



Marketing director of 3D Matters Hayden Tay and manager Mark Lim in their office. They started 3D Matters six months ago and have already fielded several enquiries and landed clients, most of whom commission plastics-based toys, architectural models and product prototypes. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

Filling the gap in design

AEROSPACE engineer Mark Lim loved designing things, but his creative urges were thwarted when he found so few 3-D printers here after returning from Australia.

As a student down under, Mr Lim, 27, had access to the printers but that ended on his return home.

He had trouble finding companies that could provide commercial 3-D printing to bring his designs, whether models of planes and parts or his own creations, to life.

That prompted him and long-time friend Hayden Tay, 26, to

set up their own company to “fill this gap in designing” and to explore what he saw as an “exciting manufacturing technology with endless potential”.

They started 3D Matters six months ago and have already fielded several enquiries and landed clients, most of whom commission plastics-based toys, architectural models and product prototypes.

“Instead of getting a mould made for a couple thousand dollars, we can give you a sizeable prototype for as little as a few hundred dollars and produce it a lot faster,” said Mr Lim.

The company charges at fixed rates for the volume of raw material used and the printing time needed.

3D Matters wants to move beyond prototyping and start making products across sectors such as biomedicine and electronics, said Mr Lim, but because “the industry is growing so quickly, we don’t really know where we’re going to be in a few years”.

“With 3-D printing, you could do whatever you want, your imagination is the limit,” he said.

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