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Grant Agreement no. 829010

PRIME

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Project Duration: 54-Months

DELIVERABLE 2.2:
First printed actuating functions (public version)

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Responsible partner:	CSIC
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Type1[1]:	R
Dissemination Level[2]:	PU

[1] **Type**: Use one of the following codes (in consistence with the Description of the Action):
- R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)
- DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs
- DEC: Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.
- OTHER: Software, technical diagram, etc.

[2] **Dissemination level**: Use one of the following codes (in consistence with the Description of the Action)
- PU: Public, fully open, e.g. web
- CO: Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in the Model Grant Agreement
- CI: Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC

CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas · TU/e · Max-Planck-Gesellschaft · Universidad Zaragoza 1542 · BNN · BEOnChip Biomimetic Environment On Chip

DELIVERABLE D2.2: *First printed actuating functions*

Table of Contents

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1. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Authors/ who took action	Comment	Modifications made by
0.1	17/11/2021	ZK and CSS	First draft sent to PIs	
1.0	23/12/2021	CSS	Submitted to Commission	

Initials used:

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2. RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

Microfluidic devices can manipulate small amounts of liquid allowing cost-effective, accurate, fast and high throughput analytical assays. Microfluidics is an expanding area however existing technologies suffer several numbers of limitations that heavily limit the global microfluidics market. These limitations include complexity of the equipment that limiting their application to highly specialized laboratories and high prices of the large-scale off-chip equipment. PRIME aims to go beyond the state-of-the-art generating a robust platform to create a new generation of active, tubeless and contactless microfluidic chips effectively changing the currently established paradigm. PRIME is developing a radically new platform that: i) integrates all the required responsive materials and elements in the chip, effectively providing it with all the fluidic and sensing functions, ii) uses compatible materials and manufacturing technologies making future industrial production viable and cost-effective, iii) allows the implementation of a plethora of new smart-integrated and easy-to-operate microfluidic chips with extensive design freedom. PRIME is implementing and integrating through additive manufacturing technologies smart valves and pumps in a microfluidic chip. PRIME aims to set the basis of a new technology that could not only make industrialization possible, but also bring smart material properties to the scenario, enabling the monolithic integration of new functional capabilities (Figure 1). The final device will be remotely addressed and read using simple photonic elements that can be integrated in compact, portable and cheap operation & read devices.

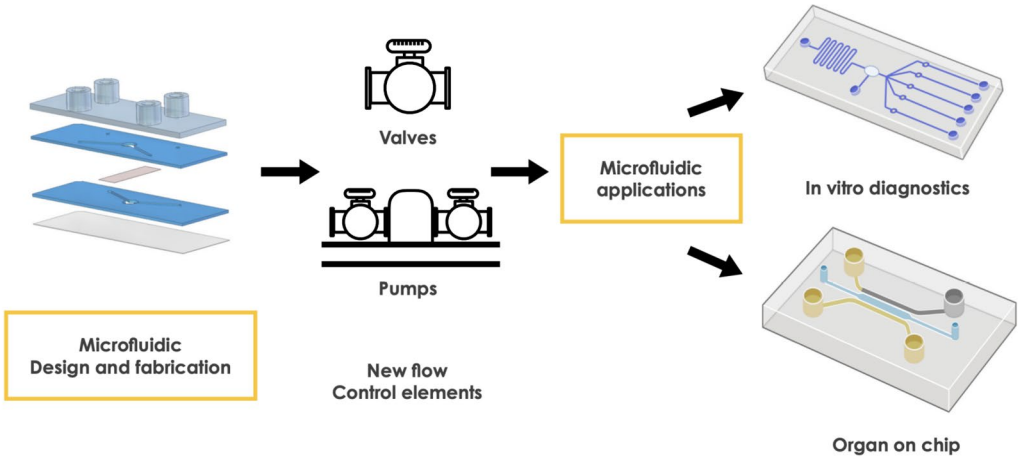

Figure 1: PRIME is implementing integrated valves and pumps with active fluidic elements that will allow an accurate flow control for microfluidic applications.

A fundamental pillar of PRIME is 4D printing of responsive materials. While 3D printing of conventional materials typically leads to inanimate objects, 4D printing of responsive materials adds the time as a fourth dimension, creating objects that can change their shape over time in response to an appropriate stimulus (Figure 2). For integrated active chip elements, it is important to achieve a large and fast shape morphing. To achieve this, PRIME is developing robust and reproducible synthetic procedures to yield high quality inks and printed actuators with enhanced response. Advances in the materials are being connected with the modelling approaches. The support from the modelling and simulation is used to predict how the components of the device will behave under different conditions. This will close the gap between the developed materials

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and chip active elements that are being developed under this task, progressing towards the milestones and the objectives of PRIME.

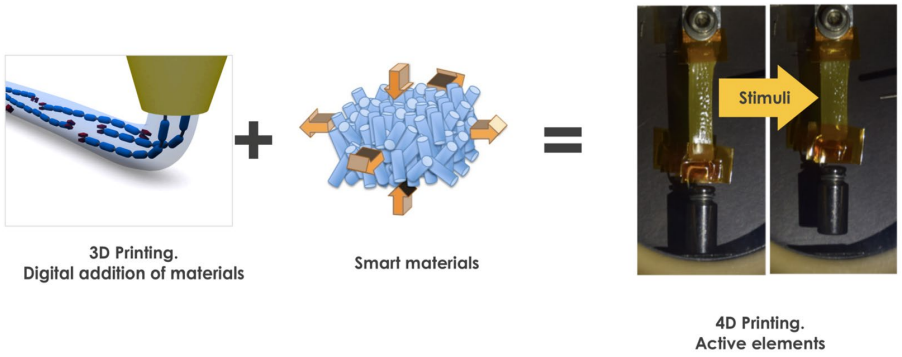

Figure 2: 4D printing of smart materials.

In this task, different strategies for implementing actuating functions are being studied. Different geometries and integration strategies are being investigated leading to microfluidic devices incorporating the concept of the PRIME valve based on smart materials. Devices are being assembled also integrating the active element and connected to a flow. This flow is being monitored under external stimuli excitation to further optimize the valve function, progressing towards the concept of the basic fluidic functions pursued in the project (Figure 3).

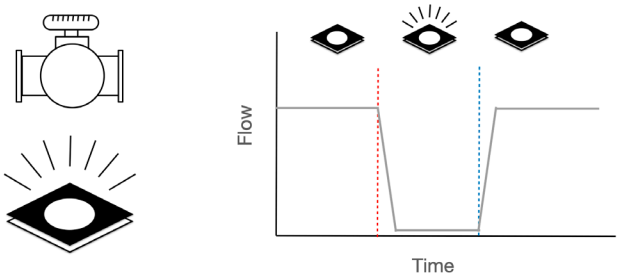

Figure 3. Concept of photoactuated PRIME valve.

At the moment, we work on the characterization of different valve implementations so that we can establish their performance and improve it by optimizing materials, valve designs as well as actuation schemes.

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