According to Context W. Europe is the 2nd largest market for desktop 3D printers (priced under $5000), capturing 20% of of global Q1 2015 shipments growing by 114% Y-o-Y as more brands enter the 3D printing arena.



The top 5 global vendors according to the analyst are XYZPrinting (Da Vinci), 3D Systems (Cube/Cubify), M3D (Micro), Stratasys (MakerBot) and Ultimaker.

The market leaders see "good" Y-o-Y gains, even as Stratasys and the MakerBot brand struggle. Further boosting shipments during the quarters is the successful M3D Kickstarter campaign for The Micro, a 3D printer initially offered back in 2014 for $299.

In the industrial/professional sector market leaders Stratasys and 3D Systems post weaker-than-expected Q1 2015 results, with 3D Systems growing thanks to a low-cost machine straddling the line between profession, prosumer and desktop system (if still classified as professional-grade by the company). On the other hand Stratasys sees both Y-o-Y and Q-o-Q shipment declines.

“The nascent area of desktop 3D printing continues its upward momentum and continues to see entrants across a wide spectrum of industries, with offerings from legacy additive manufacturing stalwarts, to industry start-ups, to mature IT, Manufacturing and Tool companies all entering the space” Context says. “As many of these companies begin to outgrow their startup efforts, expanding their distribution networks around the globe is a necessary next step toward expanding market presence.”

Go Global Desktop 3D Printer Shipments More Than Double in Q2 2015 (Context)