Frequently Asked Questions

Stratasys H550™ 3D Printer and PowderEase™ T2

Scalable SAF production for larger parts, higher output, and automated powder handling.



1. What differentiates the H550 solution from other polymer powder bed fusion systems?

The Stratasys H550 is designed as a scalable production solution, not simply a larger powder bed fusion printer. It combines the proven consistency and packing efficiency of SAF technology with a 34.2-liter build volume and the automated PowderEase T2 workflow. Together, they enable larger applications, more parts per build, simplified consumables, and reduced operator intervention.

2. How large is the H550 build volume?

The build envelope is 365 x 208 x 450 mm (14.4 x 8.2 x 17.7 in.), providing 34.2 liters of usable build volume. The 450 mm axis enables long parts that extend beyond the capacity of many printhead-based polymer powder bed fusion systems.

3. How does H550 capacity compare with H350?

H550 provides up to 80% more build volume than H350. Depending on part geometry and nesting strategy, this can enable larger single components or more than twice as many parts in a build.

4. What productivity improvement does H550 provide?

H550 delivers up to 50% higher throughput than H350. Actual throughput depends on build height, part geometry, packing density, material, cooling strategy, and production scheduling.

5. What types of applications are best suited to H550?

H550 is suited to larger end-use components and higher-volume production builds. Examples include UAV and unmanned-system components, ankle-foot orthoses and prosthetic sockets, industrial ducts and manifolds, robotic end-of-arm tooling, manufacturing aids, automotive components, and dense builds of small-to-medium production parts.

6. Is H550 intended for prototypes or production parts?

Both, although it is optimized for production. SAF technology is designed to deliver consistent, repeatable functional parts across the build, making H550 well suited to bridge production, short-run manufacturing, customized end-use parts, and serial production.

7. Which material is available at launch?

SAF PA12 is the launch material for H550. Additional material compatibility is subject to qualification and regional availability; customers should consult the current H550 material compatibility list.

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8. What layer thickness does H550 use?

H550 uses a 100-micron layer thickness with SAF PA12, supporting a balance of detail, mechanical performance, and production throughput.

9. What software is used to prepare and manage builds?

H550 uses GrabCAD Print software for build preparation and production workflow management, providing a familiar workflow for existing SAF users.

10. How does SAF maintain consistency across a densely packed build?

SAF uses a unidirectional printing process and controlled thermal management to apply energy consistently across each layer. This supports repeatable part properties and dimensional performance regardless of part position or packing density.

11. What consumables are required for the printing process?

The core SAF printing process uses powder and High Absorbing Fluid (HAF). It requires no detailing agents, cleaning rolls, or customer-replaced printheads, simplifying consumables planning and helping make production costs more predictable.

12. What does PowderEase T2 automate?

PowderEase T2 automates three connected powder-handling steps: build breakout, powder sieving, and dosing of the material blend for the next build. This reduces manual handling between print cycles and supports a cleaner, and a more scalable production setup.

13. How much operator time is required per build?

The combined H550 and PowderEase T2 workflow is designed for less than 30 minutes of total operator time per build. Actual labor time may vary with part geometry, build density, downstream cleaning, and site procedures.

14. How many H550 printers can one PowderEase T2 support?

A single PowderEase T2 is designed to comfortably support up to six H550 printers using the same material, helping production sites add printer capacity without duplicating powder-handling equipment for every machine.

15. How long does automated breakout and dosing take?

The expected breakout and powder-dosing cycle is approximately 30-40 minutes. Timing can vary by recipe, packing density, material condition, and the amount and geometry of parts in the build.

16. In what condition are parts removed from PowderEase T2?

Parts are retrieved in a partially depowdered, or 'potato,' state. They are then transferred to the customer's preferred secondary depowdering and cleaning equipment for final powder removal and finishing.

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17. Does PowderEase T2 recycle unused powder?

Yes. T2 retrieves and sieves recoverable unfused powder, then doses the required blend for the next build according to the selected production recipe. This supports efficient material utilization and repeatable preparation.

18. Can PowderEase T2 be shared across different materials at the same time?

T2 is intended to support a printer group running the same material. Material changes require the approved cleaning and changeover procedure to prevent cross-contamination; customers should follow the current operating documentation.

19. What factory-integration benefits does H550 offer?

H550 is designed for simplified installation and production scaling. Compared with H350 installations, the H550 does not require a separate voltage stabilizer, reducing infrastructure requirements. Final site utilities and clearance requirements must be confirmed in the current site-preparation guide.

20. Is H550 a hardware upgrade for an existing H350?

No. H550 is a separate printer with a larger build architecture and dedicated build boxes. Existing SAF customers benefit from a familiar technology platform and software workflow, but the H350 itself is not converted into an H550.

21. Who should consider H550 and PowderEase T2?

The solution is designed for manufacturers and service bureaus that need larger parts, more output from each build, lower operator touch time, or a clearer path to scaling polymer powder bed fusion production. It is especially relevant where throughput, labor, equipment utilization, and cost per part directly affect profitability.

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