



# Rapid Prototype Freeforms for AR/VR Applications

**Presented By:**

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# Optimax Systems, Inc.

*Largest Optics Manufacturer in North America*

Founded in 1991

120,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (11,000 m<sup>2</sup>) facility in Ontario, NY, USA

ISO 9001: Certified

Inc. 5000 Top Growing Businesses

Diversified market portfolio

380+ employees





### Custom Optics

- Prototyping
- Partner for high precision production
- Aspheres, cylinders, freeforms, prisms, spheres

### Thin Film Coatings

- Designed to customer's specifications
- AR, HR, beamsplitters, polarizers and filters
- E-beam, plasma ion assisted deposition, ion beam sputtering (IBS)

### Precision & Quality

- Commercial and custom metrology solutions
- Highly engineered, application specific manufacturing
  - Space Flight
  - DUV Lithography
  - High Energy Lasers

# Why freeforms?

AR devices are poised to be over \$100B market

Challenges devices need to overcome

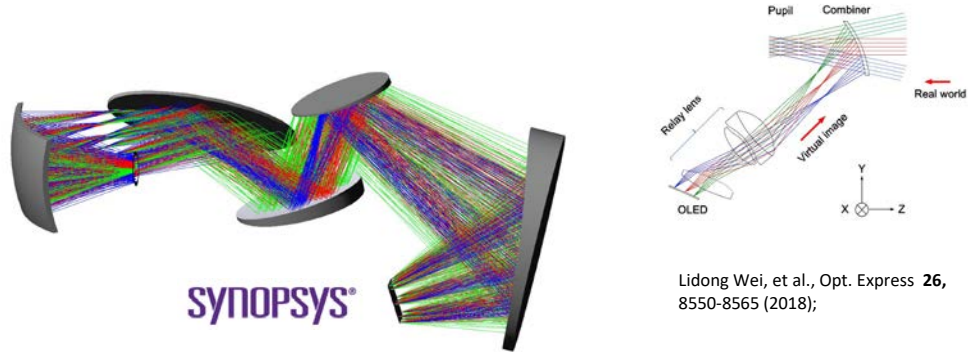
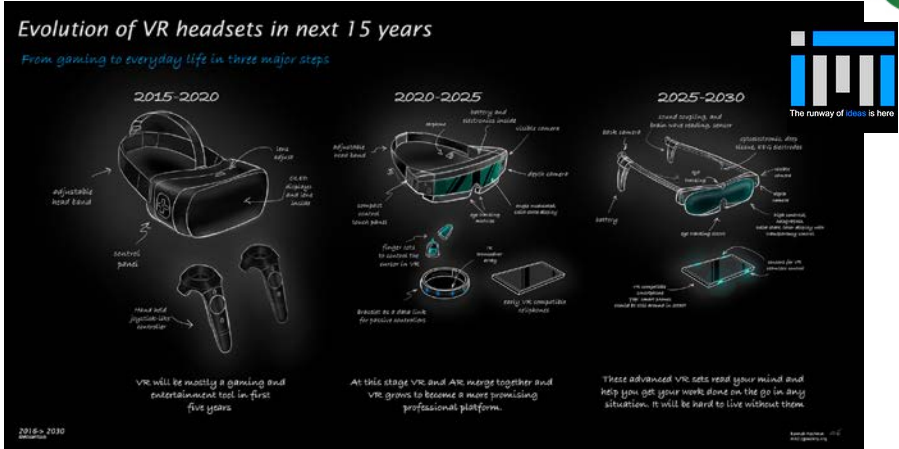
- Too bulky
- Too heavy
- Low FOV
- Low resolution
- Low brightness
- Inherent vision limitations

# Freeforms offer opportunity to address challenges

Freeforms offer unique advantages in optical designs

- Miniaturization
- Off-axis
- Lighter weight
- Conformal shapes

Increased freeform complexity can lead to increased manufacturing complexity.



SYNOPTICS

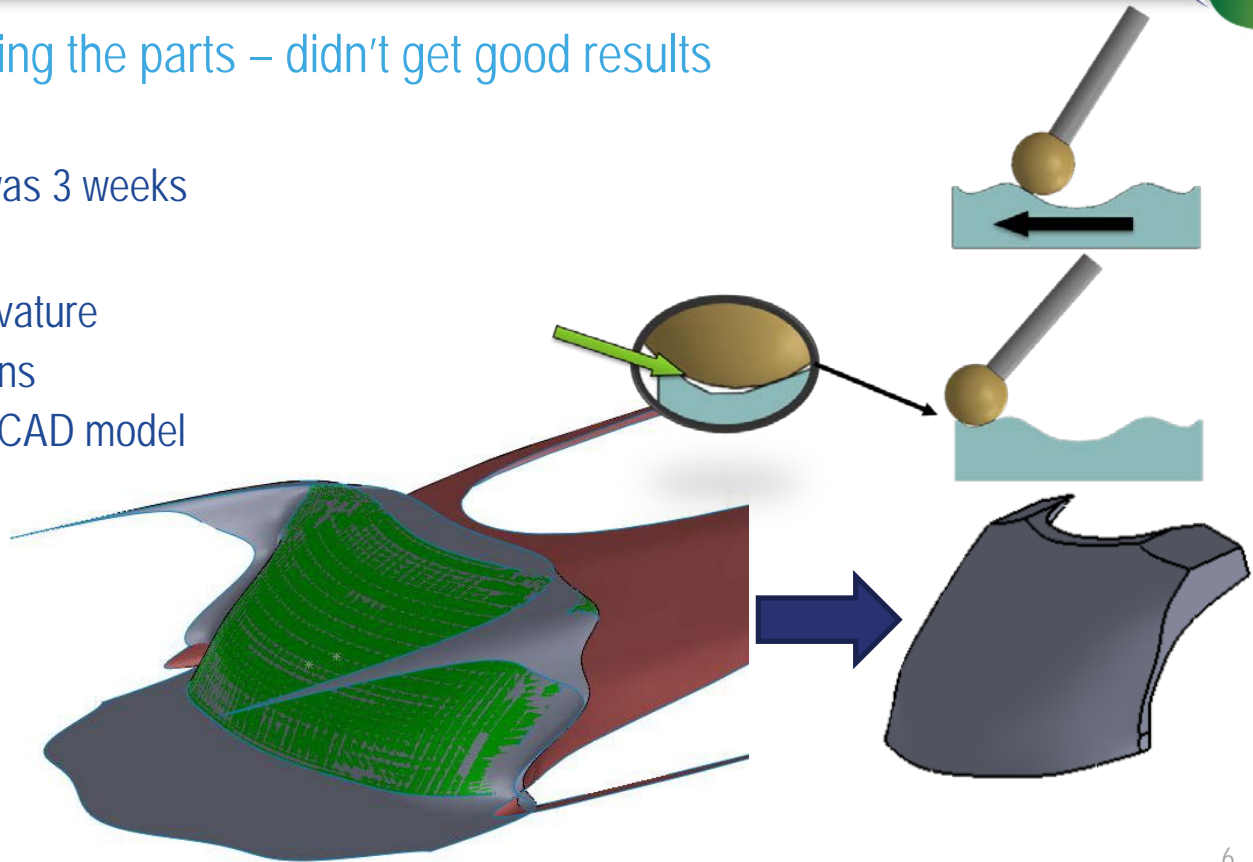
3D CAD Export view of final optimized AR system

Lidong Wei, et al., *Opt. Express* **26**, 8550-8565 (2018);

# Real life example:

## *Refractive equation-driven freeform*

- Customer attempted molding the parts – didn't get good results
- Parts very time-sensitive
  - Time from order to delivery was 3 weeks
- **Manufacturing challenges**
  - Very small local radius of curvature
  - Mid-spatial frequency concerns
  - Difficulties creating accurate CAD model



# Freeforms continue to be the future

## *Trending towards higher precision and more extreme surfaces*

Freeforms are being used to reduce system size, off-axis design, conformal windows and beam correction

- Freeform designs and manufacturing methods continue to evolve
- Early partnership between designers and manufacturers leads to more manufacturable *total error* freeform systems

## Experience leads to breakthroughs

- Collaborations driving toward more extreme surfaces
- Interested in partnering with additional universities, research institutes and industry to continue the *journey to higher precision freeforms*

