Stanford eCorner

The Trajectory of 3D-Printing Technology 26-10-2011

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In response to a question about the future of three-dimensional printing in manufacturing, Bespoke Innovations Co-Founder Scott Summit shares his opinion of the trajectory of this new technology. Summit believes 3D-printing technology has reached a "Columbus" moment of discovery, where designers and technologists in different fields know they're on the cusp of a huge leap forward.

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Transcript

The question is what's the trajectory for 3D printing and additive manufacturing.. That is a huge topic and it's a really exciting topic.. This is Columbus hitting that first rock and saying there's something out there and I don't know how big it is, but it's big.. 3D printing is going some big places.. I can spend the rest of the day talking about it but I think the two interesting things, three interesting things.. 3D printing in space, that's going to be huge.. That will happen.. It's taking shape.. 3D printing houses, for much cheaper and much better quality of everything you look for a house for, that is taking shape down at USC.. And 3D printing in biologics is the other one that's happening in Berkeley, at UPitt, at a number of these places..

We'll soon be able to three dimensionally print tissue and the promise there being that this will all be irrelevant when you can three dimensionally print out of cultured cells, living tissue and bolt it on, connect the blood flow and you can walk off.. Okay, that's the simplification, but that is all in the works.. So, yeah, 3D printing is just in a very, very nascent stage right now and the trajectory is looking pretty exciting...