

# BMW Group

## U.S. Press Information

**For Release:** December 7, 2021

**Contact:** Phil Dilanni  
BMW of North America, LLC  
(201) 571-5660 / [phil.dilanni@bmwna.com](mailto:phil.dilanni@bmwna.com)

### **BMW i Ventures Leads the Seed Financing Round of 3D printing Company, Rapid Liquid Print.**

**Mountain View, Calif. – December 7, 2021...** BMW i Ventures today announced a lead investment in the seed financing round of Rapid Liquid Print (RLP), which brings the benefits of 3D printing to elastomers with a revolutionary gel-printing technology that uses industry-standard materials, such as soft rubber, silicone and foams, to produce soft, flexible products without retooling or post-processing. Also participating in the round is MassMutual through the MM Catalyst Fund (MMCF).

RLP has an exclusive license from MIT for technology originally developed in MIT's Self-Assembly Lab. The team has perfected a new printing process where a liquid object is "drawn" in 3D within a gel suspension. The object cures while printing and then is ready for use with minimal post processing. RLP produces large-scale objects from high-grade materials such as rubber, foams, and plastics in a matter of minutes. Traditional 3D printing is restricted by slow speeds, limited build volumes, and poor material quality, which makes it unreliable as a mainstream manufacturing process. RLP changes the game for creating large-scale, elastomeric, airtight, and high quality products in minutes.

Company  
BMW of North America, LLC

BMW Group Company

Mailing address  
PO Box 1227  
Westwood, NJ  
07675-1227

Office address  
300 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ  
07677-7731

Telephone  
(201) 307-4000

Fax  
(201) 307-4095

Internet  
[bmwgroupna.com](http://bmwgroupna.com)

"RLP's breakthrough technology is disrupting the 3D-printing space by enabling the rapid printing of elastomeric structures of any size and complexity," said Marcus Behrendt, partner and CEO at BMW i Ventures. "With BMW i Ventures' support, the RLP team can continue demonstrating its commitment to creating high quality, low-cost elastomer products."

RLP's seasoned team includes Founder & CEO, Schendy Kernizan who previously co-directed and managed researchers and students at MIT's Self-Assembly Lab to deliver projects for the likes of Google, BMW and Steelcase. Additionally, Co-Founder & CTO,

- more -



Bjørn Sparrman managed the technical operations at the MIT Self-Assembly Lab and, since RLP's 3D printing technology's inception, led the charge for its development. The two are joined by additional co-founders Skylar Tibbits and Jared Laucks – both Directors at MIT's Self-Assembly Lab.

“We've spent years perfecting our technology and building a product that solves the pain points the 3D-printing industry has faced. RLP removes limits on design, can print large-scale and multiple objects at once, and is faster than any other solution currently on the market,” said Kernizan. “With this funding from BMW i Ventures and MM Catalyst Fund we will accelerate our ability to offer a wide variety of solutions to a broader market.”

“MMCF was drawn to Rapid Liquid Print's unique technology, highly adaptable production process and impressive leadership team,” said Liz Roberts, Head of Impact Investing at MassMutual. “We're excited to support RLP alongside BMW i Ventures as RLP revolutionizes the 3D-printing process and continues to grow and bring its innovative capabilities to new customers.”

RLP will use the new funds to develop their 3D-printing solutions to expand within existing customers and into new customers with additional applications and materials.

# # #

#### **About BMW i Ventures**

BMW i Ventures is BMW's venture capital firm, investing money and resources in startups in the fields of Transportation, Manufacturing, Supply Chain and Sustainability. The firm has made many successful investments over the years in companies such as Cellink, Chargepoint, Urgent.ly, Proterra, PureCycle, Solid Power, Tekion, Turntide, Xometry and many more. BMW i Ventures invests in all stages from seed to growth with a focus on Series A/B.

#### **About RLP**

Rapid Liquid Print (RLP) offers a new class of 3D printers for elastomers that produce large-scale, high-resolution, soft and stretchable products in minutes with the highest quality industrial materials. The team, with backgrounds in additive manufacturing, novel fabrication techniques and development of innovative production machines, works directly with industry-leading companies around the world on applications including automotive components, aviation, furniture, home goods and medical devices.

#### **About MMCF**

MM Catalyst Fund LLC (MMCF) is a \$50 million investment commitment by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) earmarked for businesses across Massachusetts. The fund is divided evenly between two sleeves of capital: a \$25 million community growth sleeve to target equity and debt investments in Black-owned, founded or managed businesses across Massachusetts; and, a \$25 million technology sleeve to target equity investments in

Massachusetts technology companies based outside Boston. For more information, visit <https://www.massmutual.com/catalyst>.