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3D Printing Technology Now Affordable for All Businesses

ACT Group

A shoe manufacturer wants to experiment with new designs. Building prototypes used to be labor-intensive and costly. But with 3D printer technology, it is as simple as creating a design and pushing a button.

An architect wants to show a client different design options. Instead of spending hours piecing models together manually, he lets a machine do it from renderings.

For years, 3D printing technology has been accessible primarily only to large companies with big budgets. But now, thanks to recent technological developments, the ability to create physical models of new product designs from a printer is affordable to all size businesses.



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— Cindi Gondek
Principal/Chief Financial Officer

"This technology is useful for almost every type of industry," says Cindi Gondek, co-owner of Connecticut-based ACT Group, Inc., one of the leading dealers of 3D printers in New England. "All types of manufacturers are using it for prototyping, design, tooling and delivery of real parts. Jewelers can use it to create new pieces. Museums can use it to reproduce rare items for study or display. The possibilities are endless."

ACT Group—formerly known as Advanced Copy Technologies—represents some of the best-known names in the industry, including the most advanced 3D printers on the market. The range of technology includes:

- **Simple open source 3D printers** that can download from the Internet start at \$1,000. These desktop units utilize technology proficient in the consumer, student and hobbyist spaces.



- **Color 3D printers** – These amazing machines can print prototypes in full color with a click of a button.
- **Other applications** of the additive manufacturing technology are used in verticals such as manufacturing, architectural, dental and medical, to name a few. These printers can produce precision parts with an accuracy down to 1/1000 per inch. Whether you need to produce something in a variety of plastics, wax or metal, ACT's products can turn ideas into reality.

"The detail is incredible," Gondek says. "You could build a basketball, and you would not know it is a replica until you pick it up."

Gondek, who started ACT Group with her husband, Greg, received the Business Champions Award in 2013 for Innovation from the MetroHartford Alliance and the *Hartford Business Journal*. ACT Group also received the Woman-Owned Business of the Year Award from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

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20 Commerce Drive | Cromwell, CT 06416
860.632.9294 | 800.548.9929
www.goACTgroup.com

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