Company
Snow Business International

Industry
Film, TV and Advertising, Events, Visual Merchandising

Challenge
With the long turnaround times and high costs associated with outsourcing, Snow Business sought an on-site solution for prototyping, functional testing, and creating the final nozzles for its snow machines.

Solution
With the Ultimaker, nozzles can be created in-house within a few hours and at a fraction of the costs of outsourcing. In the long run, this turned out to be more cost-effective, as the first printer paid for itself within just 2 weeks.

Results
• Accelerated R&D, no dependencies on third party schedules
• Cost savings
• Accessible solution without the need for specialized training
• Design freedom with water-soluble PVA support

Snow Business – Introduction
Snow Business is the world leader in snow and winter effects. The company develops snow machines that are used in the film and TV industry as well as on Christmas fairs and other live events. They work with big budget production companies and are featured in films such as 007: James Bond, Kingsmen, and Bridget Jones’s Diary.

A major focus of R&D is the machine’s nozzle, which is where the machine mixes air with fluid to create the snow effect. The nozzles have a complex air and fluid flow geometry, which makes it impossible to cast them. The only way to create new nozzles is by 3D printing. They are developed through an iterative process of print, try, adjust the model, and repeat – often taking numerous revisions before reaching a design that matches the high-quality standards the company set. Snow Business uses their Ultimaker 3D printers for prototyping, functional testing, and creating the final nozzles for the snow machines.
About Ultimaker
Since 2011, Ultimaker has built an open and easy-to-use solution of 3D printers, software, and materials that enables professional designers and engineers to innovate every day. Today, Ultimaker is the market leader in desktop 3D printing. From offices in the Netherlands, New York, Boston, and Singapore – plus production facilities in Europe and the US – its global team of over 400 employees work together to accelerate the world’s transition to local, digital manufacturing.

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