A Powder bed fusion

SELECTIVE LASER SINTERING (SLS)

SLS technology uses a high-powered laser to sinter the surface of a powder bed in a two-dimensional pattern, then applies another layer of powder to build up the part in a vertical direction. SLS is ideal for producing parts with complex features that must still bear a mechanical load.

Industry applications	Automotive, medical, industrial, CPG
Material types	Thermoplastic
Environment / certification	UV, chemical, flame (V-0)
Material options	Limited (mostly nylons)
Isotropy	Isotropic
Multi-material printing	No
Process type	Batch
Process design / NRE required	Minimal
Recommended part size	Softball
Throughput / annual volume	High (10,000s)
Part color	Post-finishing
As-built texture	Rough, uniform
Support material required	Not required
Minimum feature size	Small / medium

Benefits: Vast design freedom (e.g., moving assemblies are possible); well-understood thermoplastics; process has been validated, production-ready

MULTI JET FUSION (MJF)

MJF is a proprietary technology from HP that utilizes fusing and detailing agents to apply a two-dimensional pattern on a bed of polyamide powder. High-powered lamps then heat and fuse the layer. This process repeats until the part is complete. Parts made with MJF don't require supports, and the high-density, low-porosity materials used in the process make it ideal for chemical resistance, complex assemblies, housings, enclosures, and watertight applications.

Industry applications	Automotive, medical, industrial, CPG
Material types	Thermoplastic
Environment / certification	UV, chemical, flame (HB)
Material options	Limited (mostly nylons)
Isotropy	Isotropic
Multi-material printing	No
Process type	Batch
Process design / NRE required	Minimal
Recommended part size	Softball
Throughput / annual volume	High (10,000s)
Part color	In-process (multicolor), post-finishing *Exact color-matching not available
As-built texture	Rough, uniform
Support material required	Not required
Minimum feature size	Small / medium

Benefits: Vast design freedom (e.g., moving assemblies are possible); well-understood thermoplastics; process has been validated, production-ready