

# Evaluation of Cost Structures of Additive Manufacturing Processes Using a New Business Model

by

**Malte Schröder, Björn Falk & Robert Schmitt**

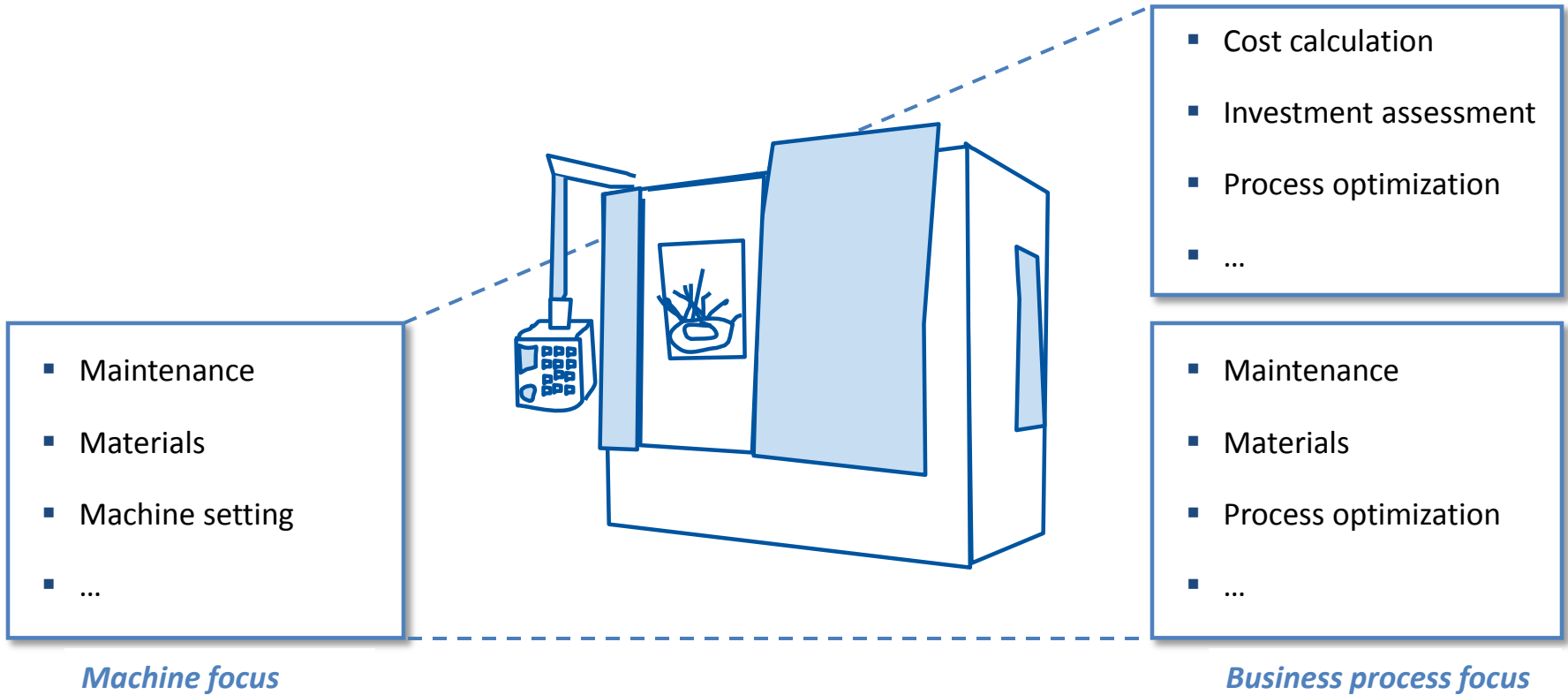
Presenting Author: Malte Schröder

RWTH Aachen University, Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering  
Aachen, Germany

[Malte.Schroeder@wzl.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:Malte.Schroeder@wzl.rwth-aachen.de)

# Research idea

- Extension of PSS through an integration of *business process* support
- In the case of additive manufacturing technologies



- Maintenance
- Materials
- Machine setting
- ...

- Cost calculation
- Investment assessment
- Process optimization
- ...

- Maintenance
- Materials
- Process optimization
- ...

*Machine focus*

*Business process focus*

# Problem statement

“Additive manufacturing technologies are enabler for individualized products”

- Complex geometries
- Lightweight construction
- Wide range of materials
- High material utilization
- ...



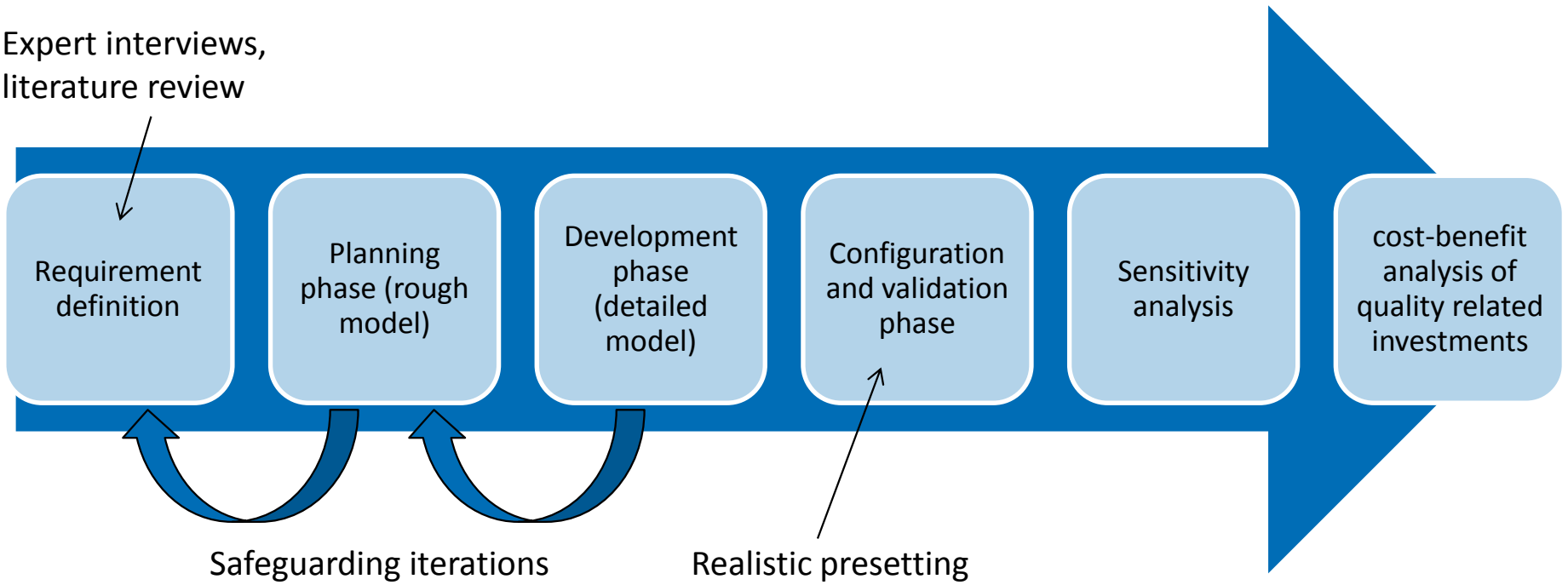
- Need for an appropriate process model for cost calculations
- Optimization of production costs
- Assessment of investments in the whole additive manufacturing process
- Management decision support

“Complex calculations”

- No fundus of experiences for new technologies/ different products
- A lot of defects and nonconformities
- Process models are not precise enough to make serious process forecasts
- ...

# Approach

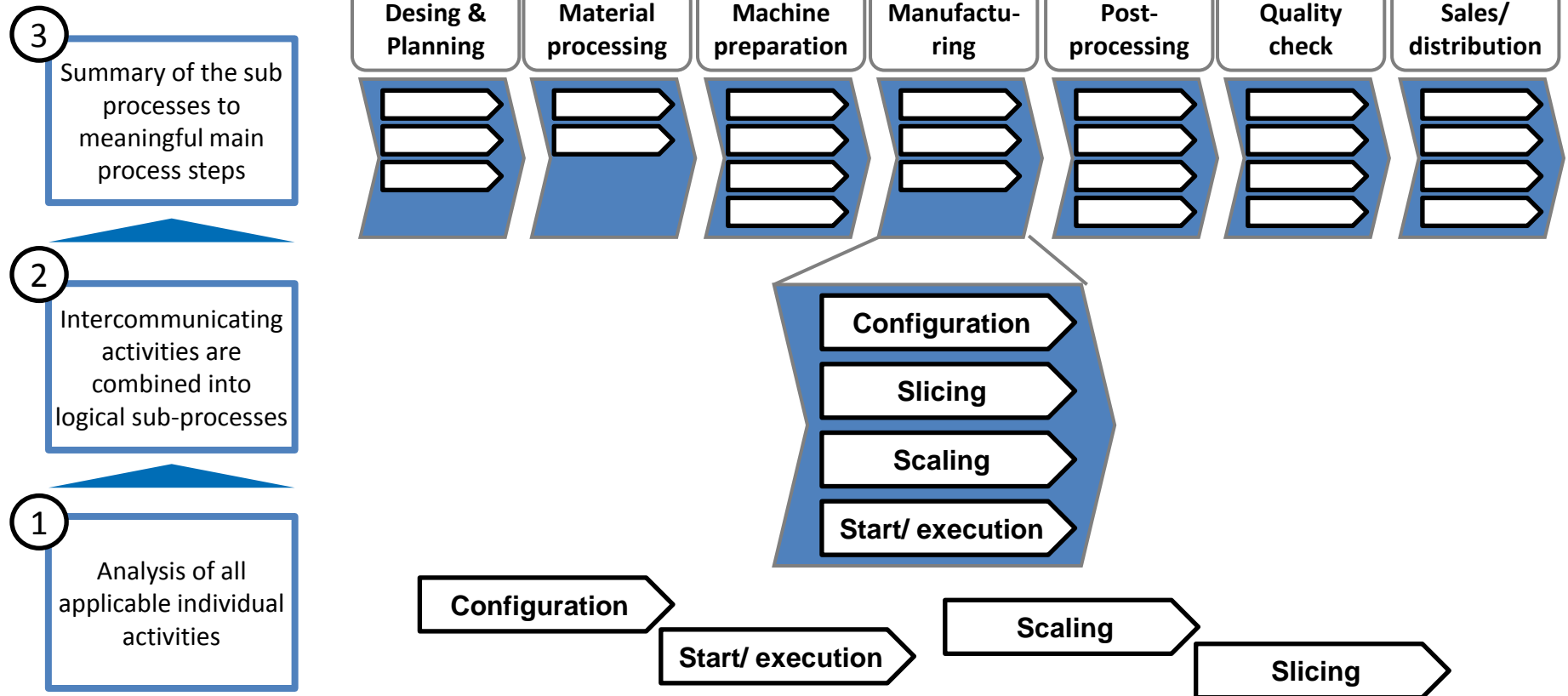
Expert interviews,  
literature review



# Findings:

## The additive manufacturing process

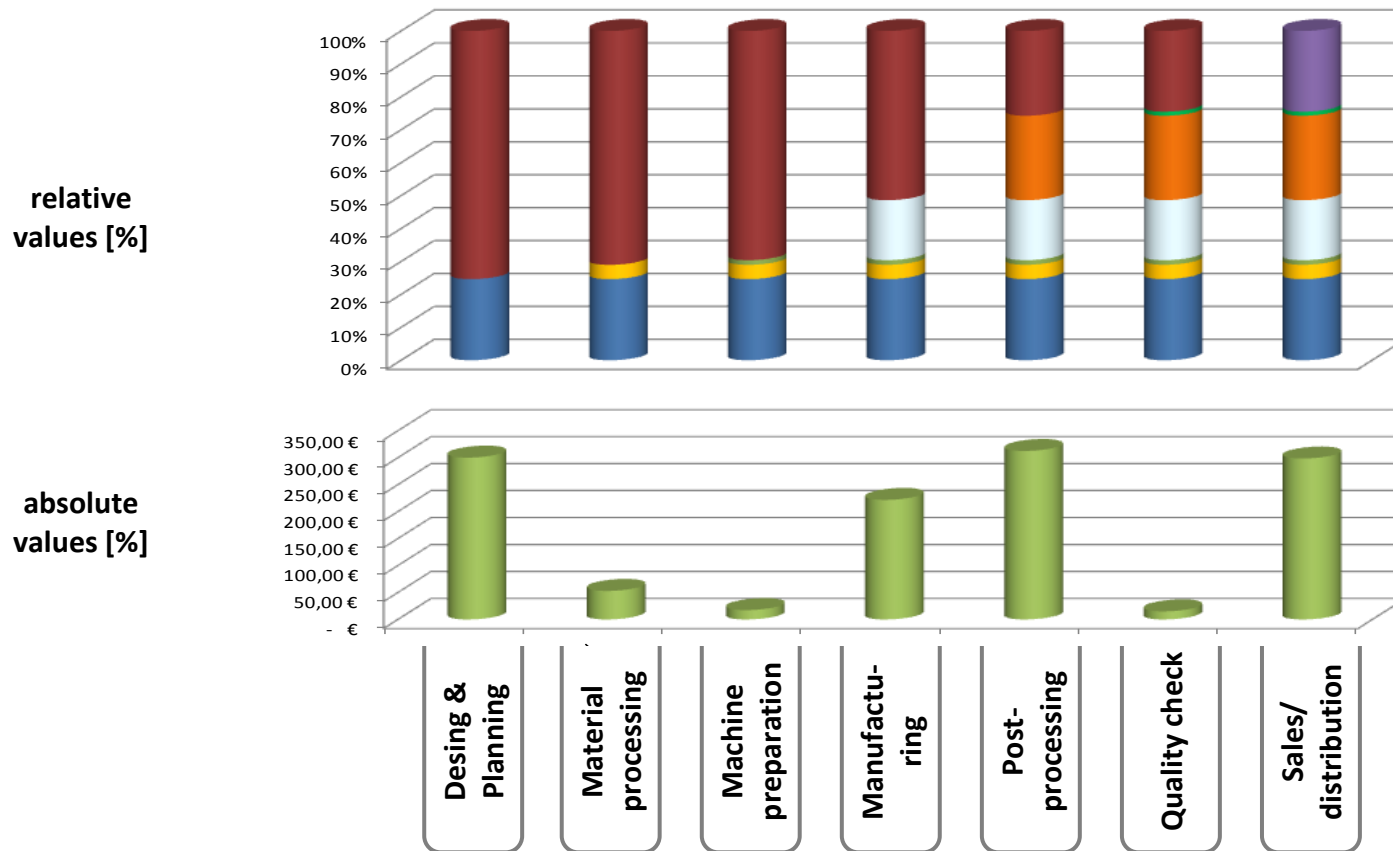
→ 8 Main process steps were identified in the additive manufacturing process



# Findings:

## Cost calculation of each process step

→ All 8 process steps were calculated based on the companies data



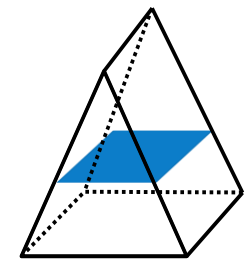
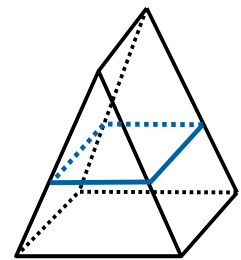
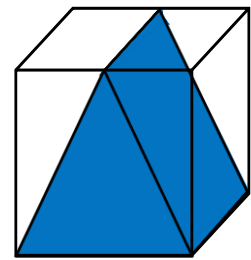
# What's happening in the background?



# Data Input: Order information

1	manufacturing process	Selective laser melting	
	machine	Standard SLM	
	construction material	Normal	
	support material	No material	
	quantity	100	running time (h) 90
2	component volume	enveloping body	
	component volume (mm <sup>3</sup> )	20429	length (mm) 48
	component volume (%)	80	width (mm) 38
	volume filling degree (%)	10	height (mm) 14
	support structure (%)	0	
3	layer thickness (mm)	0,12	reject rate (%) 10
	construction time (h)	5	Post-Processing (h) 0,05
4	choose quality characteristics	edit preferences	edit quality characteristics
	edit machine	edit material	close

- General job-information have to be given
- Different sub masks can be edited:
  - The machine has to be selected
  - Material has to be selected
  - Quality related parameter have to be set
  - Process Information are deposited

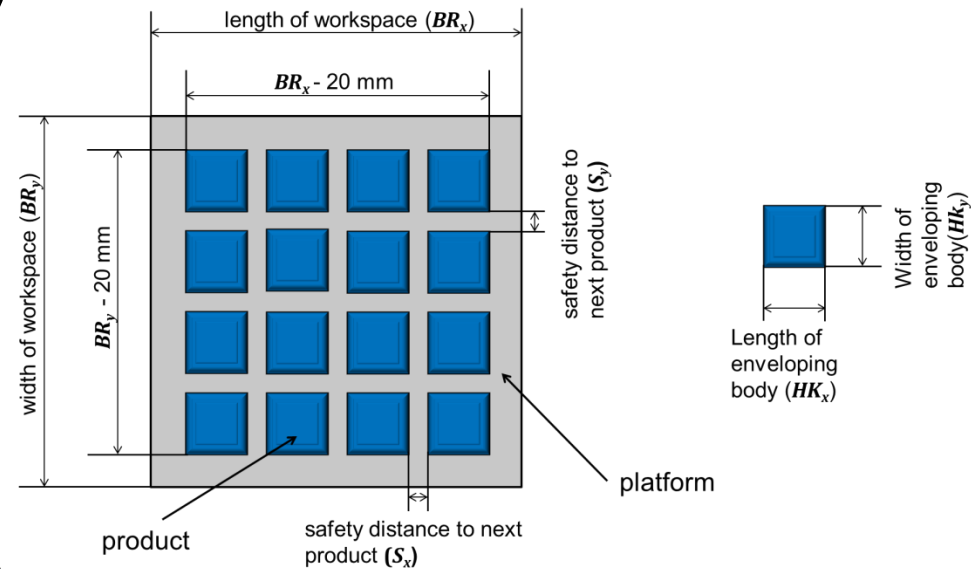




# Example:

## Calculation of the manufacturing time

$$t_{Maschine} = \left( (Z_S + Z_W) * MAX \left\{ \frac{N_{Aq}}{N_{max}} ; 1 \right\} \right) + N_{Drucke} * Z_V$$



$$N_{max2D} = Rd \left( \frac{BR_x - 20}{HK_x + S_x} \right) * Rd \left( \frac{BR_y - 20}{HK_y + S_y} \right)$$

$$N_{max3D} = Rd \left( \frac{BR_x - 20}{HK_x + S_x} \right) * Rd \left( \frac{BR_y - 20}{HK_y + S_y} \right) * Rd \left( \frac{BR_z - 20}{HK_z + S_z} \right)$$

# Sensitivity analysis

quantity

1

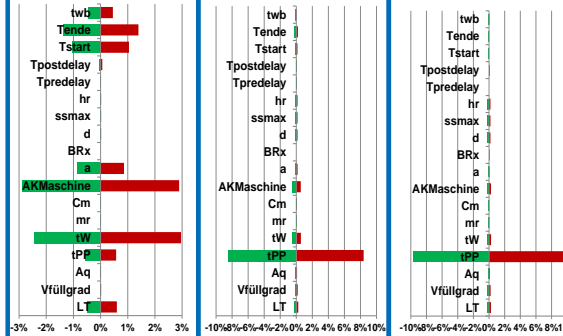
100

1000

actual example:

Small part

Sensitivity of unit costs during variation of input variables about +/- 10%

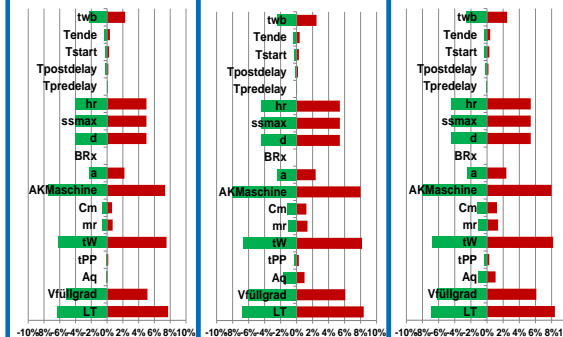


45 mm (1:110)



Big part

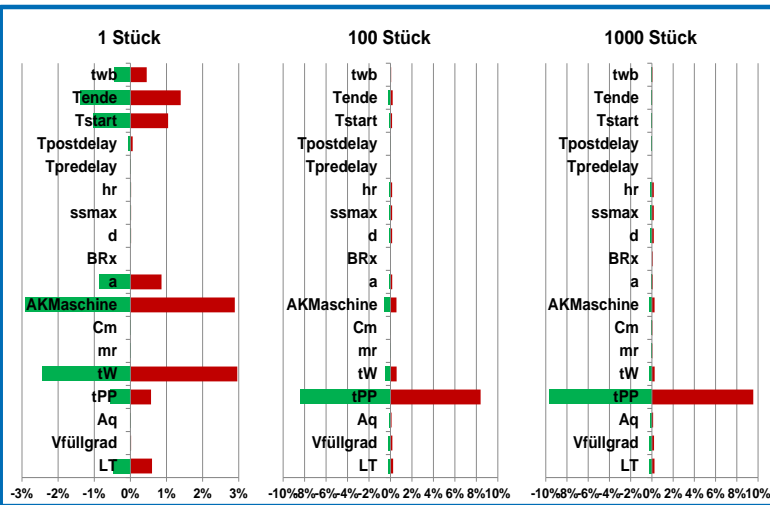
Sensitivity of unit costs during variation of input variables about +/- 10%



276 mm (1:18)



# Findings: Sensitivity analysis

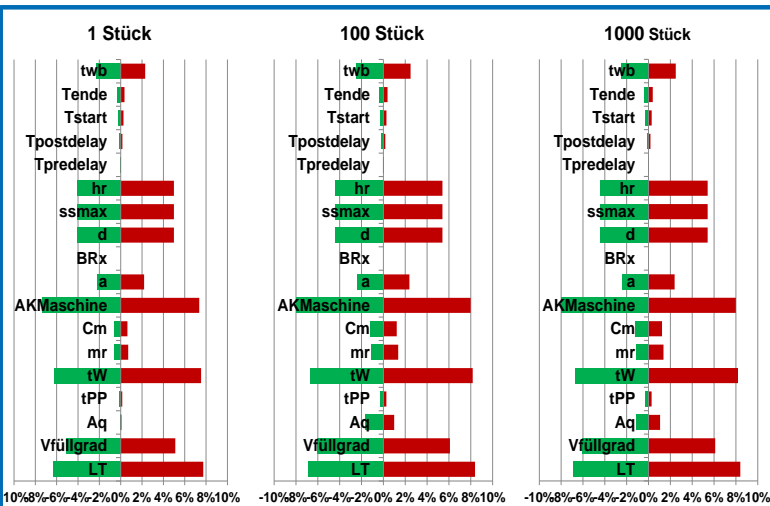


## Small parts

Ranking	kleine Stückzahlen	große Stückzahlen
1.	$AK_{Maschine}$ (-2,90%)	$t_{PP}$ (-9,62%)
2.	$t_W$ (-2,43%)	$AK_{Maschine}$ (-0,24%)
3.	$T_{ende}$ (-1,39)	$t_W$ (-0,21%)
4.	$T_{start}$ (-1,04%)	$V_{füllgrad}$ (-0,21%)
5.	$a$ (-0,87)	$LT$ (-0,19%)

## Main cost-influencing factors:

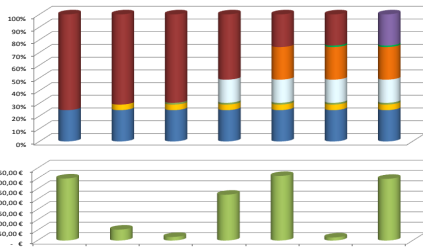
- investment costs & workload of the machine
- Post-Processing in case of a high quantity of small parts
- economies of scale only with small parts



## Big parts

Ranking	kleine Stückzahlen	große Stückzahlen
1.	$AK_{Maschine}$ (-7,39%)	$AK_{Maschine}$ (-8,03%)
2.	$LT$ (-6,33%)	$LT$ (-6,88%)
3.	$t_W$ (-6,20%)	$t_W$ (-6,74%)
4.	$V_{füllgrad}$ (-5,12%)	$V_{füllgrad}$ (-6,11%)
5.	$SS_{max}$ (-4,08%)	$SS_{max}$ (-4,43)

# Summary and Outlook



## *Summary:*

- Extension of PSS through an integration of business process support
- Cost model additive manufacturing technologies
- Development and configuration of the model with companies support and feedback
- Sensitivity analysis

## *Outlook*

- Further development of the software
- Integration of the process model in the product portfolio of the machine provider