Additive Manufacture gives us new ways to produce products, it reduces waste and changes supply chains ...

...but is it a specialist or global tool?

Additive Manufacturing (sometimes called 3D printing) has applications as diverse as aeroplane construction and bone engineering, to novel chocolates and sports shoes. It has implications for the types of products we create, the supply chains that support manufacturing and how we think about the whole lifecycle of a product.

What is unclear right now is just how far additive manufacturing will penetrate: will it stay a specialist approach, will it replace large scale manufacturing, or will we see the adoption of local manufacturing at all scales and in remote areas.