

Contents

CIMdata News	2
CIMdata Announces PLM Road Map 2015 for the Aerospace & Defense Industry	2
CIMdata to Offer Workshop on Social Product Development & Collaboration	3
Powering Value Networks with SAP – A CIMdata Commentary	3
Why Supply Chain Collaborative Practice is Paramount for Success	6
Acquisitions	7
Addnode Group Acquires Transcat PLM, a German Software Provider with an Annual Turnover of SEK 450 M	7
Atos completes acquisition of Xerox ITO	8
Company News	9
3MF Consortium Signs New Members 3D Systems, Materialise, Siemens PLM Software and Stratasys	9
Autodesk Expands Free Access to Autodesk Design Academy Curricula for Education	10
Autodesk and NIMS Partner to Advance the 21st Century CAM Manufacturing Workforce	11
IdeaScale Launches Exclusive Partnership with InnovationManagement.se	12
Mastercam Announces Summer Teacher Training Schedule	13
Michael Management Reaches A Major Milestone By Creating Its 100th SAP Training Course.	13
Omnify Software and Octopart Integration Helps Engineers Save Time During Design	13
Trimble Appoints Chennai Institute of Technology as the First Educational Centre of Excellence in India	14
Event News	15
Leading BIM & VDC Experts From North America to Tackle the Integration of BIM Into Project Workflows in San Francisco on August 26-27	15
Nissan Motor, TOYO DENSO and Kawasaki Heavy Industries to Present at ACE 2015 Japan	16
SAi to Show Engraving and Texturizing Software at AWFS 2015	17
Implementation Investments	18
Airbus and Aras Sign Strategic Partner Agreement to Use Aras Innovator for Enterprise-Wide Engineering Business Processes Beyond 30,000 Users	18
CACI to deliver modelling and analysis support for US Navy	18
Lectra 3D virtual prototyping crafts advantage for Zannier	19
Mondetta Selects BlueCherry(R) PLM to Achieve Product Lifecycle Efficiency and Keep Pace With Changing Manufacturing Landscape	20
SHEEX Selects CGS's BlueCherry Enterprise Suite to Support In-House Transition of Its Wholesale Business	20
TG Missouri Selects aPriori for Product Cost Management	21
SHEEX Selects CGS's BlueCherry Enterprise Suite to Support In-House Transition of Its Wholesale Business	21
VISI Key For Toolmaker Expansion	22
Product News	23
Alphacam Exploits Full PC Potential With 64-Bit Support	23
ARI Network Services Announces Integration with Dassault Systemes SOLIDWORKS Composer	25
CCE Enhances its PTC Creo® and SOLIDWORKS ODX Libraries	25
Datakit releases the version 2015.3 of its CAD data exchange tools	26
ModuleWorks offer Simulation for Hybrid Manufacturing applications	27
New Release of Tecplot Chorus Now Available	27

CIMdata News

CIMdata Announces PLM Road Map 2015 for the Aerospace & Defense Industry

30 June 2015

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM consulting and research firm announces that it's first-ever *PLM Road Map™ for the Aerospace & Defense Industry* will take place on October 28 & 29, 2015. The event will feature the highly regarded 3D Collaboration & Interoperability Congress (CIC) and will be held at The Westfields Marriott-Washington Dulles, located in Chantilly, Virginia.

The theme for this year's event is "Free at Last with 3D Model Based Design? No, Not Yet, Just a Little Bit Longer." The content will provide a status check and prescribes the next steps for Aerospace & Defense OEMs and their supply chain partners. Having listened to the needs of the Aerospace & Defense users and the preferences of solution providers, *PLM Road Map 2015 for the Aerospace & Defense Industry* continues CIMdata's focus on presenting a series of right-sized, content-rich, and industry focused conferences.

For over 30 years, leading thinkers in the Aerospace & Defense industries have been pursuing the dream of 100% digital product definition flowing seamlessly from product design into manufacturing and then into service. Over the last few years, several aircraft and weapons programs have been delivered utilizing three dimensional model based design (3D MBD) for product definition, for product information process flow to manufacturing and to service, and even for type certification.

According to James Roche, CIMdata's Practice Manager for Aerospace & Defense, "There have been many technical challenges and cultural barriers to overcome. It was a decade before the technology was fully capable and design teams began producing complete product designs as digital models. Then for another decade, cultural inertia and disconnects in the lifecycle process flows required paper renderings as the official master of record. So, 'Are we there yet?' 'No, not yet, just a little bit longer.' "

Presentations will explore the key areas of advanced features, data retention, and compliance. Underlying these topics are questions and decisions regarding standards, policy, and practice. CIMdata's James Roche, will curate the agenda in conjunction with members of the Aerospace & Defense PLM Action Group that was founded by some of the most prominent names in the industry in 2014.

Central to the mission of PLM Road Map is encouraging the continuous collaboration and synergistic innovation between all members of the PLM community—including industrial users, subject matter experts, software providers, consulting services firms, industrial and academic institutes, system integrators, and market analysts—all partners in realizing the vision and value of PLM, especially in the emerging, more-sustainable, circular economy. To support this collaborative mission, a limited number of conference sponsorship opportunities will be made available to PLM software and service providers.

For more information on *PLM Road Map 2015 for the Aerospace & Defense Industry featuring the 3D Collaboration & Interoperability Congress* or to be a sponsor at this event visit:

<http://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-conferences/2015-plmrm-ad-cic> or contact Cheryl Peck at c.peck@CIMdata.com.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

CIMdata to Offer Workshop on Social Product Development & Collaboration

02 July 2015

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm announces that CIMdata's Social Product Development & Collaboration Knowledge Council will present a workshop on the topic of "Collaboration and Innovation in the Digital Age." The workshop will take place in Louisville, Kentucky and will run over two consecutive half days.

The workshop will start during the afternoon of October 7 and will end on October 8. A personal tour of First Build's Microfactory will part of the first afternoon's highlights. Throughout the workshop CIMdata's Social Product Development & Collaboration Knowledge Council and a group of leading-edge users will share real-world examples of how mature companies are inventing and adopting new collaborative partnership models for innovation and joint value creation. CIMdata's Director for Collaborative Innovation & Social Product Development Consulting, Dr. Suna Polat and CIMdata's Practice Manager for Social Product Development & Collaboration, Dr. Ken Versprille will facilitate the workshop.

Key topics for the workshop include: Intellectual Property (IP) considerations; cultural change challenges; and making the benefits of adopting social more tangible.

Dr. Suna Polat, CIMdata's director for collaborative innovation and social product development consulting commented, "The times we live in have all the signs of being a transitional time. With increased connectivity around the globe due to advances in technology, information is growing exponentially, complexity is increasing, and familiar boundaries are being altered forever. While PLM has been embraced by many as a successful business strategy and more recently has emerged as a platform for innovation, significant challenges remain."

This workshop has been carefully designed over two half days to provide attendees time to network with domain experts from CIMdata, knowledge council participants, and others interested in these topics.

For more information on the workshop visit <http://www.cimdata.com/en/education/knowledge-council-workshops/2015-spdc-workshop>.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Powering Value Networks with SAP – A CIMdata Commentary

02 July 2015

Key takeaways:

- To be successful in today's global economy requires more than just supply chains; it demands value chains that have the geographic reach and robustness to meet ever-changing market demands
- SAP has a strategic focus on enabling product and demand networks that leverages their extended enterprise strengths and emerging capabilities including support for front-end innovation
- Moving to S/4HANA as their new business platform illustrates the platformization trend well documented by CIMdata, and provides new opportunities for user experience (UX) enhancement and new use cases

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

- Engineering Control Center (ECTR), the new authoring hub for SAP PLM, will eventually support integrating authoring tools well beyond MCAD

SAP recently brought together customers, partners, and SAP staff at their SAP Manufacturing Industries Forum on June 24-25, 2015 in Lombard, Illinois just outside of Chicago. The 500+ attendees represented a wide range of customers using SAP to support different aspects of their value chain. The multi-track agenda included sessions by SAP executives, leading customers, and the software and service provider sponsors of the event.

Mr. Martin Mrugal, Chief Innovation Officer and Head of Customer Experience at SAP, capsuled the evolution of SAP and how HANA and S/4HANA are the next step. According to Mr. Mrugal, after introducing their three-tier architecture the company looked ahead and saw the rising importance of cloud, big data/analytics, mobility, and social. He stated that the ability to leverage networks, and achieve the multiplicative power of network effects, is key to success in the evolving global economy. Mr. Mrugal claimed that more and more companies are adopting a digital strategy framework, as discussed in the Harvard Business Review,¹ which almost requires adopting new business practices enabled by more advanced technology. What could these new digital businesses do with real-time analysis of their operations and accurate projections of benefits from proposed actions? Supporting this real-time analysis is the promise of HANA, SAP's in-memory platform first introduced in 2010. SAP's current flagship product, the SAP Business Suite, has been available running on HANA for two years.

Earlier this year, SAP announced S/4HANA, their next generation business platform. Over a number of release cycles, SAP will redesign and build the key elements of the SAP Business Suite to leverage the power of HANA. However it is not yet clear how many annual release cycles it will take to replicate ECC 6 and the applications SAP currently offers. One slide admitted that the full ERP, CRM, SRM, SCM, and PLM capabilities are in a "planned availability" status. It is also not clear just how much of the current set of offerings will be re-implemented. This re-do will allow SAP to clean out old logic and data duplication required to provide reasonable performance when running on relational databases. It will also enable new capabilities. When combined with the SAP Fiori user experience (UX), this new business platform offers many new possibilities. Fiori supports a common UX across platforms, leveraging the strong mobile technology SAP added with its Sybase acquisition. Mr. Mrugal claimed that 1,800 independent software vendors (ISVs) are currently writing applications on HANA. T

Mr. Paul Wellman, the CIO of Tennant, discussed "Reimagining Business with IoT & Big Data Insights." Tennant is a global cleaning solutions business that has big plans for IoT. (Think those industrial machines cleaning floors in offices and airports.) They manufacture and sell the same machines around the world, running their entire business on one instance of SAP. Tennant is starting their servitization journey, looking to turn those machine sales into service level agreements, delivering efficient services as part of a complete solution including the machines, leading to increased demand for parts and upgrades as well. To help do it, they designed ruggedized communications and processing modules to connect their machines via the Internet. They chose cellular technology over wireless (which is too spotty at present in many big structures; based on their research a 3G modem has a 96% chance of a good connection at least once a week), and identified what kind of data they needed to collect, share, and process. Their industrial machines have about 50 data control points, and their commercial machines have about 30. Tennant is working with SAP and a partner to build and deploy their initial solution, which is being designed to leverage this product usage data across the lifecycle.

¹ <https://hbr.org/2015/02/design-a-digital-strategy-that-works>.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

In a later talk, Mr. Michael Lynch, SAP's Global Co-Lead for IoT, claimed that SAP has "the most comprehensive IoT portfolio to drive business value." Certainly, SAP controls the back-end of many businesses, something that a competitor like IBM can only claim through their integration abilities and experiences. He spoke of the SAP HANA Cloud Platform for IoT, offering a "logical warehouse" across SAP HANA, SAP IQ (another piece of technology from the Sybase acquisition), and Hadoop. According to Mr. Lynch, SAP is also playing a role in the connected car with leading automotive OEMs, and in several Connected City projects including one in Nanjing, China.

On day two, Mr. Hans Thalbauer, Senior Vice President, Extended Supply Chain at SAP, focused on "Product & Demand Networks," where customer centricity and personalized solutions that leverage IoT are core elements in today's business strategies. According to Mr. Thalbauer, leading companies need to transform yesterday's supply chain and logistics functions into responsive global demand networks. At the same time, product networks must evolve to create solutions, not products, and produce these offerings on demand, down to the individual level. Networked enterprises will leverage IoT to get real-time network insights and to drive optimal reactions to that data.

While not the focus of this event, several recent development efforts and product introductions are essential to the SAP business platform evolution to support product innovation. In 2014 SAP introduced SAP Innovation Management to enable the ideation process including idea generation, management and evolution, team creation and management, and other front-end innovation functions. As discussed by CIMdata in recent events and publications enterprise innovation management is a lynchpin for enterprise innovation across all relevant business functions including product development. In this case, SAP has the potential to connect the executive suite to product development as SAP Innovation Management integrates with SAP Portfolio and Project Management; their successful PPM offering that also integrates well with SAP PLM. CIMdata looks forward to hearing more about the lead users for this important offering.

The other big release by SAP this year was the Engineering Control Center (ECTR), their new standard technology and UX for authoring tool integrations. This solution evolved from some earlier technology developed by DSC, a member of the SAP PLM Alliance, a group of companies that mainly offer mechanical CAD (MCAD) integrations for SAP.² ECTR is a major step up from the previous CAD Desktop for MCAD users and will be the basis for many upcoming authoring tool integrations from SAP. For example, CIDEON Software offers an integration based on ECTR with EPLAN, a leading electronic design automation (EDA) solution. Integrations with other leading EDA solutions will soon follow. SAP is also looking at how best to deal with simulation and analysis tools, how to manage software as part of the product structure, and how to enable systems engineering. Some of these integrations will also use the ECTR approach.

These moves by SAP are not surprising. Industrial companies need to develop smart, connected products in many industrial markets. In response, all PLM solution and service providers have to evolve to support richer, more comprehensive product development capabilities. Recent acquisitions are helping SAP do just that. BusinessObjects brought business intelligence capabilities, exposed to the SAP PLM user through the Business Context Viewer. The Right Hemisphere acquisition is at the core of SAP Visual Enterprise, which added 3D and 3D context for users. Even their messaging and offerings around "Idea to Performance" have a place in this new value network world.

² This was discussed in the CIMdata commentary from the 2013 SAP Insider event: <http://www.cimdata.com/en/resources/complimentary-reports-research/commentaries/item/132-sapinsider-2013-leading-the-way-in-in-memory-applications-commentary>

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

In conclusion, the SAP Manufacturing Industries Forum provides a valuable opportunity for SAP customers from many industries to learn about how to power their value networks with SAP solutions. The move to HANA-based offerings will help SAP deliver real-time insights to their customers to help them make more informed decisions. Their recent moves in innovation management and the ECTR can make the innovation and development process more seamless from idea to product and to enable the service-based experiences that many companies seek to deliver to anyone, anywhere, anytime. CIMdata believes that taking this systems view to strategy, innovation, and value networks is essential to market success and we are glad to see SAP working hard to make it a reality.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Why Supply Chain Collaborative Practice is Paramount for Success

29 June 2015

It's time for apparel companies to rethink how they do business, said Stan Przybylinski, vice president of research at consulting firm CIMdata, who spoke Tuesday at a Product Innovation Apparel seminar in New York titled "Enhancing Supply Chain Collaborative Practices."

"Yes, there are some practices that you do because they're longstanding and are valuable but there are others that seem to be standard operating procedures and can potentially be replaced, and if you do that you can improve both your top and bottom line," he said.

And having product lifecycle management (PLM) technologies and strategies in place is one way to address supply chain and product development complexities. Apparel companies that harness technology to collaborate effectively across the supply chain—design, product, merchandising, sourcing and patterns, for example—have cut costs and sampling, improved time to market and boosted flexibility.

But before diving into a new software system, Przybylinski advises companies to first determine what set of tools they will need to support. "The other thing that's important about adopting new strategies," he said, "is having a somewhat longer view. Yes, you want to be tactical, but you need to think strategically at the beginning so you're not locking yourself into something that won't support the evolution that you're hoping for."

That's why it's paramount to pick something that's flexible enough to support other business models, whether it's PLM or digital asset management or enterprise resource planning (ERP).

Przybylinski pointed out, "Unless you're solving a very small problem it's almost never going to be one supplier. They need to be able to play nicely with others. You need to be able to share data. You need to have the ability to share data across your tools so it doesn't break the flow. You need to share that information so you can meet your targets."

He explained that while many solution providers will tell apparel companies they have the technological answer to their problems, people, processes and data are core elements that also need to be addressed from the get-go to ensure new issues don't crop up down the line. He added, "Having that communication is critical to make sure you get the right product to the right place and collaborative product development is one way of doing that. Sharing that decision making, improving communication across all the people in the value chain is one requirement to get there."

And apparel companies that ignore the potential benefits that supply chain collaboration can provide are doomed, he said, warning, "For some who have not hit this trend it's already too late. End-to-end

lifecycle management approach is essential; it's a competitive necessity. None of us can really afford to do nothing."

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Acquisitions

Addnode Group Acquires Transcat PLM, a German Software Provider with an Annual Turnover of SEK 450 M

02 July 2015

Addnode Group AB today announced the acquisition of all shares of Transcat GmbH ("Transcat PLM"). Transcat PLM with operations in Germany, Austria and Slovakia, will join forces with Technia as a subsidiary of Addnode Group. The combined TechniaTranscat will be a European leader in CAD and PLM under the leadership of Jonas Gejer, President of Addnode Groups Business area PLM.

Summary of the Transaction

On July 1, 2015, Addnode Group acquired all outstanding shares in Transcat PLM from Transcat PLM's existing shareholders (the "Transaction").

Transcat PLM is one of Europe's leading providers of PLM solutions based on Dassault Systèmes brands and its portfolio of proprietary applications. Additionally, Transcat PLM offers services ranging from consulting, project conception and training to on-site user support. In 2014 Transcat PLM's net sales were SEK 450 M with an EBITDA of SEK 23 M.

The Transaction was paid with EUR 5.98 M in cash, vendor loan notes extended by Addnode Group of EUR 1.1 M, and 816,236 Series B shares of Addnode Group representing a value of EUR 4.4 M. A maximum conditional purchase price of EUR 5 M in cash is payable if certain targets related to Transcat PLM's profit during the period 2015-2016 is achieved. In summary, the maximum acquisition cost is EUR 16.48 M on a cash and debt free basis. The final payment is subject to an adjustment based on the actual level of net cash and net working capital in Transcat PLM, at 30 June 2015.

The cash payment of EUR 5.98 M will be financed through existing credit facilities. Making use of the authorization by Addnode Group's Annual General Meeting 2015, the Board of Directors of Addnode Group has resolved to transfer 477,497 Series B shares held in treasury, and to issue 338,739 new Series B shares to effect the share payment in the Transaction.

The sellers of Transcat PLM have undertaken not to sell or otherwise distribute or transfer (lock-up) the 816,236 Addnode Group B shares received in the Transaction for the period from closing date up to and including 30 June 2017 (i.e. two years after the closing date of the Transaction). · The Transaction was not subject to any conditions but was completed immediately upon signing.

Transcat PLM is a strategic and operational fit with Technia and the Transaction is in line with Addnode Group's strategy to become a leading European provider of Design and PLM products and services.

The new combined TechniaTranscat will be a market leader in the European PLM space with a strong capability to serve global companies in most industries. The combined companies will be unique in their ability to add value to the customers, providing the Dassault Systèmes product portfolio and a strong own software portfolio and service offering.

With an annual turnover of SEK 450 M, Transcat PLM will be a first step in Addnode Group's

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

expansion to the German market, Europe's largest economy.

“We have been working together for many years and have both come to realize that the benefits for our customers and synergies from merging our two companies are great. Both companies are leaders in their regions, industries and chosen technologies and now, when combined, we form a unique force in the European PLM market”, says Jonas Gejer, President of Addnode Groups business area PLM.

“I'm convinced that the combined knowledge of the two companies, our new geographical reach and the superior capabilities of Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE Platform will empower growth and innovation and increase profitability for our customers”, says Etienne Droit, Managing Director of Transcat PLM.

“Transcat PLM's leadership in digital product creation joined with Technia's strong background in collaborative product development will enable our customers to rapidly get a competitive edge from adopting Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE Platform. Our two corporate cultures, with very strong customer focus and respect for the individual, create a strong platform for the future for our customers, employees and partners”, says Gerhard Keller, Managing Director of Transcat PLM.

“This is a strategic move for Addnode Group. We take clear leadership in the PLM industry and are now, through TechniaTranscat, able to offer our European customers all the high quality software and services from both companies. From an Addnode Group perspective, this acquisition also establishes us in the German market, Europe's largest economy”, says Staffan Hanstorp, CEO and President of Addnode Group.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Atos completes acquisition of Xerox ITO

01 July 2015

Atos today announced that it has completed the acquisition of Xerox ITO which reinforces its position as a global leader in digital services.

The net purchase price totaled US\$ 966 million (€811 million), composed of US\$ 950 million and an additional amount of US\$ 50 million following the occurrence of certain events prior to closing, plus US\$ 100 million representing the estimated present value of future tax benefits to Atos. Net debt items and closing adjustments amounted to US\$ 134 million to be confirmed within 90 days.

With circa US\$ 2 billion revenue, North America becomes the largest geography for Atos where it is now ranked number 9 in ITO services.

Since the announcement of the acquisition in December 2014, Atos and Xerox ITO teams have worked together to ensure operational readiness on the first day after closing. As a result, Atos now has the ability to offer its European and US clients the necessary presence to better support their digital transformation needs anywhere in the world. Atos will leverage the Xerox ITO customer centric approach and Atos' industrial capacities and portfolio of cutting-edge services and technologies, particularly in Cloud, Big Data, Cyber-security, and in High Power Computing to support clients handle the massive volumes of data generated in the digital world.

As announced at the time of signing, Atos today enters into a worldwide strategic collaboration with Xerox – a global business services, technology, and document management company – and becomes one of Xerox's primary IT services providers.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Commenting on the finalization of the deal, Thierry Breton, Chairman and CEO said: "Today marks a major step in the development of the Atos Group, as we welcome 9,600 Xerox ITO employees to Atos. With the US now our largest market, we have a stronger and more balanced global presence, which combined with our digital skills, allows us to be the trusted partner for our clients' digital journey anywhere in the world."

Michel-Alain Proch, Group SEVP, who has been appointed CEO for North America operations added: "Together with Xerox teams, we have worked extensively to be ready from day one post-closing and we are now fully operational to ensure continued delivery of services to our clients while at the same time leveraging the combined strengths of the two groups for profitable growth."

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Company News

3MF Consortium Signs New Members 3D Systems, Materialise, Siemens PLM Software and Stratasys

01 July 2015

The [3MF Consortium](#), an industry association recently launched to develop and promote a new full-fidelity file format for 3D printing, today announced four new members:

- [3D Systems](#) – a provider of advanced and comprehensive 3D digital design and fabrication solutions, including 3D printers, software, print materials and cloud-sourced custom parts
- [Materialise](#) -- a provider of 3D printing software and services in a variety of sectors, such as healthcare, automotive and consumer products
- [Siemens PLM Software](#) -- a leading global provider of product lifecycle management (PLM) and manufacturing operations management (MOM) software, systems and services
- [Stratasys](#) -- a leading global provider of 3D printing and additive manufacturing solutions used to perfect product designs and prototypes and create production parts with direct digital manufacturing

"The addition of 3D Systems, Materialise, Siemens PLM Software and Stratasys to our membership ranks further demonstrates the significant industry momentum behind the adoption of 3MF," said Adrian Lannin, 3MF Consortium executive director. "By participating in the 3MF Consortium, our new members will ensure that their customers get all the advanced capabilities and productivity benefits of the 3MF specification. We welcome them and look forward to their contributions."

The 3MF Consortium was formed to close the gap between the capabilities of modern 3D printers and outdated file formats. The 3MF specification eliminates the problems associated with currently available file formats, resolving interoperability and functionality issues, enabling companies to focus more on innovation. The first version of the 3MF specification is available now for [download](#) at no charge.

About the 3MF Consortium

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Launched in 2015, the 3MF Consortium is a [Joint Development Foundation](#) project with the goal to define a 3D printing format that will allow design applications to send full-fidelity 3D models to a mix of other applications, platforms, services and printers. The 3MF (for 3D Manufacturing Format) specification eliminates the widespread issues with currently available file formats.

Members of the 3MF Consortium are: 3D Systems; Autodesk, Inc; Dassault Systèmes, SA.; FIT AG/netfabb GmbH; HP; Materialise; Microsoft Corporation; Shapeways, Inc.; Siemens PLM Software; SLM Solutions Group AG; and Stratasys. The starting point for the Consortium's development of the 3MF specification was Microsoft's donation of its 3D file format work-in-progress. More information about the 3MF Consortium and the 3MF specification is available at <http://www.3mf.io>.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Autodesk Expands Free Access to Autodesk Design Academy Curricula for Education

29 June 2015

[Autodesk, Inc.](#) announced the availability of the new Autodesk Design Academy iTunes U course, marking the first time the company has shared its portfolio of curricula resources through iTunes U. Developed by educators and subject matter experts across the globe, the Autodesk Design Academy provides hundreds of standards-aligned class projects to support design-based disciplines in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) while using Autodesk's professional-grade 3D design, engineering and entertainment software used in industry, helping students develop 21st century skills and prepare for future careers.

iTunes U is the best way to bring a classroom together on iPad, helping educators build lessons with amazing content, collect and grade student work and stay connected with their class.

A key component of the Autodesk Design Academy iTunes U course is learning materials about the use of [Autodesk Fusion 360](#), which brings CAD, CAM and CAE together in the cloud. It's an integrated, connected, and accessible platform built for the new ways products are being designed and made.

Autodesk also launches the Autodesk Design Academy Multi-Touch book, which includes learning materials about [Autodesk SketchBook Express](#), software that brings digital art and concept sketching to life. Both the iTunes U course and Multi-Touch book will be available for free on iPad this fall.

“Getting our curricula and learning resources to millions of educators for free through iTunes U and Multi-Touch books is a fantastic opportunity to empower students with the tools that will help them to imagine, design and create a better world,” said Randy Swearer, vice president, Education, Autodesk. “The new Autodesk Design Academy iTunes U course helps us to bring best-in-class resources to more schools, establishing a future pipeline of designers, architects and engineers.”

In December 2014, Autodesk [announced](#) a multi-million dollar commitment to make available free access to its 3D design software and creativity applications to schools, educators and students around the globe to support future global economies and drive innovation.

“Autodesk software is used heavily in the engineering industry, and I want my students to know it well so they can jump right into a job without the employer needing to train them,” said Jennifer Hohne, educator, Heritage Hills High School, Lincoln City, Indiana.

The Autodesk Design Academy complements Autodesk's 3D design software and creativity applications across the education continuum to advance learning outcomes, including:

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

- Building proficiency with learners to support STEAM education both in and outside of the classroom
- Imparting industry-relevant knowledge and 3D design skills to give students a competitive edge to achieve their personal goals today, and career success in the future
- Helping educators inspire creativity and innovation through a project-based curriculum and a multidisciplinary approach to education; facilitating collaboration and hands-on problem-solving skills that reflect today's business realities

To request free access to Autodesk software for educational institutions, visit www.autodesk.com/academic.

To gain access to the Autodesk Design Academy, Autodesk Design Academy iTunes U course for Fusion 360 and Autodesk Design Academy Multi-Touch books for SketchBook Express, visit academy.autodesk.com.

For information regarding training, support and software implementation, please locate your local Autodesk Academic Partner: <http://www.autodesk.com/education/learn-and-teach/authorized-academic-partner>.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Autodesk and NIMS Partner to Advance the 21st Century CAM Manufacturing Workforce

30 June 2015

[Autodesk Inc.](#) and the [National Institute for Metalworking Skills \(NIMS\)](#) are partnering to develop the first-ever industry recognized Computer Aided Manufacturing/Machining (CAM) standards and credentials. These standards and credentials will enhance education and training programs to meet 21st century demands for skilled CAM programmers, designers and engineers, which will account for almost 100,000 new jobs by 2024.

To stay competitive, manufacturers must maintain high standards of production at efficient cost while meeting the ever-changing customer demands for their products. CAM allows manufacturers to efficiently adjust their processes to identify optimal production paths that decrease cycle times, reduce scrapped parts and materials, and improve the quality of finished parts. Skilled CAM programmers, designers, and engineers with extensive education and training are in high demand to plan, manage, and control these very sophisticated and costly machines.

“Companies in technologically-advanced industries are becoming much more reliant on the use of information technology and automation through CAM software to develop high-value added products and materials. In the next decade, nearly a million jobs will require the technical skills needed to operate CAM software,” said NIMS Executive Director, James Wall.

This partnership will support the advancement of CAM training programs by developing industry standards for educating and training CAM programmers. To develop these standards, Autodesk and NIMS recruited industry leaders to participate in a Technical Work Group. The Technical Work Group kick-off meeting was held at AutoDesk Headquarters in San Francisco on June 10 – 11, 2015. Industry experts from major companies including Google, NASA, DMG / MORI Seiki USA, HAAS Automation,

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Delcam, Parker Hannifin/Sandia National Laboratory, and Monkey Likes Shiny participated in the session and will lead the Technical Work Group.

“CAM software is changing the way companies approach business processes and how educational institutions teach the next generation of programmers and engineers. It is critical that the skills and knowledge of industry leaders be captured in standards that will serve as the basis for training and educating the future CAM manufacturing workforce,” said Monkey Likes Shiny Owner, Jeff Tiedeken.

“Autodesk is committed to providing students with the education and technical skills necessary to operate CAM software. To support this effort, Autodesk provides CAM software for free to educational institutions and students. Partnering with NIMS in the development of industry recognized CAM standards and credentials is the next step in our commitment to preparing the future generation of skilled CAM programmers, designers, and engineers,” said Director of Industry and Learning Strategy, Autodesk Education, George Abraham.

After development of the skills standards, NIMS will conduct a rigorous national validation process, holding regional reviews of the standards by industrial professionals, before releasing the standards to the public.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

IdeaScale Launches Exclusive Partnership with InnovationManagement.se

01 July 2015

IdeaScale, the California-based innovation management solution, today announced an exclusive partnership with Innovationmanagement.se (IM), the world's leading platform for cutting-edge innovation management content, best practices and online training programs. This announcement is part of IdeaScale's and IM's continued global expansion.

Both companies have long supported cities, brands, and organizations in building impactful innovation programs that foster meaningful and profitable change. Now, as a consolidated partnership, IM.se will be able to enhance IdeaScale's product offering with comprehensive training and IdeaScale can provide a robust platform for executing on IM's techniques. As part of this partnership, IdeaScale will now offer IM training programs to their existing or future customers and partners.

“Innovation management is an evolving practice,” says Rob Hoehn, CEO of IdeaScale. “Organizing an innovation group's process and goals can be difficult and we're glad to supplement our product offering with the expertise of innovation practitioners who can give custom-made structure to what is sometimes thought of as a plastic or unrigorous process.”

"IdeaScale's platform is one of the most customizable on the market, “says Lars Percy Andersson, Founding Partner at IM “and we want to help practitioners build innovation skills that suit their goals across disciplines, whether it's regarding brainstorming, prototyping, product lifecycle management, portfolio management, or otherwise.”

Although IdeaScale is a global company that has long-served numerous clients in Europe, it will now also have a permanent presence in Sweden through IM. IM will continue to serve clients worldwide.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Mastercam Announces Summer Teacher Training Schedule

01 July 2015

The Mastercam Educational Division will host its annual series of weeklong classes for instructors between July 6 and 24 at its office in Gig Harbor, Washington. These classes will train instructors to teach successful, up-do-date programs and provide opportunities to share ideas with others in their field.

The schedule includes the following classes: Mastercam for Solidworks, Mastercam Art, Mastercam Fundamentals, Beginning Projects and Intermediate Projects. The 2015 program offers several bonuses and discounts as well. A full schedule and a list of these discounts can be found at mastercam.com/stt.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Michael Management Reaches A Major Milestone By Creating Its 100th SAP Training Course.

30 June 2015

Leading online [SAP training](#) innovator Michael Management Corporation released its 100th SAP training course, fortifying its position as the second largest SAP training provider in the world behind SAP itself.

This unprecedented accomplishment was born out of a real need in the SAP space to have training that was accessible, effective, and reasonably priced. Michael Management started designing SAP eLearning back in 2007 with the courses SAP101 – Basic SAP Skills, and FIAA101 – Asset Accounting. Since then the company has set a furious pace to release approximately one SAP course per month from a production queue based on the demand from their customers.

“Major Fortune 500 brands rely on us to deliver cutting-edge, ‘learning-by-doing’ online SAP training. Time and again our customers have expressed to us that they prefer our hands-on SAP training to the more ‘death by PowerPoint’ approach that’s out there. We’re very proud to have 100 certification-level SAP courses,” said CEO Thomas Michael.

The new course, ‘[SDOV101 – Sales & Distribution Overview](#)’, is geared towards helping managers, directors, or other executives understand SAP’s sales and distribution modules. They will learn the most important features of sales, shipping, transportation, billing, and much more.

All 100 of Michael Management’s SAP courses are certification-level in eight different curriculum including Basic Skills, Financials & Controlling, Supply Chain Management, Human Capital Management, Business Analytics, Basis, HANA and Tools, CRM, and SAP Overviews. In addition to this, Michael Management also offers [SAP career paths](#). These training paths are a ‘first’ for the industry, and direct their students’ training in a way that prepares them for real-world jobs using SAP.

Michael Management’s SAP training also includes gamification. Students can track and see their achievements by earning various badges, and ascending to different skill levels. Additionally, they can see how they match up against other Michael Management members on ‘Leaderboards’.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Omnify Software and Octopart Integration Helps Engineers Save Time During Design

30 June 2015

[Omnify Software](#) today announces a strategic partnership with [Octopart](#), the leading electronic parts search engine, in order to give Omnify Empower users direct access to component information in Octopart

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

without leaving their Omnify Empower environment.

The Octopart Search integration is an add-on module to the Empower PLM system. With this module, Empower users can search the Octopart database of a growing list of more than 30 million parts across thousands of suppliers. Users can check and create vendors, vendor parts, and associated items through a formal Part Request in Omnify Empower, while populating attributes/parameters, datasheets, and compliance documents directly from the available data in Octopart.

"We are always looking for ways to make our customers' processes more efficient, and giving them direct access to the breadth of component information in Octopart is a natural fit," stated Chuck Cimalore, CTO for Omnify Software. "We are excited to be partnering with Octopart and look forward to working closely with them to further enhance the integration and information that is available to our customers."

"The Octopart API continues to offer solutions across the entire product development lifecycle," said Sam Wurzel, CEO and co-founder of Octopart. "We're excited to work with Omnify Software to provide solutions within their PLM product."

Omnify Empower customers can use the Octopart Search integration module to:

Quickly search the Octopart database within Omnify Empower

Link directly to items in Octopart from Omnify Empower for additional information such as costs, availability, and to purchase parts directly

Easily create vendors, vendor parts, and Omnify items and automatically populate descriptions, attributes, and documents based on Octopart content

Automatically assign parameters/attributes as well as datasheets and compliance documents to any object in Empower

More quickly determine which components meet environmental and other compliance guidelines

The Octopart Search module is available to all Omnify Empower customers who are on the latest product release and can be purchased for \$300 annually.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Trimble Appoints Chennai Institute of Technology as the First Educational Centre of Excellence in India

02 July 2015

Trimble has appointed Chennai Institute of Technology (CIT) as the first Educational Centre of Excellence in India for their Trimble Buildings business division. The main objective of this initiative is to educate technology students and ensure that the future engineers are well equipped with technology skills that the growing Indian industry employers value.

The Chennai Institute of Technology provides quality technical education with adequate industrial exposure with its innovative teaching methods. The institute will include a special certification course on Trimble's Design Build Operate (DBO) technology in their curriculum where they will teach their students on Tekla BIM technology and also other Trimble Buildings construction solutions. The course will make the students industry ready with BIM skills. On the other hand, this education boosts the adoption of BIM within Indian construction industry.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Nirmalya Chatterjee, Executive Director & COO Trimble Buildings SAARC said “We believe in educating the next generation with the latest technologies as this partnership will benefit the students and provide the industry with a larger talent pool. Together with CIT we ensure that the best professional education is offered to students keen on joining the industry. This new Centre for Excellence allows technology experts upgrade their skills which will benefit the industry in the future.” Trimble will assist CIT to setup a technology lab in the college, which will allow their students to learn construction software solutions such as ‘Tekla Structures’ for structural and civil engineering, ‘SketchUp’ for architectural and ‘Vico Office’ for project cost estimation. Trimble in India will also conduct training sessions at CIT to enable the faculty members and students to explore Trimble’s DBO technology. Additionally, refresher seminars will keep them regularly updated on newer advancements. “Rajan Aiyer , Country Manager, Trimble SAARC said “Trimble endeavors to apply state-of-the-art technology solutions involving Positioning, Communications, Sensing and Analytics to the work processes of traditional industries like Agriculture , Engineering & Construction, Field solutions, and Transportation & Logistics to transform the way they work. Our newly launched Trimble Buildings India entity will facilitate the use of such innovative solutions in vertical construction markets in India “ Mr. P Sriram, Chairman, Chennai Institute of Technology said, “We are happy to be appointed as the First Educational Centre of Excellence in India by Trimble. This will help us in providing and teaching our students the latest technologies like Building Information Modeling (BIM). With the growing demand for infrastructure, there is a need to adopt new technologies such as BIM which will not only minimize the errors but will also help in enhancing better productivity, thus creating huge demand for BIM professionals.”

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Event News

Leading BIM & VDC Experts From North America to Tackle the Integration of BIM Into Project Workflows in San Francisco on August 26-27

02 July 2015

BIM and VDC experts from construction, designer and owners companies across North America, including *Balfour Beatty, Sutter Health, McCarthy Building Companies , A ECOM , VEGA Architecture, the California High -Speed Rail Authority* and many more will converge in San Francisco on August 26-27 for the **BIM Integration Congress**.

With the **global BIM market set to grow at a CAGR of 17.4% over the period 2013-2018**, BIM has rapidly become a mainstream tool for designers and contractors. As for owners, they are gradually realizing that the deliverables provided help to dramatically cut down the lifecycle costs of asset management. So overall, the adoption of BIM is turning into a no-brainer for all stakeholders.

However, while designers, contractors and owners feel increasingly confident using BIM software and related technologies, one major challenge still remains: tightly integrating BIM in the workflow of multi-office teams.

Matt Zwetzig, Director of Virtual Design Construction at VEGA Architecture recently pinpointed that "*Many people associate the term BIM with a 3D model, which it is on the surface. But, like an iceberg, the vast majority of it is data or information. Leveraging the information BIM contains is where real success stories begin to take form.*"

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

In other words, the real power of BIM lies in its ability to **reduce design changes**, eradicate **duplication of work** and enable **data-led layout, estimating and facility management**. But to leverage this force, stakeholders need to learn how to utilize BIM to collaborate more efficiently with other project stakeholders.

When done properly, projects using BIM become tightly integrated, resulting in project deliveries that are more cost- and time-effective while drastically cutting long-term maintenance costs of assets. This component has been especially emphasized by James Pease, Senior Project Manager, Facility & Property Services at Sutter Health. In recent project development, James has indeed " *seen a significant decrease in the amount of RFIs, Design Change Orders, and schedule delays due to the ability to coordinate systems prior to their installation in the field.* "

The need for a more integrated and collaborative approach will be at the heart of the upcoming BIM Integration Congress. This critical industry conversation has been specifically designed as a discussion platform, bringing together BIM and VDC experts who will share insights into leading-edge initiatives that will enable owners, facility managers, designers and contractors to maximize the benefits of utilizing BIM.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Nissan Motor, TOYO DENSO and Kawasaki Heavy Industries to Present at ACE 2015 Japan

02 July 2015

Aras today announced that Nissan Motor, TOYO DENSO and Kawasaki Heavy Industries will be among the presenters at ACE 2015 Japan. ACE 2015 Japan will take place September 2-3, 2015 at the Rappongi Academy Hills in Tokyo, Japan. Details, agenda and free registration at www.aras.jp/ACE2015JAPAN

During the two day conference, industry leaders will discuss how they transformed their business with Aras. The theme of ACE 2015 Japan is "Rethink PLM." Sessions will revolve around the conference theme and are designed to encourage interaction, learning and networking.

Nissan Motor will share their PLM strategy and how they enhanced their data management for automotive control systems. TOYO DENSO will discuss how they improved their overall productivity by integrating PLM across the company with Aras Innovator. Kawasaki Heavy Industries will present their implementation of Aras Innovator as a PaaS, coping with changes in the business environment, while reducing their system costs.

Professor Dr. –Ing. Martin Eigner, an internationally recognized expert in PLM and model-based systems engineering (MBSE) from the University of Kaiserslautern, will provide a keynote titled "Model-Based Systems Engineering with Aras Innovator". Professor Eigner's presentation explains the growing importance of MBSE across the lifecycle phases of complex products and services.

The conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to discuss how resilient PLM technology can help companies continuously evolve their business in fast-changing markets.

ACE 2015 Japan

Date: 2-3 September 2015

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Location: Roppongi Academy Hills | Tokyo, Japan

Cost: Free to Attend – No Fee (Space is Limited – Registration Required)

Details & Registration: www.aras.jp/ACE2015Japan

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

SAi to Show Engraving and Texturizing Software at AWFS 2015

01 July 2015

Wood engraving software manufacturer SA International (SAi), the leading provider of software solutions for the professional sign making, wide-format digital printing and CAD/CAM for CNC machining industries, will use this year's AWFS Fair 2015 (22-25 July, Las Vegas Convention Center) to educate audiences about the wide-ranging benefits of its industry-leading EnRoute CAD/CAM software.

The feature-rich EnRoute provides CAD/CAM design and output solutions for CNC wood working users, as well as those within the sign making, mill working, and nested-based manufacturing and fabrication industries.

On show at SAi's booth (#8915), AWFS Fair visitors will be able to get an up-close look at the many creative manufacturing applications achievable with SAi's flagship software solution and learn how the very latest version, EnRoute v5, can help improve their woodworking operations.

During the AWFS Fair, SAi product experts will demonstrate how EnRoute can increase production, thanks to ATP connection to more than 20 cabinet design software solutions, as well as production tools like associative toolpathing and advanced true shape nesting.

Similarly, SAi will explain how EnRoute can deliver profit-enhancing potential via applications for the creation of textured wall panels, 2D and 3D millwork, cabinet and commercial/architectural signage manufacture, as well as 3D engraving and 3D texturing and surfacing.

Five levels of EnRoute software offer users the ability to drive CNC plasma, waterjet and laser cutting machines as well as routers, and enables woodworkers to expand into new markets while still using familiar software.

During the AWFS Fair, SAi will deliver live demonstrations of EnRoute, which will run every 45 minutes at the booth. These informative sessions will offer an invaluable close-up look at the broad attributes of the software and provide useful tips and techniques for users to maximize its capabilities within their businesses.

Visitors seeking show specials can take advantage of EnRoute's "PROMotion," running from the start of the show on July 22nd through August 31st. Within that timeframe, all purchases of EnRoute Pro 5 will get a free EnRoute Pro Designer 5 license. The design-only license of EnRoute enhances shop productivity by adding an additional graphic design station that can send jobs directly to EnRoute Pro 5.

"EnRoute has earned itself a reputation as one of the foremost CNC router software solutions available and is widely acknowledged for its ease of use, intuitive creative tools and accurate toolpathing to meet limitless carving and engraving needs," says EJ Nodurft, EnRoute Product Director, SAi. "For any business owner, design professional or craftsman seeking to explore new revenue-generating opportunities and lower production costs, a visit to SAi's booth at the AWFS Fair is a must," he

concludes.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Implementation Investments

Airbus and Aras Sign Strategic Partner Agreement to Use Aras Innovator for Enterprise-Wide

Airbus and Aras Sign Strategic Partner Agreement to Use Aras Innovator for Enterprise-Wide Engineering Business Processes Beyond 30,000 Users

30 June 2015

Aras today announced a strategic partner agreement with Airbus to use the Aras Innovator platform and solution suite for engineering business processes across the enterprise for up to 30,000 users or more. Several PLM Platforms were evaluated by Airbus for the ability to enable simple, agile solution delivery, and Aras was retained as the preferred platform based on:

- Significant coverage of expected scope
- Open architecture with high-end data modeling “on the fly”, no development involved
- Upgrade services for customizations included as part of subscription
- Easy integration & handling
- Long term viability and total cost of ownership

Out-of-the-box functional requirements included data & document management, lifecycle management, change management, project management and access rights management for security. IS architecture requirements included deployability, connectors, migration & data loading, and support, along with back-end & front-end IT capabilities.

“Our success with the deployment of Test Information Management for aircraft end-to-end across the structural test pyramid in multi-site operation including our extended enterprise proved the viability of Aras for complex engineering business processes,” said Anders Romare, Vice President, Engineering Solutions at Airbus. “The unique SaaS subscription business model of Aras which eliminates up-front license costs and includes system upgrades with customizations is also quite compelling.”

“We are pleased to partner with Airbus for the enablement of global engineering business processes,” said Peter Schroer, CEO of Aras. “Our resilient platform architecture is specifically designed to provide the scalable, flexible and upgradable requirements of enterprises with highly complex scenarios like Airbus.”

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

CACI to deliver modelling and analysis support for US Navy

29 June 2015

CACI International has received task order to deliver modelling and analysis support services for the US Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SSC) Atlantic business portfolios.

The four-year \$59.8m contract has been awarded under the indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

multiple-award SPAWAR Pillar Business and Force Support contract vehicle.

Under the contract CACI will continue supporting SSC Atlantic in developing, implementing, and training users in the maintenance figure of merit (MFOM) programme.

The programme allows the navy to analyse the impact of ship maintenance tasks on mission readiness.

CACI COO and president of US operations John Mengucci said: "Drawing from our deep experience supporting the various legacy systems that feed and / or interface with the Maintenance Figure of Merit programme, CACI is leveraging our world-class modelling and simulation capabilities to aid the navy in most effectively applying ship maintenance resources."

CACI will support the navy in decision-making before investing time and money by providing solutions to simulate the impacts of maintenance operations.

Recently, CACI secured a \$32m contract to deliver engineering and technical support to the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane Division's electro-optic (EO) technology unit.

Under this five-year contract, CACI will be responsible for supporting the electro-optic technology division, part of NSWC Crane's special warfare and expeditionary systems department.

The company currently offers information solutions and services to support national security missions and government transformation for intelligence, defence, and federal civilian customers.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Lectra 3D virtual prototyping crafts advantage for Zannier

03 July 2015

Lectra's 3D virtual prototyping solution has crafted Zannier, a French fashion brand, a great advantage in terms of future planning and control and become an essential tool for mastering fit, a major issue in childrenswear.

Zannier produces over 55 million pieces for their 19 brands and 5 prestigious brand licenses, sold at over 1,300 of their own stores and 10,000 points of sale worldwide. "With 80 per cent of garments sold outside France, Zannier is a proud ambassador of French high quality fashion on the world stage," Lectra said in a press release.

Zannier faced multiple challenges as not only is this market sector dynamic and growing, but it is also subject to very specific constraints and demands.

Zannier Group's Lyon-based Dauphitex site houses design, product development and pattern making for iconic licenses Junior Gaultier and Paul Smith Kids.

According to Lectra, the prestige of these brands means that the mainstays of childrenswear, fit, security, comfort and value need to be combined with a creativity and originality that evokes aesthetics. The challenge, according to Lectra, was to fulfill requirements of this very particular market segment while continuing to innovate and meet the demands of both children and those who purchase on their behalf.

Lectra's 3D virtual prototyping allowed Zannier designers and pattern makers to communicate in a new way, which meant the creative process was enhanced, while team collaboration has been streamlined.

"Lectra's 3D product development solution is the central vector in Zannier's communication between departments," says Pascale Bouyeure, head of the product development office.

"It allows us to visualise each stage of the creative process well in advance," Bouyeure added by saying. Lectra too added by saying that its pattern making solution has been developed to meet industry

demands for shorter lead times, perfect fit and streamlined development.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Mondetta Selects BlueCherry(R) PLM to Achieve Product Lifecycle Efficiency and Keep Pace With Changing Manufacturing Landscape

29 June 2015

CGS today announced that [Mondetta](#), a Canadian casual and sportswear design and manufacturing company, selected [BlueCherry® PLM](#). The solution will provide Mondetta with a comprehensive set of tools to manage its product lifecycle from concept-to-consumer.

After several years of developing and investing in its own PLM system, Mondetta realized it needed a solution that could keep up with the fast-changing range of capabilities of PLM software used within its market. After a thorough search, Mondetta selected BlueCherry PLM as it encompassed the latest technology and broad functionality backed by a strategic partner with a business platform for long-term success. The BlueCherry PLM will help Mondetta develop new products quickly and cost effectively by utilizing collaboration tools that enable seamless work with agents and overseas vendors in real-time.

"After a comprehensive evaluation of the market's PLM offerings, we saw BlueCherry PLM as the most innovative, integrated and trusted solution in the industry," said Prashant Modha, chief financial officer, Mondetta. "In the apparel manufacturing landscape, it's essential to keep pace with the latest technology. CGS's solution enables us to improve our product lifecycle management as we continue to provide our customers with the superior style and quality they expect from our products."

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

SHEEX Selects CGS's BlueCherry Enterprise Suite to Support In-House Transition of Its Wholesale Business

02 July 2015

CGS today announced that SHEEX Inc., a manufacturer of luxury performance bedding, selected its [BlueCherry® Enterprise Suite](#) to bring wholesale production in-house and support business growth.

After deciding to take its wholesale business in-house, SHEEX sought a solution to replace time-consuming manual processes with a standardized platform. To achieve transparency of data across the enterprise and make more informed decisions, SHEEX selected the BlueCherry Enterprise Suite of solutions. The customized platform includes enterprise resource planning, product lifecycle management, electronic data interchange, and B2B eCommerce, among a range of other capabilities. CGS's BlueCherry solutions will arm SHEEX with the scalable tools needed to grow, focusing on product development and streamlining the management of program tasks, samples and timelines.

"When we elected to bring our wholesale business in-house, we knew we wanted a solution that was focused on our brand. After looking at a variety of systems we ultimately determined that BlueCherry fit our needs," said Cindy DiPietrantonio, president, SHEEX, Inc. "In our industry, it's imperative to have the tools to make informed business decisions and grow our omnichannel presence while achieving scalability, supreme performance and flexibility. Our configurable BlueCherry Enterprise Suite provides all this and more."

"At CGS, we understand the importance of using the right tools to grow your business successfully.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

BlueCherry Enterprise Suite is arming today's consumer lifestyle product companies with everything they need for success," said Paul Magel, president of Business Applications and Technology Outsourcing Division at CGS. "We are excited to welcome SHEEX to our BlueCherry community as the brand grows in a fast paced consumer market by becoming a more efficient and effective operation."

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

TG Missouri Selects aPriori for Product Cost Management

30 June 2015

[aPriori](#) has been selected by TG Missouri Corporation, a leading automotive parts manufacturer based in Perryville, Missouri. The company, which manufactures steering wheels, airbags, side molding and plastic trim components to enhance vehicle comfort, appearance and safety, will use the software to identify and prioritize cost savings opportunities, set cost standards for material, labor and machining, and reduce costs at the product design stage.

[TG Missouri](#) will deploy the aPriori platform in conjunction with its Cost Accounting group to prioritize cost reduction opportunities in tooling, optimize manufacturing routings and reduce the cost of piece parts and product assemblies.

“At TG Missouri, our goal is to attain best costs first by ensuring quality in the initial process and eliminating quality problems at each subsequent process,” said Mike Pyle, General Manager of Engineering at TG Missouri. “Using aPriori, we will expand on this by identifying and eliminating unnecessary product costs in design - before they get built into the product. This benefits our customers in the automotive industry as well as their end-user customers.”

The [aPriori product cost management platform](#) is designed to provide real-time cost information on parts and complete products. The software leverages CAD and intelligent cost models to quickly determine feasible manufacturing methods and product costs while generating detailed manufacturing analysis and cost estimates that quantify the impact of changes to product design, materials, manufacturing processes, volumes and location in real time. aPriori also enables manufacturers to leverage product cost data hosted in other enterprise applications to communicate product cost information between all functional organizations involved in product definition and delivery. This includes the import of complex engineering Bills of Materials (BOMs) from ERP, PLM and other enterprise applications. aPriori also incorporates enterprise quality business intelligence capabilities that provide intuitive, role-based insights for design, engineering, manufacturing, value-engineering and sourcing executives and managers.

“TG Missouri has built its success on delivering products of exceptional quality and value for its customers in the automotive industry,” said Stephanie Feraday, president and CEO of aPriori. “Our software platform gives the company the ability to build on that advantage by focusing their cost management efforts on the best opportunities while investing additional time and resources into product innovation.”

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

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 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

VISI Key For Toolmaker Expansion

30 June 2015

Using the VISI suite of CAD/CAM applications from Vero Software significantly reduces the overall costs of each project for a German toolmaker, and makes it easier to implement ideas.

Based in Velbert, Volker Gehlen Werkzeugbau GmbH have a 30 year history of providing innovative solutions for challenging requirements in stamping and forming technology. They are going from strength to strength, with the acquisition of a stamped component manufacturing company, acquiring new machines, and the addition of new products to their range.

Managing Director Volker Gehlen says a vital factor in their success has been upgrading all CAD/CAM operations to VISI's integrated 3D tool making solution. It was the software's consistent operating philosophy for CAD and CAM that initially made it a front-runner when they were looking to change. "We made the final decision after a trial installation and training from VISI's German reseller Mecadat AG. VISI proved to be so easy to operate, and can be used so intuitively that it was giving us a high level of efficiency after only a few days."

The company's turnkey solutions to customers throughout Europe include technological advice, prototype construction, and tried and tested full suites of tools. And he says VISI software helps them stay at the top of their game. "We've invested heavily in CAD/CAM and use VISI exclusively to design our tools. We can't imagine doing it any other way now."

Three designers each have a workstation equipped with VISI Modelling, and the stamping die module VISI Progress for strip layout and 3D tool construction. Lukas Gehlen, who is in charge of design and production, says: "The hybrid modelling combines a Parasolid kernel with surface modelling, giving us

a faster and more flexible workflow that can handle any geometry type.”

Two additional workstations feature VISI Modelling and 3D Machining to provide NC programs for the company’s four Hurco and DMU CNC milling machines.

A more recent acquisition is the VISI PEPS licence to support the generation of NC programs for three state-of-the-art Sodick wire eroders – one of which is the AQ 1200 L, able to process metal more than four-and-a-half feet wide, weighing up to four tons.

Other software modules include VISI Compass for manufacturing automation, which uses preset processing definitions to create automatic NC programs for feature based drilling, milling and wire erosion geometries. Finally, the shop floor runs VISI Viewer for checking CAD models in a paperless environment to verify where each component fits.

However, he says they offer much more than just high quality tools. “We support our customers from the original idea right through to the finished product. And VISI plays a key role at the start of that process, by helping us carry out a feasibility study and 3D evaluation to confirm in the early stages that the parts will function correctly.”

VISI is also used to edit 3D CAD data supplied by customers, which is then transferred to their ProJet HD3500 3D printer. This produces fully functioning acrylate components up to 300mm, hardened by UV light, for prototypes and pre-series parts. “We can print entire assemblies, including moving parts, with a maximum size deviation of 0.2 per cent, at a thickness of 10 µ. If a pre-series is ordered, we 3D print it first, so the customer can test it in terms of size, form and function. Then we supply the first 50 metal parts, so the client is able to fully test the form and fit during the development stage without having to pay for costly prototype tools and modifications.”

Their traditional tool making and stamped part production has also been strengthened with the purchase of a 200-ton press. The high-tech machine has a servo drive giving a flexible adaptation of the ram speed and acceleration, producing 60 per cent more parts in the same time, while still saving power.

“We can test and optimise the newly developed tools under totally realistic production conditions, providing the customer with a tool that can be used immediately.”

Lucas Gehlen concludes: “Overall, we use VISI to design and produce our tools much more efficiently, and we are able to react much more flexibly to customer requirements.” He says being able to seamlessly import data into the core VISI Modeller means there are no problems with customers’ files, which saves a tremendous amount of time compared to how long projects used to take. “VISI makes it significantly easier for us to implement ideas; and as tool optimisations can be made much quicker, this significantly reduces the overall cost of projects for our clients.”

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Product News

Alphacam Exploits Full PC Potential With 64-Bit Support

29 June 2015

The latest release of the game-changing Alphacam CAD/CAM software ensures that users can exploit the full power of their PC.

Alphacam 2015 R2 is 64-bit compatible, meaning its programs can utilise all the available memory.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

“With 32-bit computers only able to work with 2GB, irrespective of how much memory is onboard, some large files are extremely difficult to work with,” says Alphacam Technical Manager Paul Green. “We gave a high priority to this development, as it means end users can now process large files without any issues arising.”

Amongst the full array of new and enhanced functionality in Alphacam 2015 R2:

The GUI includes a new fully customisable radial menu. “It means users can set up as few or as many commands as they need.”

For Advanced 5-Axis Machining, while the previous release of Alphacam introduced surface machining, considerable enhancements in 2015 R2 give many more advanced options, including wire frame machining for effective trimming, and multi-axis roughing which allows roughing to the actual contour, removing any unnecessary fresh-air machining. Side Wall Axial Relief Feed (SWARF) machining reduces 5-axis cycle times and gives a better surface finish through effective side-of-tool machining. The strategy is to finish the part in one cut, through constant cutting conditions giving increased material removal and a constant low cutting force, along with simultaneous 5-axis vector orientation providing full access to machining areas.

Enhanced Feature Extraction makes it easier to find features on orthogonal panel faces. “There is now the option of finding holes and contours on any panel face at the same time, speeding up panel processing.”

Another major aspect of new functionality has been added to Part Management, with full associativity between a part and its copy. Whenever an original part is amended on Alphacam 2015 R2, there is the option to automatically update the copy.

Improved on-screen realism is achieved through Rendered Z-Level Geometries and Material Textures. “By rendering Z-level parts we’re making them visually clearer to the user,” says Paul Green. “And users can now apply any texture, whether it be metal, wood, granite, plastic or composite, so that it looks on-screen how it will look on the machine. Rendered clamps and fixtures can also be shown on a full machine configuration.”

A command in the Rough Finish cycle – Previous Tool Profile – automatically uses the profile of the previous tool to generate the new tool path to machine corners where form and shaped tools have left material there.

A new function in Nesting now identifies parts by name, rather than number as in previous releases. “As well as the part names showing in the nest on-screen, they also appear in reports. It helps to make information more relevant – users can see at a glance which part is on a nested sheet.”

Solidworks Assembly Support considerably speeds up processing. While Alphacam has been able to import Solidworks files of individual parts for many years, one click now brings in a full assembly file containing all the parts.

Subtle changes to Part Modeler give higher quality image previews, along with commands for part manipulation including rotation around a specific point or axes, and zoom to a cursor.

Part of the Vero Software Group, Alphacam is a leading CAM solution providing productivity, reliability and flexibility. Vero has direct offices in the UK, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, USA, Brazil, Netherlands, China, South Korea, Spain and India supplying products to more than 45 countries through its wholly owned subsidiaries and reseller network.

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ARI Network Services Announces Integration with Dassault Systemes SOLIDWORKS Composer

01 July 2015

ARI Network Services, Inc. announced today the release of DataManager® Import Utility, developed by ARI under the SOLIDWORKS® Partner Program. Dassault Systèmes SOLIDWORKS Corporation is a leading provider of enterprise manufacturing engineering and design systems.

DataManager Import Utility streamlines the manufacturer's publishing process by seamlessly importing SOLIDWORKS® Composer™ files directly into ARI's catalog and data management application, DataManager®.

- Highlights of DataManager Import Utility include:
- Extraction of image, parts list and hot spots from a CAD file export in a single pass to create Illustrated Parts Lists.
- Elimination of time-consuming manual data manipulation with very high accuracy and zero keying.

Native SOLIDWORKS Composer SVG file support.

Flexible architecture that allows for support of additional CAD vendor files.

"Historically, the publishing process has been a very time-consuming, labor-intensive task. Using ARI's DataManager Import Utility, the time it takes for a manufacturer to publish a full illustrated parts list drops to under a minute – a reduction of 85%," said Brad Smith, ARI Vice President of Product Management. "That not only means a dramatic savings in time for the manufacturer, but translates into dealers and consumers having access to up-to-date, accurate information faster, resulting in a better customer experience."

DataManager is used by leading manufacturers to author enriched, world-class repair, service and marketing content for use in dealer and consumer-facing applications in ARI's ecosystem including PartSmart Web®, PartSmart®, PartStream® and DataSmart®.

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CCE Enhances its PTC Creo® and SOLIDWORKS ODX Libraries

01 July 2015

CCE has released updates of its Open Data Exchange (ODX) libraries.

“SOLIDWORKS and Creo are some of the most widely used CAD design tools in the manufacturing supply chain. Ability to do fast iterative design is extremely important to suppliers of large OEMs. CCE’s updated ODX libraries feature improvements in identifying and translating persistent data information, thus reducing the time required to update the modified designs,” said Vinay Wagle, CCE’s VP of Sales & Marketing.

CCE’s SOLIDWORKS and PTC Creo® ODX libraries have had an array of improvements in the most recent release, which include:

ODX/SW (Read & Write)

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Attributes support has been improved by providing face names (in reader) and writing visibility status for user-defined references planes (in writer).

Assembly persistence information has been enhanced by providing instance persistent IDs.

ODX/Pro (Read)

Persistence information support has been enhanced by providing document persistent IDs.

Assembly features support has been improved by providing access to entity geometry definition and surface visualization properties in assembly context.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Datakit releases the version 2015.3 of its CAD data exchange tools

30 June 2015

Datakit releases the version 2015.3 of its CAD formats reading and writing interfaces.

This version offers several new features:

- The Siemens™ NX™ format writing is now available.
- The writing of SOLIDWORKS™ and COLLADA™ formats and the reading of SOLID EDGE™ 2D format have been added to CrossCad/Ware SDK, enabling software vendors to support these formats in their own software.
- The latest versions Inventor™ 2016 and CATIA™ V6R2014x are now supported.

These improvements benefit to:

- Components provided by Datakit to software vendors ([CrossCad/Ware](#)), enabling them to support many CAD formats in their own software.
- The stand-alone converter [CrossManager](#), enabling users to convert their CAD files very easily and quickly in dozens of different CAD formats without requiring any third-party software license.
- [CrossCad/Plg](#) (regarding the support of new versions): These plug-ins add functionalities to CAD software such as Rhino™, SolidWorks™, ThinkDesign™ and Open CASCADE™, to import or export formats that are not natively supported.

About Datakit

Datakit is a privately held and leading company founded in 1994, specialized in CAD data exchange solutions and services. It offers standalone converters, plug-ins and SDK that import, analyze and export a large number of CAD formats. Datakit exposes a wide range of geometrical and semantic data (assemblies, annotations, metadata, PMI...) through its varied range of products. It also provides support services for the migration of CAD databases to help customers choose the best data transfer solutions. It works closely together with independent software vendors that currently integrate its CAD data exchange solutions to their own software.

For more information, please visit us at www.datakit.com.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

ModuleWorks offer Simulation for Hybrid Manufacturing applications

02 July 2015

ModuleWorks announced the availability of Simulation for hybrid additive/subtractive manufacturing applications.

Additive manufacturing builds a part from a powdered material as opposed to the traditional subtractive process where material is removed to create the final part. Although still relatively new, the technology has seen significant growth and is now seen in many walks of manufacturing. Machine Tool companies have reacted by producing a new generation of machine tools that combine additive and subtractive technologies in a hybrid approach. Typically the part is built using additive technology and then finished using subtractive machining techniques.

ModuleWorks Simulation, which is found in many of the leading CAD/CAM products and also on many machine tool controls now offers the ability to simulate the additive process and combines it with the subtractive process to provide complete simulation of the manufacturing process. Full stock material addition and removal is provided along with full kinematic machine simulation.

David Plater, Technical Director for ModuleWorks, comments “We’ve seen an increasing number of requests for simulation for the additive manufacturing process from our partners and prospects around the world, so we have engineered our simulation technology to offer this capability. We’re now able to produce a realistic hybrid simulation and the results have been well received by our partners”.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

New Release of Tecplot Chorus Now Available

02 July 2015

Tecplot, Inc. today announced the general availability of Tecplot Chorus 2015 Release 2. The most notable functionality enhancements in the new release include constraint visualization, selected-cases view, and license roaming.

Constraint visualization has been added to 2D scatter plots to aid in trade studies. It allows engineers to quickly see which points in their design space are close to the constraint boundaries. With this information engineers may be willing to relax a constraint to achieve a lighter, stronger, or more efficient design.

The selected-cases view lets engineers quickly see which cases are selected in each view so they can make quick comparisons of selected points. No longer will users have to scroll through hundreds or thousands of cases in the Table View to see the few cases of interest.

With the new license-roaming feature, users can now roam with a network license, allowing them to use Tecplot Chorus for a period of time while traveling or working from home, even without access to the license server.

“As with all of our product releases, the new features contained in Tecplot Chorus 2015 Release 2 are the direct result of customer feedback,” Tecplot Product Manager Scott Fowler said. “Customers are our best R&D resource because they know, precisely, what they need to be more efficient and productive at work.”

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)

Zuken Releases Latest E3.series

30 June 2015

Zuken announces improved overall productivity for electrical design, plus sector-specific enhancements for automotive and manufacturing. The latest version of E3.series – Zuken’s industry-leading electrical and fluid CAD software – contains enhanced automotive design collaboration with E3.HarnessAnalyzer; ease-of-use improvements for design changes in the machinery sector; plus across-the-board productivity enhancements.

E3.series benefits from years of development and collaboration across a wide range of sectors with customers such as ARM Automation, which designs, builds and supports custom automated manufacturing systems.

“The intelligence contained in the database of E3.series has helped reduce design time to about one-third of that required in the past. These time savings have made it possible for us to bid on more complex systems without concern that the electrical design could not be completed within the project deadline,” says Joe Geisinger, Chief Technology Officer, ARM Automation.

Increased productivity with improved handling

The growing number of options and variants offered for the automotive, industrial machinery and equipment sectors in particular means that additional management functions are necessary for schematics. E3.series is widely adopted across a broad range of industry sectors that need to handle options and variants both on authoring level, and as part of a larger data and workflow management system. On the authoring side, new E3.series functions that allow options to be sorted in ascending or descending order, as well as grouped by option packages and configurations, are welcome productivity improvements. Structuring the variant/option tree by arranging options below folders with user-defined names enables the user to assign, re-assign, find and structure options according to their intended use.

Other productivity benefits include:

Automatic signal name generation based on the sheet and grid location, and the attributes of the device pin.

Improvements in core management – defining and changing core connections is easily accomplished by selecting source and destination pins, saving a large amount of time when re-assigning core connections.

New cabling tables simplify editing cable connections and identifying unconnected or partially connected cable connections. Manufacturing information can be directly assigned to the cables.

Improved connectivity is available between E3.series and E3.HarnessAnalyzer, a powerful new collaboration tool for viewing and analyzing harness drawings in the HCV (harness container for vehicles) data format, a widely used standard in the automotive supply chain. The graphical view and the physical data model reflected in various tables are now linked together. The whole harness can be analyzed and checked for bundle size, wire routing, used components, option assignment, weight and cost.

Other enhancements include automatic pin terminal functionality in E3.cable and E3.formboard. Connector pin terminal symbols represented in a cable or formboard drawing are switched automatically when exchanging a component or updating in the project.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Transparency and visibility in 3D with E3.panel

New transparency functionality makes working with complex 3D assemblies much easier. With a single mouse click objects can be made transparent or invisible, so walls or components can be faded out when, for example, multi-level cabinets are designed.

In E3.panel, 3D designs can be used to create 2D manufacturing drawings of every side of the cabinet. The 2D projection of the 3D design is created as an intelligent view. All modifications made in the 2D projection are reflected automatically in 3D, and vice versa.

Comprehensive manufacturing support

Finished designs in E.series contain all the necessary manufacturing information to build a cabinet or wire harness. In E3.series 2015 standard manufacturing outputs have been improved. The interfaces to strip, cut and mark machines (e.g. Komax) and to drilling and milling machines now contain additional information, such as data outputs for automatic bundling and labeling of wires, as well as the wire-end treatment.

 [Click here to return to Contents](#)