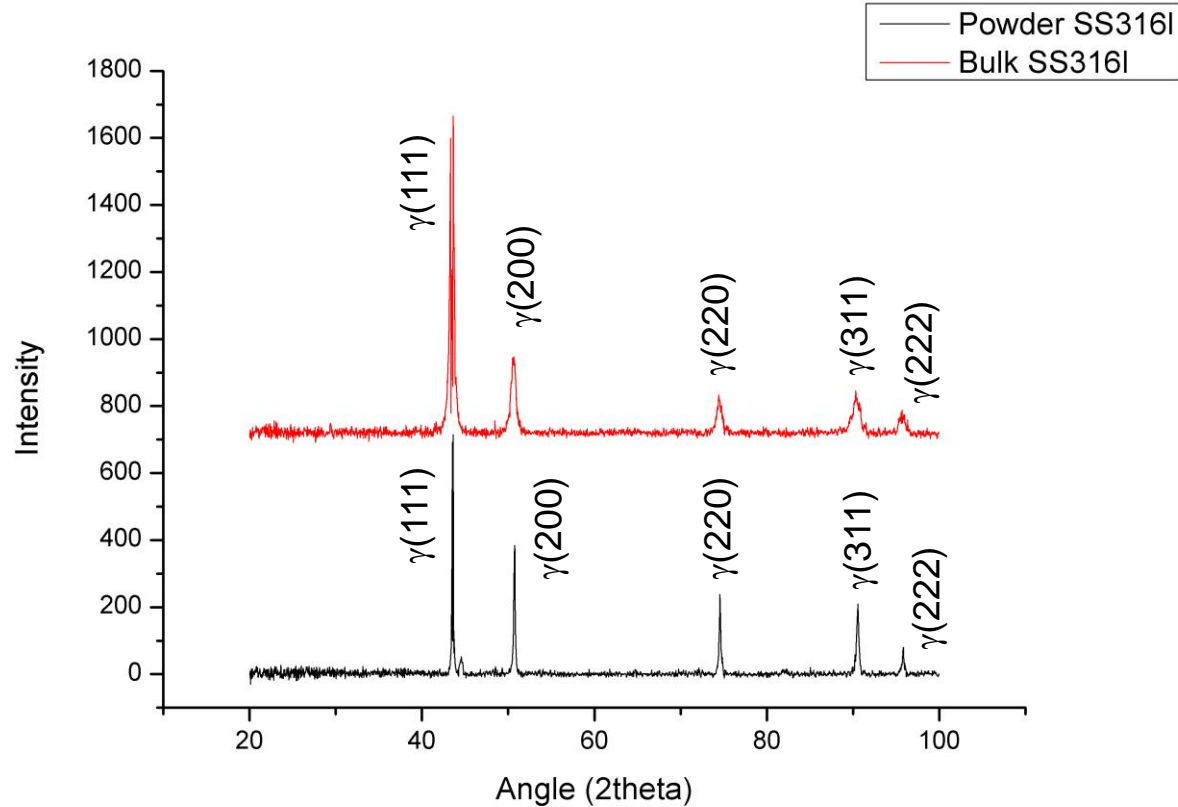
Elements	Weight(%)
Iron (Fe)	64.72
Chromium	18.09
Nickel	11.76
Molybdenum	2.21
Manganese	1.24
Copper	0.98
Phosphorus	0.21
Silicon	0.79
Sulphur	0
Nitrogen	0

*SEM images and EDS (Chemical Composition) were done and results were compiled*



# X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)

Parameter	Values
Starting angle (deg)	20
Finishing angle (deg)	100
Wavelength (Å)	1.54
Voltage( KV)	40
Current (mA)	30
Step size(deg)	0.003

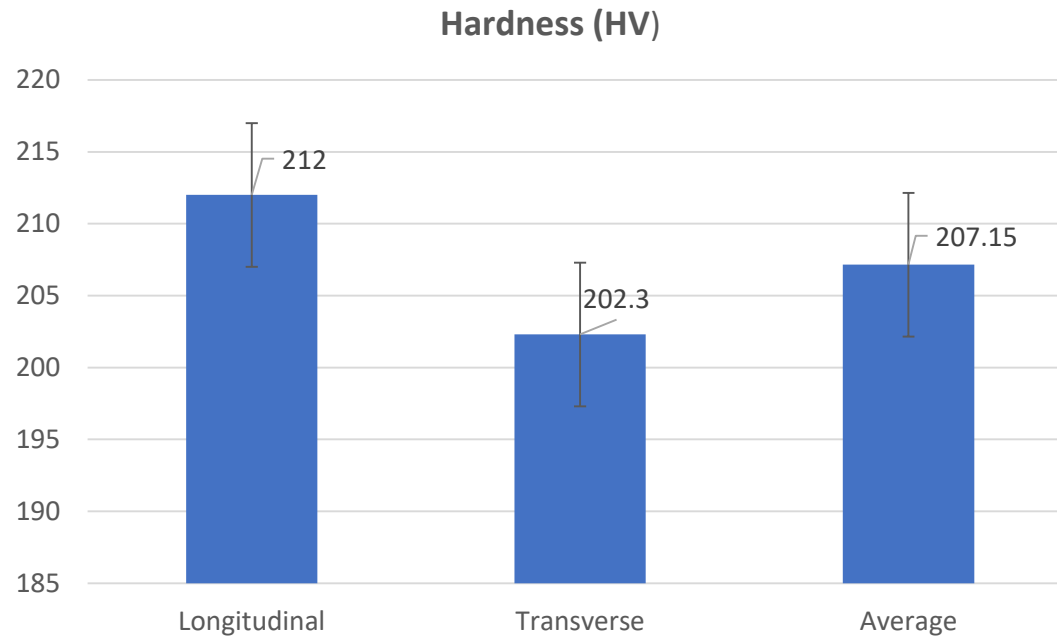


*Referring to close matches in (Austenite peaks)*

- 1) ICDD 00-033-0945 for powder
- 2) ICDD 00-033-0945 for ASP

*The peaks are matched for γFCC phases of iron in SS316L.*

# Vickers Microhardness



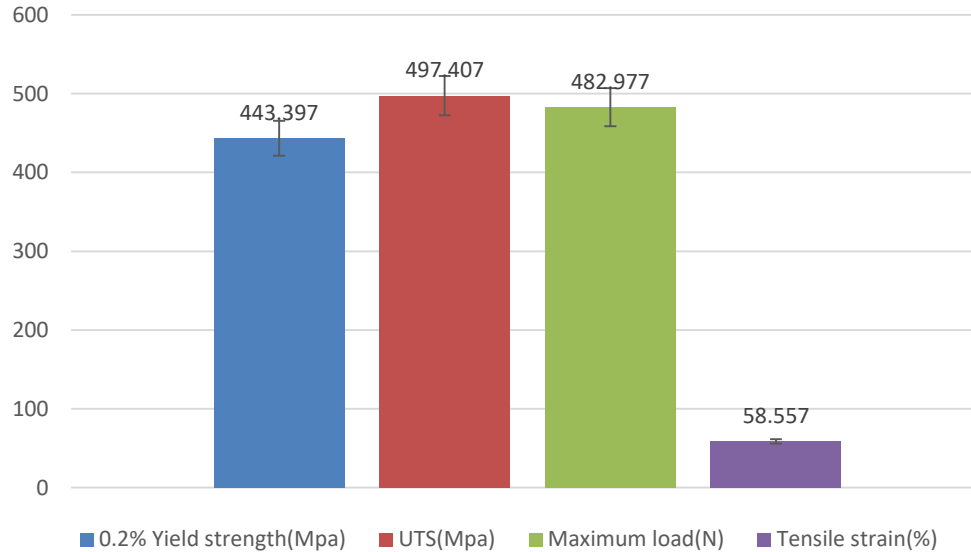
Future Tech FM 800  
Tester Load=300gf;  
Vickers Method

**Comparing with data in literature, the Hardness values are perfectly in range of 90-95 HRB ~~ 200-210 HV**



# Tensile Testing- Room Temperature- Small scale test

Tensile Test Results on As-Printed SS316L



Load v/s Displacement

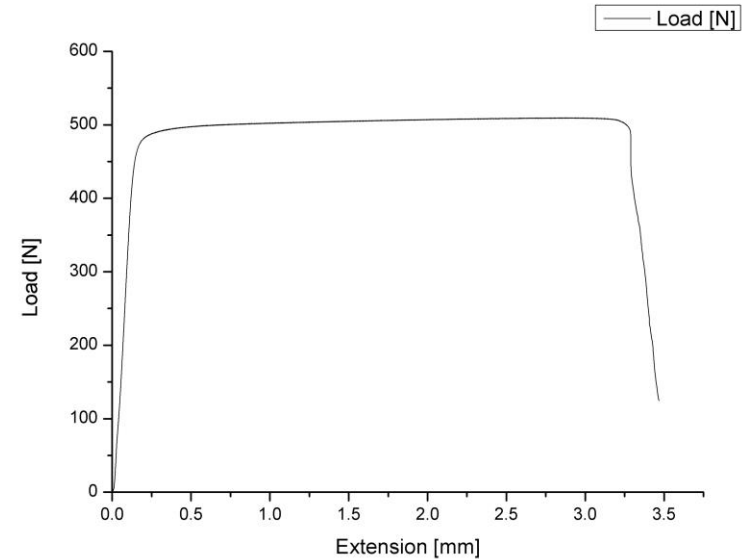
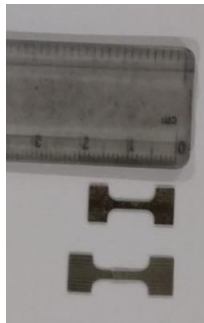


Image of specimen (before and after fracture)  
Extension: 3.2mm



The As-Printed sample has a 0.2% yield strength of about 443 MPa.

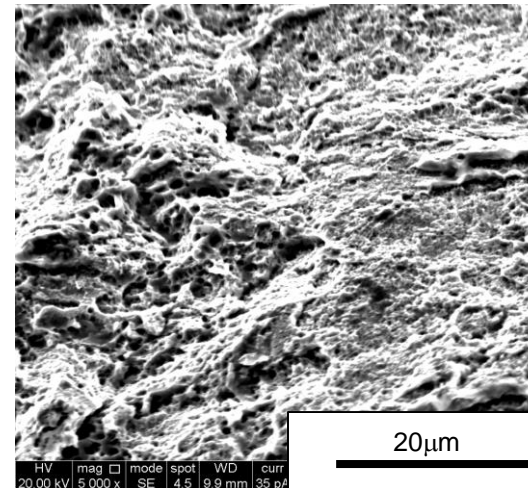
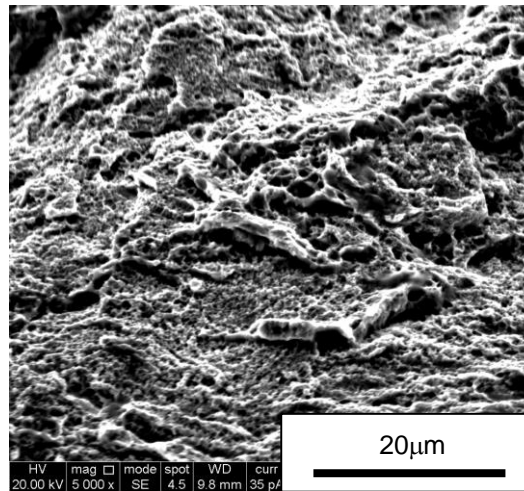
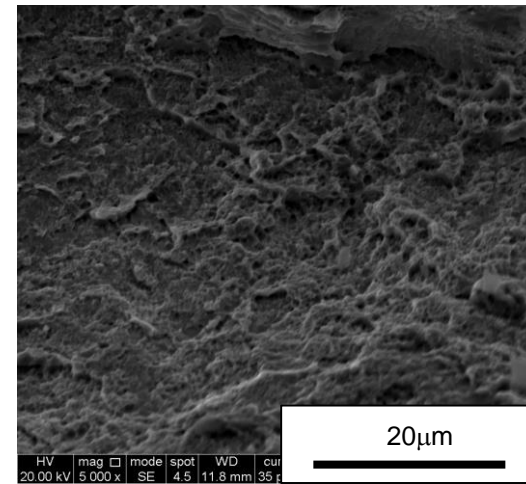
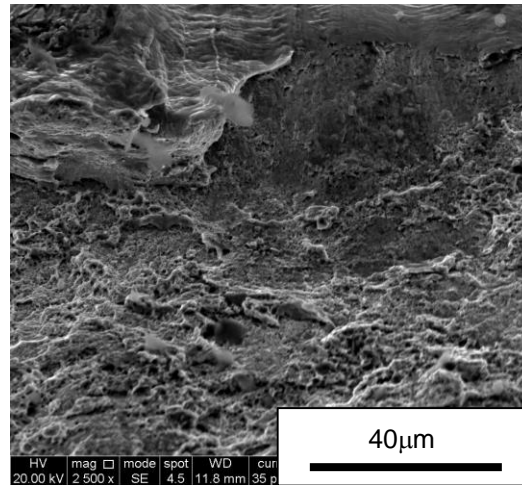
The small scale tensile test results match with EOS regular size sample standards.

**%Elongation: 58%**



# Fractographs

**As-Printed  
(all 4)**



In the austenitic SS316L, the fractographs resembles a ductile failure with fine feature dimples.

# Executive Summary

Attribute	Overall	As-Printed (mm)	Glass Bead Blasted (mm)
Powder Particle size	34mm		
Surface Roughness		6.85	1.98
Porosity	0.05%		
Weld Pool: Avg. width	59mm		
Angle bw layers	66.1 deg		
Weld Bead: Avg. Diameter	87.6mm		
Weld Bead: Avg. Depth	41mm		
XRD		$\gamma$ FCC phase	
Hardness	207 HV		
% Elongation	58%		
Fractograph	Ductile Fracture		

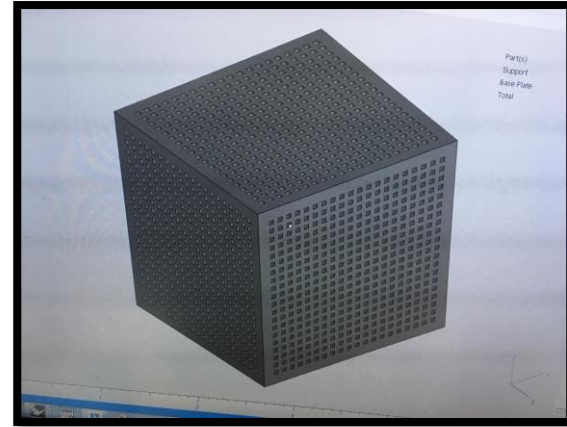
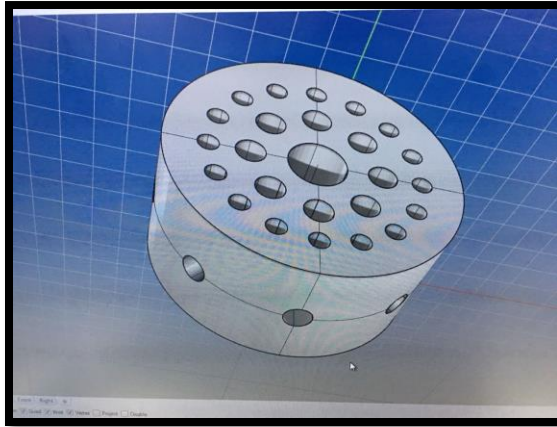
## References:

- 1) <http://www.georgevandervoort.com/metallography/>
- 2) <https://www.finishing.com/>
- 3) [www.metallographic.com/Etchants/Etchants.htm](http://www.metallographic.com/Etchants/Etchants.htm)
- 4) <https://www.carttech.com/>
- 5) 'Microstructural Evolution and Mechanical Properties of Direct Metal Laser-Sintered (DMLS) CoCrMo After Heat Treatment' Bawane et.al **Metallurgical and Materials Transactions A**, 2018  
DOI 10.1007/s11661-018-4771-4
- 6) 'Study of Process Parameter and Powder Variability on the Properties and Recrystallization Behavior of Direct Metal Laser Sintered CoCrMo' **Santhosh Kumar Rao Chandrasekara, Anigani Sudarshan Reddy, Dheepa Srinivasan, Durga Ananthanarayanan; Proceedings of the ASME 2017 Gas Turbine India Conference**

# SS316L: Biocompatibility Studies

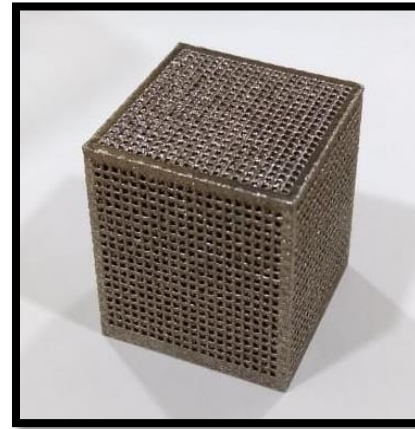
3D- Model  
Images

(Software used:  
Rhinceros)

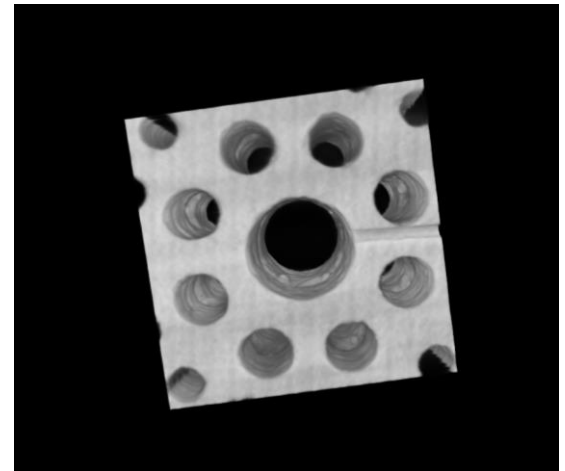
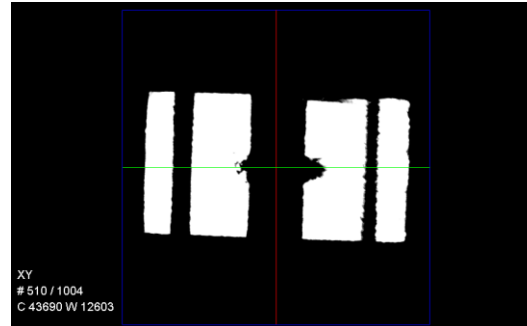
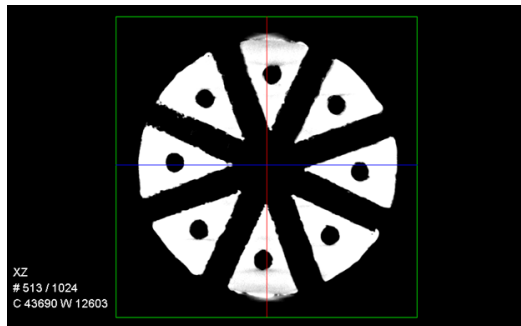
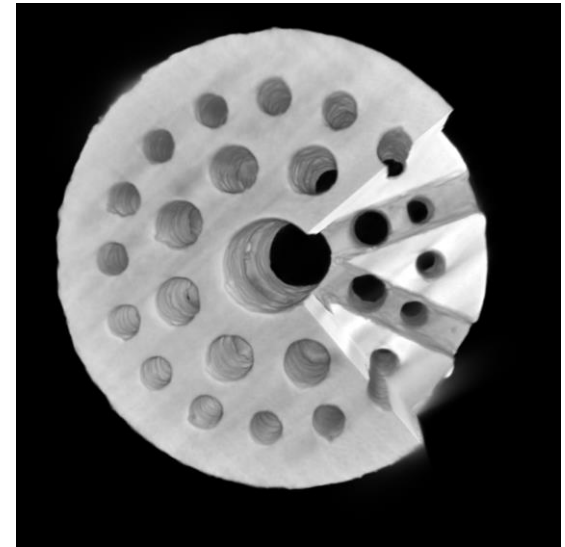
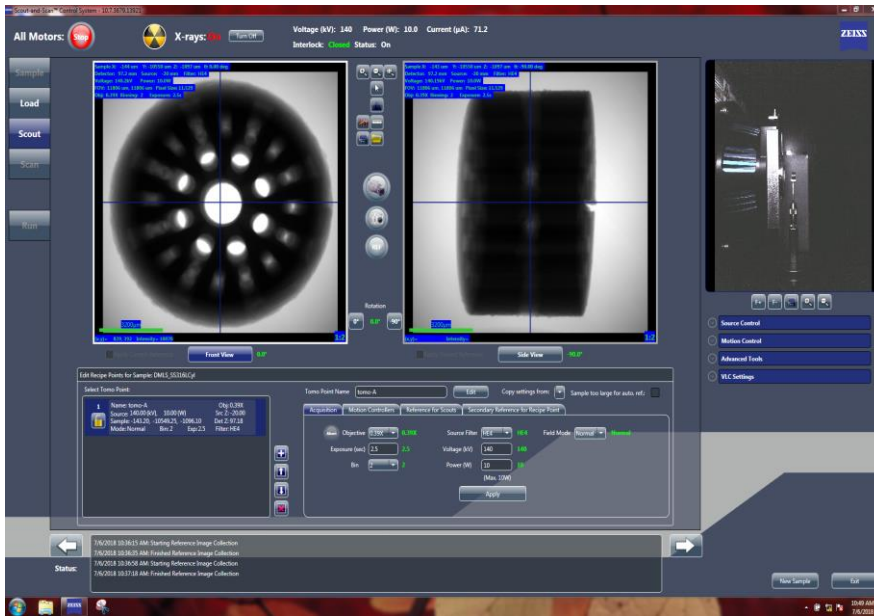


Actual 3D printed  
Sample

Dimensions of Cube :  
1inch<sup>3</sup>  
Cylinder: 2inch height;  
Radius 1.5 cm

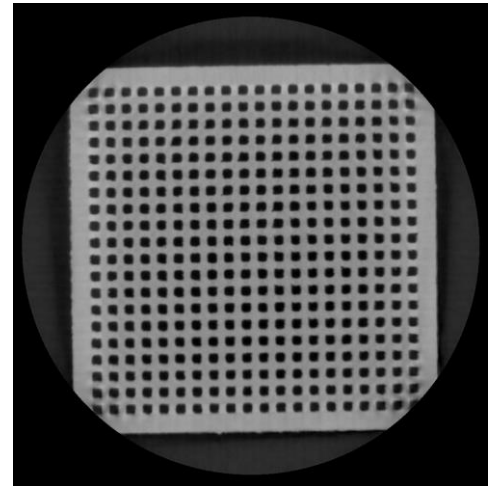
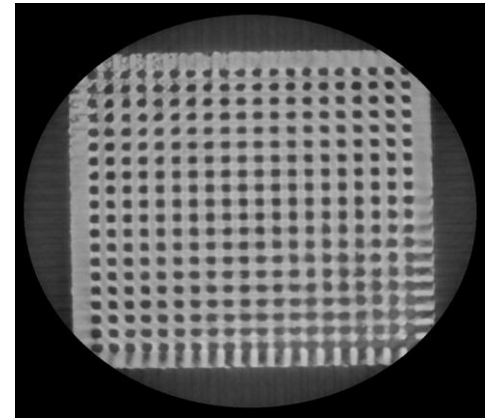


# Cylinder shape





# Cubic shape



Watch: Tomography video (360 deg view)

