PLM Industry Summary

Editor: Christine Bennett
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Acquisitions

Open Text Acquires Government Solutions Specialist Momentum Systems

2 March 2007

Open Text™ Corporation announced the acquisition of Momentum Systems, Inc., a privately held company that specializes in providing complex ECM solutions to U.S. government agencies. With the acquisition, Open Text expands its solutions expertise in the U.S. government market.

Open Text purchased Momentum Systems for $4 million, net of cash and liquid assets. The agreement was completed with an effective date of March 1, 2007. It is currently anticipated that the financial terms and future impact of this agreement will not have a material effect on future financial results of Open Text.

Established in 1993 and based in Arlington, Virginia, Momentum Systems has been a leading Open Text Global Alliance Partner in the U.S. government sector for more than 12 years. With an experienced staff of about 50 people located primarily in the Washington D.C. area, Momentum has had a successful track record of implementing and supporting Livelink ECM solutions across all levels of government, including at some of the U.S.'s largest federal agencies. The acquisition will not result in any material change to staff levels at either Momentum or at Open Text.

For more information on Momentum Systems, go to: http://www.momentumsystems.com/

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Company News

EMC Announces Executive Management Appointments

5 March 2007

EMC Corporation announced that Vice Chairman Bill Teuber will expand his responsibilities to include leadership of the company's Customer Operations, its worldwide sales and distribution organization. Teuber assists EMC Chairman, President and CEO Joe Tucci in the day-to-day management of EMC, and he formerly served as EMC's Chief Financial Officer for nearly 10 years before being named Vice Chairman in May 2006.

EMC also announced today that Bill Scannell, a 20-year EMC veteran who heads up sales for the Americas, has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Global Sales Programs in addition to heading up sales for the Americas. Scannell will report to Teuber, as will Rainer Erlat, EMC President of Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Steve Leonard, EMC President of Asia Pacific and Japan. Additionally, Senior Vice Presidents Mike DeCesare and Balaji Yelamanchili have been named co-General Managers for EMC's Content Management and Archive business reporting directly to Joe Tucci. Yelamanchili is responsible for product management and development, and DeCesare is responsible for field operations.

Today's appointments were made in advance of the departure of David DeWalt, Executive Vice President and President, Customer Operations and Content Management and Archive, who is expected to accept an opportunity as CEO of a company that does not compete with EMC.

Tucci said, "We have built one of the deepest senior executive teams in the IT business, as evidenced by these management appointments today. Bill Teuber is extremely well prepared to assume leadership of our worldwide sales and distribution organization and already spends nearly half of his time with EMC customers. Collectively, this group forms a powerful team with a long track record of proven success. David's departure is very amicable. We thank him for his contributions over the past three years and wish him well.

"EMC has great momentum going into 2007, and we are well positioned for an excellent year," continued Tucci. "In addition, as reported, we have set in motion a process to unlock for our shareholders more of the value of VMware, an EMC company that is one of the fastest-growing businesses in the history of the software industry, through a planned initial public offering later this year."

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IFS and NEC Strengthen Alliance by Signing Reseller Agreement in North America

5 March 2007

IFS announced that it has signed a reseller agreement for the North American market with strategic business partner NEC Corporation of America (NEC), a premier provider of IT, network, storage, and storage software solutions. The agreement will enable NEC to sell IFS' component-based enterprise software suite, IFS Applications™ 7, in North America. It also will allow both companies to work collaboratively to better serve the growing number of North American subsidiaries of Japanese companies.

NEC just completed a process improvement consulting project together with IFS for Funai Corp., Inc., Torrance, California. This project included moving Funai to a recent version of IFS Applications and the purchase of additional IFS user licenses to accommodate Funai's growth in North America. The result will enable Funai to take advantage of IFS' latest industry-specific functionality for the high-tech industry and realize the benefits of the latest technologies. Funai has been an IFS customer since 1999 and uses the software to support a multisite distribution and product return processing operation.

Funai Corp. is the North American sales and marketing company for consumer electronic products manufactured by its parent company, Funai Electric Co., Ltd., of Japan. Funai Corp. sells its products through major North American retailers under the brand names Sylvania, Symphonic, Emerson, and Funai.

"Automobile and high-tech manufacturers throughout the Asia Pacific region continue to expand their presence in North America, bringing suppliers with them," said Masaru Otake, Director of the Manufacturing Solutions Group for NEC Corporation of America. "To run these new plants, they are looking for a modern, agile enterprise software solution, based on the latest technology, that will help them better manage the supply chain from top to bottom. Our partnership with IFS, which has been further strengthened by the signing of the reseller agreement, puts us in an excellent position to support these companies."

"Expanding our current relationship is a win-win for IFS and NEC because it enables us to better serve Japanese-owned companies and their suppliers in North America," said David Eager, Director of Strategic Alliances for IFS North America. "At the same time, we can better meet the needs of Japanese subsidiaries of North American companies. One important result of our collaboration with NEC has been the incorporation of a variety of Japanese business concepts, such as Kanban enhancements and better support for lean processes, into IFS Applications 7."

IFS' longstanding global partnership with NEC has resulted in a variety of IFS Applications implementations, many of them in the Japanese manufacturing sector. In 2004, IFS and NEC extended the partnership to Southeast Asia, China, and other countries, with a strong focus on the automotive industry.

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Synergis Engineering Design Solutions Deepens Its Manufacturing Solutions Investment for Customers

7 March 2007

Already a leading Autodesk Premier Solutions Provider for Manufacturing Solutions in the Mid-Atlantic region for more than 20 years, the Synergis Engineering Design Solutions division of Synergis Technologies, Inc. announced that it is continuing to build its Manufacturing Solutions team and communities as well as invest more resources toward helping customers in this industry achieve their business objectives.

Manufacturing Solutions Team Expands

With more than 15 years in the industry and five years with the company, Jennifer Zavacky was recently promoted to Director of Sales & Marketing for the Manufacturing Solutions Team. Zavacky oversees five Regional Account Managers and three supporting Sales Partners. The Technical team, under the direction of Mark Mahovich, recently added two dedicated resources -- one will focus solely on implementation services of manufacturing solutions specializing in the Autodesk Data Management applications and the other will focus exclusively on AutoCAD Electrical support, training and implementation. The company plans to hire three additional Solutions Engineers to bring the total to 10 professionals.

Synergis EDS has an outstanding track record for building strong customer relationships. "Our Synergis Account Manager truly cares about our business and works with us one-on-one to understand our needs and goals," said John Sammaritano, CAD Manager, OPEX Corporation, a global technology leader in high-speed digital mailroom automation and document image capture solutions. "As a trusted advisor and liaison, she goes to work with Autodesk on our behalf to meet and, many times, exceed our expectations. She actively stays involved in our business, keeping us up-to-date on promotions, processes and trends that continue to help us be leaders in our industry."

Building a Deeper Connection among its Manufacturing Community

Synergis Engineering Design Solutions division is continuing to build its manufacturing community by expanding the number of user groups it sponsors including the Cumberland Valley (Waynesboro, PA) and Philadelphia Manufacturing User Groups (MUGs), with the help of Autodesk User Group International (AUGI). This brings the total number of supported manufacturing specific user groups to five. Other sponsored groups include the Lehigh Valley, South Jersey and York Manufacturing User Groups. Synergis recently partnered with AUGI to bring a Manufacturing User Conference to Bethlehem, PA, and will continue to work closely with AUGI to bring valuable workshops to the manufacturing user community. In addition to sponsoring user groups, Synergis offers its customers Professional Learning and Consulting as well as community building activities.

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Events News

CGTech to Show VERICUT 6.1 at EASTEC

9 March 2007

CGTech will exhibit the latest version of VERICUT CNC machine simulation and optimization software at the EASTEC SME show:

EASTEC Booth 5340 Springfield, MA May 22-24

"VERICUT 6.1 has many new features designed to streamline the NC program verification and simulation process," said Bill Hasenjaeger, Product Marketing Manager. "With this release, NC programmers now have more tools to analyze their CNC machining process. We're always listening to the feedback from our customers and as a result, features have been added that give the end user even more control of the virtual machining environment before, during, and after the simulation. For example, when in Review Mode, users now have the option of adding material back to the cut stock when stepping back."

VERICUT is CNC machine simulation, verification and optimization software that enables users to eliminate the process of manually proving-out NC programs. It reduces scrap loss and rework. The program also optimizes NC programs in order to both save time and produce higher quality surface finish. VERICUT simulates all types of CNC machine tools, including those from leading manufacturers such as Mazak, Makino, Matsuura, Hermle, DMG, DIXI, Mori Seiki and Chiron. VERICUT runs standalone, but can also be integrated with leading CAM systems such as Catia V5, Unigraphics, Pro/E, MasterCAM and EdgeCAM.

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Delcam's FeatureCAM and PartMaker to Debut in Taiwan at TIMTOS

5 March 2007

Delcam Taiwan will exhibit the FeatureCAM and PartMaker CAM systems in Taiwan for the first time on booth H405 at the TIMTOS exhibition to be held in Taipei from 12th to 17th March. The company will also demonstrate the latest versions of Delcam's established CADCAM products, including the PowerSHAPE CAD software, the PowerMILL CAM system and the ArtCAM program for engraving and routing. Live machining demonstrations will be shown on a number of machine tool stands, including three-axis and five-axis machining with PowerMILL, turn/mill operations with FeatureCAM, and On-Machine Verification using PowerINSPECT.

FeatureCAM's feature-based technology shortens programming time and makes CADCAM easier to learn by defining parts in the same way that machinists describe them. The software's knowledge-based technology manages manufacturing more efficiently, by combining the power of automation with precise control over machining strategies. At the same time, automatic feature recognition accelerates the design-to-machining process by intelligently and automatically extracting part information from imported CAD files.

The FeatureCAM range provides a complete solution for production machining with a broad range of data importing options and an extensive library of post processors. The software also offers the ability to

create custom posts and edit existing ones, feed rate optimisation, a powerful API for macro creation and program customizations, job quoting documentation, and an integrated 3D simulation package.

PartMaker is a global leading software for the programming of multi-axis lathes with live tooling and CNC Swiss-type lathes. The system uses a unique "divide and conquer" approach to manufacturing in which complex parts are broken down into individual sections that can be programmed quickly and easily.

PartMaker is also a knowledge-based CAM system, allowing it to provide substantial gains in programming efficiency by remembering the tools, material and process information necessary to machine individual part features. PartMaker thus relieves the user from the need to re-enter the same feature information for subsequent parts. It also improves productivity by simplifying the synchronisation of the various turning and milling operations, including allowing the simultaneous use of multiple tools on suitable equipment.

PartMaker pioneered a Visual Programming Approach for programming multi-axis lathes with live tooling, a system for which the company holds two U.S. patents. It makes extensive use of pictures to help the user describe tools, part features and machining data, and so is easy to learn and quick to use.

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Delcam to Demonstrate Complete CADCAM System for Footwear at SIMAC

7 March 2007

Delcam will demonstrate a complete CADCAM system for the design and manufacture of footwear at the SIMAC exhibition to be held in Bologna, Italy, from 17th to 20th April. The company will use this exhibition to reinforce its position as a global leading supplier of CADCAM solutions to footwear manufacturers.

The recent acquisition of the Crispin range of software for upper design and manufacture makes Delcam the only software developer able to supply a system for the complete footwear development process. With the Crispin software, designs of upper components can be created simply by sketching onto the surface of the last. The components can be defined in any colour and in a variety of textures representing different materials. Buckles, laces and other accessories can be added to complete the design.

Once the virtual 3D design has been approved, the upper components are flattened and engineered in 2D to produce sample or graded manufacturing patterns. Other programs in the Crispin suite can then be used to provide costings for upper materials and components, pallet and stitch path layouts, and for cutting 2D patterns or uppers from the chosen materials using knife, laser or water-jet cutting tools.

For sole design, Delcam’s unique Total Modelling CAD system allows logos, textures and other decorations to be incorporated into designs more readily to help reinforce branding of products. In addition, morphing options within the software make modification of complex designs much easier and

quicker, making it possible to create a greater selection of alternatives when presenting proposals for new designs.

Once the design has been completed, powerful grading options allow the complete range of sizes to be developed quickly and efficiently. Then Delcam's PowerMILL CAM system can be used to generate machining data for either models or moulds. A wide range of strategies is supported to enable quick, efficient machining and so give the fastest possible move into mass production. Finally, the PowerINSPECT inspection module allows prototypes, tooling and samples to be checked against the computer model to ensure that the designer's intent has been captured faithfully in the end product.

Using Delcam's software to automate routine procedures increases consistency and reduces the possibility of mistakes throughout the development process. In particular, accurate grading of last, sole, tread pattern and heel gives perfectly matched components, thus easing assembly and finishing operations, and reducing failures in use.

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Delcam to Demonstrate Mouldmaking Progress in PowerMILL CAM System

9 March 2007

Delcam will demonstrate the progress in its PowerMILL CAM system that has made it so popular with North American mouldmakers on Booth 1009 at the Moldmaking Expo to be held in Rosemont, Illinois, on 18th and 19th April.

PowerMILL first gained popularity some ten years ago as a stand-alone CAM system for shop floor programming. Its unique combination of an easy-to-use interface, fast calculation times, a wide range of machining strategies, and comprehensive gouge and collision checking made the software the system of choice for both machine operators and shop owners looking to increase productivity and improve quality.

Subsequent development by Delcam established PowerMILL a leader in high-speed machining. Additional functionality, including trochoidal machining, parametric offset machining and Delcam's patented Race Line machining, helped companies to achieve unprecedented machining speeds and greatly improved surface finish.

Now PowerMILL 5-Axis has been developed to allow fast, efficient programming of the most demanding machining applications. Options for both roughing and finishing include machining to or from a point, orientation through a line or curve, programming using a reference surface and swarf machining for either surface or wireframe geometry.

In addition, PowerMILL 5-Axis can generate a five-axis equivalent of any three-axis toolpath. This might be necessary when a three-axis approach is being used for most of a job but where some five-axis moves are needed to avoid an obstacle or to machine as closely as possible to a steep face. The software

automatically tilts the cutter away from the obstacle by the specified tolerance and then returns the cutting angle to the value set for the overall toolpath once the problem area has been cleared.

With more than 50% of the company's software sales going on research and development, plus an in-house toolroom to ensure all new functionality is thoroughly tested at Delcam before being released to customers, PowerMILL looks set to enjoy even greater popularity in the future.

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Delcam to Show Dental CADCAM at IDS Exhibition

8 March 2007

Delcam will highlight its recently acquired Dentmill and SwissCAM CAM systems for the medical and dental industries on stand A048 at the International Dental Show to be held in Cologne from 20th to 24th March. The company will also demonstrate its full range of CADCAM software for design, reverse engineering and inspection, and show how these can be used within the dental industry.

Dentmill is a stand-alone program based on Delcam's PowerMILL CAM system. It provides a knowledge-based machining process for caps, bridges and implant bridges in ceramics and titanium. The software can accept geometry from dental design software or from dental 3D scanners in most point cloud and triangulated data formats.

The Dentmill process begins by splitting the model into the areas to be machined from above and from below the parting line. The user then specifies the positions for the pins to hold the part during machining. Software shading provides a warning if the pin positions will lead to any machining of undercuts. The positions can then be adjusted to eliminate the problem. Once the correct orientation has been set, toolpaths can be generated automatically for the appropriate type of part and material.

SwissCAM is the industry-leading applications for the programming of Swiss-type lathes. These machines are used in the medical and dental industries for the mass production of precision parts. The world's three largest medical device manufacturers, and many smaller companies, have chosen SwissCAM for the programming of their machines.

SwissCAM simplifies programming of these complex machines resulting in significant savings of both time and money. The software's patented Visual Programming approach allows users to divide any complex part into a set of planar and rotary faces. Machining functions, such as turning, plane milling and cylinder milling, are programmed separately for each face in an intuitive manner, with feeds and speeds for each tool calculated automatically. The various elements can then be synchronised for optimum overall machining times.

The complete program can be simulated on the computer using a true machine model. These simulations give the user complete confidence that any program generated with SwissCAM will work flawlessly on the machine.

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ESI Group takes part in the International Foundry Trade Fair GIFA; The new versions of ProCAST and QuikCAST for Casting Process Simulation will be presented at the 11th edition of the GIFA

1 March 2007

Once again ESI Group has chosen the GIFA to present its recent releases in casting solutions and meet its customers. ESI Group casting simulation solutions have been showed at GIFA since the 1989 edition. From 12 to 16 June 2007, you will have the opportunity to get a comprehensive overview of the rapid developments in the area of casting process simulation. ESI Group's casting team will present the new ProCAST and QuikCAST solutions during meetings dedicated to your needs. ESI GROUP's multilingual casting team coming from Eastern and Western Europe, North and South America, China, Japan, Korea and India will represent the ESI GROUP booth.

The users of ESI Group casting solutions benefit from the multi-facetted range of products and solutions (Welding, Crash Impact and Safety, Stamping, Vibro-Acoustic, Composites and Plastics, Advanced CFD…). A major thrust during this GIFA edition will be on the link (inter-relationships) between cast part properties and their usage in final assemblies under real conditions. For that purpose ESI Group has developed a new open collaborative engineering environment allowing process customization and automation.

The ProCAST solution includes automatic mesh generation, thermal analysis with radiation effects, flow analysis for mould filling, fully coupled thermal, flow and stress analysis, and advanced metallurgical options. This software provides state-of-the-art simulation capabilities to the casting industry allowing complex processes to be simulated and provides foundries with the capability to test more mould designs in less time.

QuikCAST, a fast and efficient solution for casting process evaluation is a streamlined and user-friendly casting simulation tool which provides a complete industrial solution to foundries and delivers realistic predictions at each step of the casting process. Based on robust solvers and efficient self-correction features, this technology yields comprehensive and realistic results with high mesh independence.

"Almost 20 years ago we had to explain the purpose of our work and even CAD software's were in their infancy. Ten years later, towards the end of the 20th century, simulation was well understood but user requirements shifted the focus towards validating the numerical results with experimental work Today the main challenges are found in the integration of simulation results within the global product life cycle and the capability to rapidly predict better results with additional specific casting functionalities in a friendly user environment. In fact this is exactly what ESI Group casting solutions propose because of its fast developments, strategic acquisitions and rapid expansion all over the world. As the casting simulation veterans of the GIFA foundry trade fair we will be honoured to welcome you in our booth in 2007 to show our recent developments and to explain our strategy" says Dr Marco Gremaud, ESI Casting Solutions Product Manager.

To obtain information to prepare your visit to the ESI Group's booth Hall 15 Booth G14 please contact either your ESI Group's representative or visit http://www.esi-group.com.

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LMS Conferences Welcome Ford Motor Company, General Motors, IFP and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen as Keynote Speakers

7 March 2007

LMS International will hold its annual US Conference on March 20 and 21 in Detroit, and its European Conference on April 17 and 18 in Stuttgart, Germany. The LMS Conference in the US will host Dr. Takeshi Abe, Henry Ford Technical Fellow, NVH at Ford Motor Company and Mr. Craig Brown, Engineering Group Manager, at General Motors Powertrain as keynote speakers. The keynote session of the European edition of the LMS Conference is supported by Prof. Giovanni Cipolla, Director Advanced Engineering and Hybrids at General Motors Powertrain Europe, Mr. Arnaud Torres, Associate Director of the Powertrain Engineering Technology Business Unit at IFP and Dr. Stefan Schreiber, Leiter Mechanik & Messtechnik at Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG.

During the 2-day conferences, engineering executives, senior managers and their technical staff will share their strategies and present application cases that illustrate how new physical test and virtual simulation methods and technologies have helped them optimize their product development processes. The conference is the ideal venue to discover the latest technology evolutions in virtual simulation and physical testing and to exchange best practices in performance engineering domains such as durability, ride and handling, machine dynamics, acoustics, noise and vibration, structural integrity, and more.

The 2007 edition of the LMS Conferences features over 60 industry and university speakers, showcasing applications from a wide variety of manufacturing industries including automotive, off-highway, aerospace and heavy machinery. LMS will welcome speakers from Airbus, Arctic Cat, Autoliv, BAE Systems, CA Engineering, Caterpillar, CIRA, CRF, DaimlerChrysler AG, Denso Thermal Systems, DLR, ELASIS, FH Ingolstadt, Ford Lommel Proving Ground, Ford Motor Company, Fraunhofer LBF, GE Wind, General Motors Powertrain, Heidelberger Druckmaschinen, IDIADA, IDS Ingegneria dei Sistemi, IFP, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, IPG Automotive, Landi Renzo, Novicos, Politecnico Di Milano, PSA PEUGEOT CITROËN, Rieter Automotive Systems, S.A.B.C.A., Technische Universität Hamburg Harburg, TEMSA Automotive, The Trane Company, Universität Stuttgart, University of Ferrara, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Naples, University of Pisa, Vibracoustic and Volkswagen.

For more information on the LMS Conferences, agendas and online registration, visit the LMS Conference web site at http://www.lmsintl.com/lmsconferences

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Mentor Graphics CEO to Keynote at User2User 2007

8 March 2007

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced that company chairman and CEO Walden C. Rhines will present the keynote at User2User (U2U) 2007, the Mentor Graphics International User Conference. Rhines will present "New Opportunities, New Problems, New Solutions" on Wednesday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m. Register for the conference online at: http://www.mentor.com/user2user.

Who: Walden C. Rhines, Mentor Graphics' chairman and CEO

What: Keynote Title: "New Opportunities, New Problems, New Solutions" at U2U, 2007

Where: San Jose Marriot and Convention Center, San Jose, CA

When: Wednesday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m.

About User2User

U2U is a highly interactive, in-depth technical conference which focuses on the needs of the entire Mentor Graphics user community. The primary goal is to deliver immediately useful technical content. Attendees from around the world network with other customers and gain practical knowledge and product information found only at this conference.

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The Society of Manufacturing Engineers Announces Expanded Interoperability Agenda for Attendees

5 March 2007

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Interoperability and 3D Collaboration event will take place at the Marriott Renaissance in Detroit on May 2-3, 2007.

Collaboration with CAD and other 3D data is one of the most important elements of modern manufacturing practice. However, problems in CAD interoperability and collaboration plague the industry, presenting one of the most formidable impediments to productivity and time to market. To remain competitive and grow, manufacturers must continually and aggressively improve products and processes to enable effective communication and collaboration, on a global basis.

This two-day, international conference provides a unique opportunity for design, engineering, and manufacturing professionals to interact, learn and share experiences in interoperability and collaboration with 3D data. Attendees will learn about the latest strategies, best practices and solutions, while

interacting directly with fellow users and leading experts in the field. The conference also provides an opportunity to learn about the latest data exchange software tools.

The Interoperability and 3D Collaboration schedule:

Wednesday, May 2

8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Why Interoperability Isn't: Finding Clarity in the Chaos

Various aspects of effective 3D collaboration and interoperability will be presented while providing insights on the most significant trends and latest happenings in the industry, including:

- Complexities of sharing 3D data and what's happening to make it easier
- Airbus situation: causes, affects and what we can learn from it
- Partnership between Autodesk and PTC to work on interoperability issues and the
- participation of other CAD vendors
- What does the future hold for Acrobat 3D, DWF JT, 3D XML, and other "light-weight" 3D formats? How will they work with the CAD formats, or not?
- Latest advances in feature translation and discovery
- New version of STEP and its expected impact on the industry
- Role the open source movement will play in future interoperability and collaboration solutions

David Prawel, Longview Advisors

Electronic Delivery System For Supplier Build Packages

A custom system for electronic delivery of build packages to suppliers including drawings and 3D CAD models to support procurement will be described. Internal users access the application which is integrated to CAD, configuration control and business data systems and "push" configured build packages to an Extranet server to support machined parts and PWB board assembly fabrication. Suppliers can also access the system externally and "pull" packages. The automated pull method has freed procurement

agents from the task of gathering and sending packages, resulting in cost and cycle time reductions which will be discussed.

Robb McCord, Northrop Grumman

Strategies & Tradeoffs in Deploying Lightweight 3D

The challenges, considerations and process of selecting and developing standard 3D model file formats to work between ICEM, Rhino and Alias rendering software will be discussed. Use of computational fluid dynamics analysis, finite element analysis, Pro/Engineer design, rapid prototyping, lightweight 3D viewers, animation, paper and web-publishing will be presented based on an on-going case study.

Rick Mihelic, PACCAR

CAD Interoperability Software Vendor Panel

Interoperability problems continue to cost industry many billions of dollars. Challenges caused by incompatible CAD modelers, data formats and processes are the root cause. When it comes to solving these problems, the heavy lifting is left to the dedicated software and services vendors who specialize in addressing these difficult challenges. New approaches are brought to market on a regular basis and success stories are plentiful. But a lot of tough challenges remain. This panel will bring together leaders in the CAD interoperability software business to answer your questions and discuss their solutions.

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on the Show Floor

1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

CAD to CAD Interoperability

Legacy Data Requirements and Strategy for MBD Datasets Archiving

The regulatory requirements published by the FAA, DOD and NASA for the long term retention of product data will be discussed. The difference in data representation for drawings verses MBD 3D datasets will be described with an emphasis on MBD descriptions and the requirements for storing these types of datasets. Additionally, acceptable open data formats suitable for long term retention of MBD data will be presented.

Terrence McGowan, Boeing

STEP Overview & Update: A Second Generation Emerges

STEP (ISO 10303) is the most important international industry standard for CAD data interoperability, and perhaps the only viable long-term, strategic solution to sharing and archiving CAD data. An overview of the current state of the core STEP application protocols (APs) for the aerospace, automotive, and shipbuilding industries, including the latest enhancements to the second edition of AP203, Configuration Controlled 3D Designs of Mechanical Parts and Assemblies will be presented. Short case studies of recent successful use in design, analysis, and manufacturing, will be shared.

Jack Harris, PDES

Comparing and Validating Product Lifecycle Models

The ability to compare revised, remastered or translated 3D models within the product's lifecycle provides key advantages to the design, simulation and manufacturing processes. Potential solutions will be discussed including legacy design migration validation, design concept comparison, design reuse for simulation qualification, simulation model comparison, design revision comparison, design reuse for tooling quality, downstream model divergence, design translation validation, and certified delivery of long term archival validation with STEP.

Steve Utterdyke, ITI TranscenData

Collaborating with Lightweight 3DAccelerates Client Approvals by Upgrading Your Design Review Processes

How Advanced Dynamics has improved its design review and communication processes from very slow paper and courier to electronic email and web collaboration will be presented. Alternatives considered and the pros & cons of different approaches, lessons learned, technologies implemented, and current best practices will be discussed. This will include tracking of all engineering requests and improvements on other areas such as shop communication and assembly instructions.

Patrik Chartrand, Advanced Dynamics

Hurdling the Obstacles of 3D Design Collaboration

Some of the most difficult limitations to overcome in design and manufacturing are sharing large assemblies and PMI-GD&T information, and securing access to your proprietary design assets. Advantages and disadvantages of some common solutions, along with the importance of leveraging standards in any good overall solution will be presented. How users can dynamically secure and control PDF files containing sensitive information will be discussed. Case studies from real-world users will frame an interactive dialog about user experiences, lessons learned and best practices.

Jim Merry, Adobe Systems

Examining Characteristics of 3D XML and CGR Files to Support Collaboration

A project conducted with a large aerospace firm which examined the conversion, loading, transportation of vendor-supported "standard" file formats across and network, and interaction with 3D XML files as compared to CGR files within CATIA will be presented. Project activities, issues encountered, and recommendations will be discussed.

Nathan Hartman, Purdue University

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

Renaissance Room

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Panel: Multi-CAD Interoperability & Collaboration - Ask the Vendors

Moderator: David Prawel, Longview Advisors

Big changes may be coming. Autodesk and Parametric Technology (PTC) recently announced they are partnering to tackle the issues of interoperability between their products and file formats. This panel brings together the market leading CAD vendors to discuss their interoperability strategies and solutions. Each vendor will briefly present their strategy and solutions, followed by moderated questions and answers. This panel is sure to yield some exciting audience interaction.

Panelists

Andrew Anagnost, Autodesk

Asa Trainer, PTC

Aaron Kelly, Solidworks

Dassault Systemes

9:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Product Lifecycle Interoperability

Three Key Ingredients For Cross-PDM Interoperability

Business Process Management (BPM), Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), and PDM/PLM information standards are now at a point where cross PDM interoperability is a viable option. How these can come together in a symbiotic way to foster heterogeneous PDM interoperability solutions will be presented. Concept definition, how they connect together from a logical systems architecture perspective, benefits, and risks associated with implementing Cross-PDM Interoperability will be discussed.

Fredrick Bsharah, Ford Motor Company

Simple, Automated and Controlled Engineering Data Exchange for Buyers

To automate CAD, data processing and communication to and from suppliers, Bentley Motors and Red Bull Racing have deployed new translation software. This case study will reference the situation prior to deployment, the target, and current "as is" situation post deployment. ROI calculations and benefits achieved by Bentley, Red Bull Racing and their suppliers will be discussed.

Martyn Davies, Autoweb

An Appeal for Non-Proprietary Interface Standards for Design to Process Planning

Widely implemented non-proprietary interface standards (NPIS) could eliminate incompatibilities between CAD and manufacturing process planning (PP). Efforts required from users and suppliers for successful NPIS will be discussed including a report on progress defining NPIS for CAD to PP for inspection process and planning as well as several organizations working on them.

John Horst, NIST

Collaboration Management

Geometry is Easier to Comprehend than Language

CAD geometry data is neither as nuanced nor ambiguous as human language since it is a mathematical expression to begin with. By way of comparison, current artificial intelligence algorithms interpret human language at about 40% of human effectiveness. This presentation discusses the feasibility of applying AI techniques to "smartify" dumb geometry.

Steven Thomas, Boeing

Realizing Cost Savings with STEP-Based Data Exchange for the Humvee

Results from a pilot project conducted by the US Army to validate and demonstrate the use of STEP standards for PDM interoperability will be presented. Conducted on the Army's Humvee vehicle with AM General Corporation, the pilot showed that product structures, metadata and associated content files

such as Unigraphics 3D models can be exchanged between Teamcenter Engineering and Windchill PDMLink. The problem statement, solution requirements, implementation approach, results and conclusions as well as potential cost savings will be discussed.

Raj Iyer, US Army Tank Automotive R&D Center

Solving the IP Paradox: How to Enable Global Business without Jeopardizing IP

As the circles of product design partners widen, global business requires more frequent, more detailed communication about products. Protecting the design know-how and securing the competitive edge is one of the top business directives. Therefore, there is a growing need to build a process for managing, controlling and revealing enough product intelligence that allows streamline design and manufacturing process, while making sure IP is not jeopardized. Defining the strategy and technological solution to achieve the fine balance will be discussed.

Alex Shapira, Proficiency

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on the Show Floor

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Panel: Light-Weight 3D Formats - Ask The Vendors

Moderator: David Prawel, Longview Advisors

The new generation of light-weight 3D file formats is upon us - Acrobat 3D, DWF, JT, 3D XML, XVL - and they're poised to add real value in supply chain and downstream interoperability and collaboration. This panel is a rare opportunity to participate in an interactive discussion with the vendors of these important formats. The moderator will ask a few initial questions, and then the panelists will take questions from the audience. This is your chance to ask the tough questions, and take major steps in working out your interoperability and collaboration strategies.

Panelists

Jim Merry, Adobe Systems

Bill Barnes, Lattice Technologies

Jonathan Knowles, Autodesk

Aaron Kelly, Solidworks

Dassault Systemes

UGS

Sponsors of Interoperability and 3D Collaboration include Trans Magic, Kubotek, DS Spatial, Prostep, Datakit, Elysium, ConnectPress Ltd., The CAD Society and PDES Inc. For further information on Interoperability and 3D Collaboration, including travel and lodging and online registration, visit http://www.sme.org/interop/.

About SME:

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing practitioners and executives annually. The Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007, has members in more than 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of technical communities and chapters worldwide, including nine chapters in Canada. To learn more about SME, please visit our web site at http://www.sme.org.

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Financial News

Agile Software Now Current in Its SEC Reporting Obligations

5 March 2007

Agile Software Corporation announced that it has completed its review of its historical stock option grant practices and filed its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2006, and its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended July 31, 2006 and October 31, 2006, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These filings had been delayed pending Agile's conclusion of an internal review by a Special Committee of its Board of Directors into past stock option grant practices, and the resulting decision to restate the Company's financial results for certain prior periods. Agile voluntarily initiated this review, and has informed the SEC of the results.

The review covered option grants made to all employees, directors and non-employees during the period from the date of our initial public offering in August 1999 to July 2006, consisting of over 200 grant dates (representing over 3,000 individual option grants). The Special Committee's review identified circumstances where the grant date used as the "measurement date" for accounting purposes preceded the appropriate measurement date, as defined under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

On approximately two-thirds of the Company's historical option grant measurement dates, representing approximately 140 grant dates, the Special Committee found no evidence establishing that the original measurement date used for accounting purposes was inappropriate. On other grant dates, the Special Committee found that there was an insufficient basis to rely on the Company's original stated grant date to support recorded measurement dates used to account for certain stock options, which were granted primarily from August 1999 through October 2003. Approximately 97% of the total in-the-money value (market price on the actual measurement date minus exercise price) of the options found to have incorrect measurement dates was attributable to those options granted prior to April 30, 2002.

In particular, with respect to such grants, the Special Committee determined that: the Company had grants made by means of unanimous written consents of the Board or the Compensation Committee, wherein all the signatures of the members were not received on the grant date specified in the consents; the Company made several company-wide grants pursuant to an approval of the Board or Compensation Committee or by the Company's chief executive officer under delegated authority from the Board, but the list of grantees and number of options allocated to each grantee was not finalized as of the stated grant date; and, during the period from August 1999 through October 2003, the Company followed a practice to set the grant date and exercise price for option grants for new hires as of the date of hire or the date of approval by the CEO, and, for some of these grants, related documentation suggested that the option granting process involved the determination of a grant date that preceded the actual approval date. The Special Committee's inquiry also identified less frequent measurement date errors that were not material, such as grants made to a small number of employees who had not formally commenced their employment as of the grant approval date.

Agile has determined that the total cumulative stock compensation expense, resulting from errors described above, was approximately $69.6 million, and has stock compensation expense of $1.2 million and $2.8 million for its fiscal years ended April 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively, and $65.6 million prior to fiscal 2004. Agile also determined that the restatement does not have a material effect on its fiscal year ending April 30, 2006, and will not have a material effect on any subsequent fiscal year. Further, there was no impact on revenue or net cash provided by operating activities as a result of this additional stock compensation expense.

The cumulative effect of the restatement adjustments on the Company's consolidated balance sheet at April 30, 2005 was an increase in additional paid-in capital, offset by a corresponding increase in the accumulated deficit and deferred compensation, which results in no net effect on stockholders' equity. The adjustments increased previously reported net loss per share by $0.02 and $0.06 for the years ended April 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. The Special Committee found no evidence of any intention to deceive or impede the Committee's investigation or to destroy or alter documents. It noted that current management encouraged and fully cooperated in the review.

The Special Committee found no evidence that any of the Company's current officers, including its CEO, CFO, General Counsel, Senior Vice President of Human Resources or Vice President of Finance, or its former CEO, engaged in any intentional mis-dating of options, self-dealing or manipulation of the Company's financial results. In fact, the Special Committee found that the evidence suggested an effort, in late 2003, by then current management to improve and formalize the Company's option grant practices by putting in place processes that substantially eliminated the risk of these issues recurring.

Full details of the investigation and the restatement are included in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2006 filed today. Previously filed annual reports on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the periods affected by the restatement have not been amended and, as such, should not be relied upon, and are superseded in their entirety by the information in the filings made with the SEC today.

Status of Nasdaq Listing

As the Company is now current in its SEC reporting obligations, the Company believes that it has now complied with all conditions of the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Panel to continued listing, and expects that Nasdaq will now conclude its review of the Company's listing status and continue the listing of the Company's common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market.

Conference Call and Webcast

Agile will discuss its recent SEC filings, its results of operations for its third quarter ended on January 31, 2007, and management's forward looking guidance on a conference call on March 19, 2007, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time. A Webcast of the conference will be available on Agile's Web site at http://www.agile.com under the "Investor Relations" section. You may access replays of the Webcast for ninety days after the call at http://www.agile.com/investors. Financial and statistical information to be discussed in the call will be available on the company's Web site immediately prior to commencement of the call. Additional investor information can be accessed at http://www.agile.com or by calling Agile's Investor Relations at (408) 284-4011.

Filing of 10-Q for Third Quarter Ended January 31, 2007

SEC rules require Agile's Form 10-Q for its third quarter ended January 31, 2007 to be filed by March 12, 2007, unless the Company requests an extension of time to file the Form 10-Q, in which case it will have until March 19, 2007 to make filing. Agile will require several days after March 12, 2007 to complete and file its Form 10-Q for that quarter and, as a result, will request an extension of time, until March 19, 2007, to file the Form 10-Q. Agile does expect to file the Form 10-Q on March 19, 2007.

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Implementation Investments

Antenna Products Corp. Optimizes Collinear Dipole Array Antenna by Electromagnetic Simulation

March 2007

Antenna Products Corp. substantially improved the performance of a high-frequency collinear dipole array antenna by using MicroStripes electromagnetic (EM) simulation to evaluate a wide range of potential designs.

Antenna Products Corp. designs antennas that cover the RF spectrum from the kilohertz to gigahertz range and supports countless mission critical military, air / sea navigation, ILS and voice / data communications applications. The antenna mentioned above was designed for a military application in the 5 to 6 GHz region.

In the past, Joe Ippolito, Engineering Manager for Antenna Products Corp., would have first built and tested a prototype of the antenna based on a simple, first-order approximation computer model. The problem with this approach is that these rudimentary models often leave out significant and surprising effects, and can result in a longer and more expensive prototype development phase. Frequency methods such as the Method of Moments do a good job of simulating wire antennas but do take into account the effects of dielectric materials such as the PCB substrates and the radome.

Ippolito avoided these problems by using MicroStripes electromagnetic analysis software from Flomerics for microwave and antenna design. “We selected MicroStripes because it is very easy to use and because its results closely match physical experiments,” Ippolito said. “Before we bought the software we modeled a number of different antennas that we had designed and built in the past. In every case, MicroStripes accurately simulated the performance of the antenna.”

The basic model consists of four PCBs arranged around a central mast at 90° intervals to provide an omnidirectional azimuth pattern. Each board consists of two dipole antennas and an associated microstrip power distribution network. These two-element arrays were stacked to achieve greater directivity and narrower beamwidths.

In the actual antenna each board is connected via a coaxial cable to a 4-way 0° power divider network. This component is located near the base of the antenna and tied directly to the antenna input connector. It was not included in the model as it has no bearing on antenna patterns but its loss along with the associated cables was included in antenna gain estimates.

The simulation injected a broadband pulse into the antenna feed and the time domain response was captured by stepping through the transient phase long enough for it to attenuate to a steady state. Fourier-transformation of this response yielded frequency-domain results across the entire band of the antenna. The model took about 20 minutes to run on a typical Windows PC. The simulation results included surface current density, far-field radiation patterns, and impedance data.

Ippolito then ran a series of iterations in which increasing numbers of two-element arrays or modules were stacked. Ippolito took the simulation results for a two-module array and imported it into a general array factor program that he wrote to evaluate the effects of varying design parameters such as element spacing and orientation. The directivity results of these simulations were graphed versus the number of modules used, in addition to azimuth and elevation patterns for a wide range of antenna designs.

Ippolito picked the three best designs and presented them to the customer and let them select the one that best met their needs. “MicroStripes made it possible to quickly iterate to an optimized design that met all of our customers’ demanding requirements,” Ippolito concluded. “The antenna has been built, is in use, and has exceeded the customer’s expectations.”

For more information, visit the MicroStripes Web site at http://www.microstripes.com

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Autodesk and Renault Form Three-Year Global Strategic Alliance

5 March 2007

Autodesk, Inc. announced a multi-million-dollar three-year global strategic alliance with Renault's renowned Design Department. The deal underscores Renault's commitment to Autodesk AliasStudio and Autodesk Maya software applications as the foundation for its pioneering global digital design workflow. The Renault Design Department uses complementary AliasStudio and Maya software to design every new vehicle model -- including the new Clio 3, Europe's Car of the Year for 2006 -- and at every stage of the design process. AliasStudio is used extensively for Renault's initial conceptual design and creative ideation process through to digital prototyping, Class A production surfacing and final validation, while Maya supports Renault's advanced design visualization needs.

Established in 1898, Renault is Europe's leading automotive brand, designing, developing, manufacturing and selling innovative, safe and environmentally-friendly vehicles worldwide. Producing more than 2.3 million cars and light commercial vehicles (LCV) in 2006, Renault has industrial and commercial presence in 118 countries. In 1999, Renault and Nissan signed the Renault-Nissan Alliance, uniting the two global companies through a coherent strategy, common goals and principles, results-driven synergies and shared best practices, while respecting and reinforcing their respective identities and brands.

Automotive Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) worldwide now create a wider variety of models than ever before to meet the changing needs of customers in numerous niche markets. To meet this need, Renault continues to introduce an increasingly broad and diverse range of new vehicle models. This trend not only results in a heavier workload for designers but also a reduction in the development time available for each project.

As a result of this trend, Renault depends on an efficient digital workflow to maximize time by making improvements early in the design process to enable better design innovation and quality. Largely dependent upon Autodesk software, Renault's fully integrated digital workflow encompasses modeling, digital prototyping, visualization and presentation processes, and supports the need to evaluate a greater number of design themes and make faster decisions. In addition, digital prototypes have made it easier for Renault's Design Department to collaborate with other members of the extended design team including Renault's Vehicle Engineering team, encouraging greater communication, collaboration and faster design evaluation. With Autodesk software, the Renault Design Department has developed automated processes for creating ultra-high-quality stills and animated images, addressing the challenge of reducing production time and the need to make rendering expertise available for Digital Modelers. Renault's designers and decision-makers are now able to actively visualize a virtual 3D model as it evolves within the context of a 'real' environment -- all within a few hours of calculation.

Autodesk's strategic alliance with the Renault Design Department, which originated with Alias before it was acquired by Autodesk in January 2006, has also helped to drive the development of Alias' design

products, influencing industry-critical enhancements such as Class A modeling. In the future, the successful execution of Renault's digital design processes will continue to rely heavily on Autodesk software solutions. By forming this alliance, Renault Design Department is demonstrating both the trust it has in Autodesk as a solutions partner and the importance it places on its software as a critical element in its overall workflow vision and design strategy.

"Autodesk is pleased to partner with an industry leader such as Renault -- an innovator that is taking automobile design to the next level," said Carl Bass, Autodesk president and chief executive officer. "Renault Design Department's world-class digital workflow process is recognized as a benchmark throughout the automotive industry and we are committed to ensuring Renault's continued success in pursuing design innovation."

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Cadence Partner Faraday Uses Encounter Conformal Technology for Constraint Signoff of ASIC Designs

7 March 2007

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. said Faraday Technology Corporation has adopted the Cadence® Encounter® Conformal® Constraint Designer technology for signoff of leading-edge designs. Faraday uses the Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer technology to validate customers' design constraints, ensuring the quality of the design before implementation. This reduces design iteration and accelerates timing closure.

"Faraday is committed to providing customers with the design expertise and services necessary to bring leading ASIC designs to market," said Kun-Cheng Wu, director of the Design Development Division at Faraday. "The Cadence Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer allows us to quickly and easily ensure that our customers' designs are ready for production."

By using the Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer technology as a constraint signoff tool, Faraday is able to detect issues in their customers' design constraints, provide reports on these issues, and allow their customers to correct the constraints early in the design phase. This signoff procedure improves the quality of Faraday's implementation service while saving both valuable time and resources of its IC design and ASIC customers.

"One of the most important capabilities that we can provide to the design industry is the ability to ensure that design constraints are appropriate and accurate," said Michael Chang, vice president of R&D for Cadence. "The Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer technology provides confidence in the integrity of the design, and that's a valuable asset for a design house such as Faraday."

Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer is a key technology in the Cadence Encounter digital IC design platform and a component of the Cadence Logic Design Team Solution. It enables early logic-design signoff and automates the generation, validation, and refinement of constraints to ensure that

timing constraints are valid throughout the entire design process, helping designers achieve rapid timing closure. Encounter Conformal Constraint Designer is available in L and XL offerings.

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Cameo Communications Deploys Agile 9.2 to Streamline Business Processes and Decrease Time to Market Across the Product Network

7 March 2007

Agile Software Corporation announced that Taiwan-based Cameo Communications, Inc., a leading supplier of networking products, has implemented Agile 9.2 PLM for managing the enterprise product record throughout the product lifecycle. Cameo Communications selected Agile Product Collaboration and Agile Product Portfolio Management to streamline business processes and decrease time to market.

"Implementing Agile PLM assists Cameo with developing and introducing innovative products to market on time, while managing costs and improving overall product quality," said Frank Kuo, product marketing director, Cameo Communications. "The collaborative capabilities of Agile 9.2 provide Cameo with invaluable enterprise visibility, and Agile's quick implementation time and overall ease of use make it a stand-out PLM solution in today's marketplace."

Cameo Communications, Inc. is an international networking products supplier specializing in Layer 2 Management Ethernet Switches, Wireless Client Adapters, Wireless LAN AP/Routers, SOHO Routers, Ethernet Switches, Media Converters, USB to Ethernet Converters, Web-Smart Switches and Ethernet NIC. Cameo custom manufactures and assembles computer network communication equipment and communication products according to the order and specification of its customers, and is steadily increasing its market share in the competitive data communications field through innovative product design and marketing. Cameo customers include DLink, Netgear and Bullalo. The company has built a presence in well over a dozen industrialized nations by forming strategic relationships with systems integrators, distributors, VARs and other resellers.

Cameo Communications will leverage the Agile platform for knowledge management, exchanging and managing high-tech and electronics product information across the extended supply chain, decreasing time to market, improving product quality, and reducing manufacturing costs. Rapid results are vital for leading global enterprises in all vertical market segments as product profit cycles shrink and time to market becomes increasingly more challenging. Agile PLM will enable Cameo to align their product development portfolio with their business strategy, assisting in their goal of faster growth and greater profitability.

"In order for Cameo to continue to provide their customers with high quality innovative products, they needed a PLM system that managed their new and changing product record information across the product lifecycle and extended supply chain," said Jay Fulcher, Agile president and CEO. "Agile PLM helps companies bring products to market faster, while efficiently managing their product record. Through the deployment of Agile 9.2, and the enhanced product management capabilities of Agile Product Collaboration and Agile Product Portfolio Management, Agile is providing companies like

Cameo with greater product insight, increased collaboration and the ability to more efficiently manage their product record."

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Catalog Data Solutions Adopted by Captive Fasteners

6 March 2007

Catalog Data Solutions (CDS) announced that Captive Fasteners has adopted its CAD model download and ecommerce solutions.

Captive Fastener Corporation is solely dedicated to manufacturing the finest quality self-clinching fasteners for a variety of industrial and electronics equipment produced by major OEM's.

Responding to customer requests for CAD models of its products, Captive Fasteners decided to offer 3D CAD models for download from its web site. "We wanted to meet our customers request for a CAD download service to save them design time," said Ed Longo, Marketing Manager, Captive Fasteners. "With the addition of 2D/3D CAD drawings to our website, we are meeting that need and are expecting an increase in sales as a result."

"We are delighted to have been selected by Captive Fasteners for our leading online CAD model download solution, lead tracking system and affordable CAD services", said John Major, CEO Catalog Data Solutions, "online 3D models are an important sales and marketing tool for all industrial suppliers and distributors. With many customers moving from 2D to 3D CAD systems providing online 3D CAD model downloads often 'locks' products into a design so suppliers later benefit from the sales success of that design. Suppliers without 3D models on their website are at risk of losing customers to their competition who do offer 3D models".

Studies show that over 90% of designers and engineers now use the Internet to locate components for their new designs. Catalog Data Solutions helps industrial suppliers and distributors grow sales and strengthen customer loyalty through interactive online catalogs, ecommerce, 3D CAD model delivery and product configurator solutions.

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Chinese University Decides for SolidCAM

5 March 2007

The University of Tianjin (China) has recently evaluated several CAD/CAM systems for the education of students in the Mechanical Engineering Institute. Tianjin University is a major university with long history in China. Many laboratories are related to the design and manufacturing of machines, and the

CAD/CAM software will complement the nearly 30 CNC machine tools, which are already used in the workshop of the Mechanical Engineering Institute.

In January 2007, Tianjin University decided for the combined "SolidWorks+SolidCAM" solution and ordered 30 educational packages. The network licenses will be used for the training in the class-rooms and laboratories to demonstrate the process of toolpath creation with SolidCAM based on the 3D CAD mainstream platform SolidWorks.

"We are happy that SolidCAM will now play a major role in the class training. This powerful software enables students to understand well the toolpath creation processes of CNC machining including 3D mill and turning on solid model", said Mr. Taiyong Wang, Professor of Mechanical Engineering Institute and the head of Mechanical-electronic center. "Especially the single-window integration with SolidWorks and the ease-of-use are welcomed by our students', added Ms. Li, Associate Professor of the institute.

The CAD/CAM solution was sold by Tianjin Qichen Company, a reseller of SolidWorks and Solid-CAM. "This is just a beginning", expressed Francis Wang, Sales director of Qichen Company. "Once the Mechanical Engineering Institute has gathered some experience with the first CAD/CAM courses, we will certainly provide more licenses to be used in other classes".

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Dreaming Group Chooses think3 Technology for Development of Luxury Yachts Italian Style

27 February 2007

think3 Inc.™ announced that Dreaming Group, a world-leading dealer specializing in yacht customization in the boat building industry, selected the company as a partner as part of its business strategy to optimize yacht design and development. The addition of Dreaming Group, headquartered in Mondolfo , Italy , builds on think3's growing portfolio of custom yacht manufacturing customers that include: Rodriquez, CRN, Zuccon International Project, Hydrotec, Italnet and Meccano Engineering.

Dreaming Group, which consists of ten companies and a combined annual income of € 98.5 million, plans to reduce lead times, increase production capacity and cut operating costs with the assistance of think3's thinkdesign™ and thinkiD DesignExpressions™ product design and development software and services.

"The basic design of our products is handled by the external designers working with us. In-house we cover equipment design, coordinates and technical solutions", said Vasil Truja, technical director at Dreaming Group, whose Technical Design Department was established last year to cover the entire product development process from design through production. "Previously the technical documentation we used was inaccurate and not suitable for series production. One of our strategic objectives is to industrialize and standardize our products and product types."

Going into the review process, Dreaming Group outlined its criteria for the type of results the company was expecting from the computer-aided design and development solution selected:

- Increase the efficiency of the production process
- Introduce a design system that reduces design processing times
- Use an integrated development environment in order to automate manual processes, share information, standardize design and reduce the number of production errors.

After technical analyses and comparison with the other products on the market, Dreaming Group chose think3 for the completeness of its CAD and PLM solutions. Their analyses showed the think3 solution was the only one to meet the all the Group's requirements for the efficient management of the complex process involved in yacht design development. The think3 solution also had the advantage that it matched the company's time lines and resources.

"We chose think3 because it is a major player in the Italian market and already has numerous customers in the boat building world. It offers tailor-made technology and a direct line to think3's Italian R&D department", said Truja. He was another major factor in the group's decision to select think3 is that thinkdesign has integrated 2D and 3D.

"This extension of our business to include leading companies in the boat building industry shows we have the experience, the expertise, the integrated 2D, 3D, PDM and the exclusive GSM3 shape management technology to meet the needs of companies with unique characteristics such as yacht manufacturers," said Filippo Zuccarello, CEO at think3. "Companies choose think3 because they know that we can provide a product development solution that is complete, flexible and helps them achieve their business objectives. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to work with a major specialist in the boat building industry and enable them to maintain their unassailable leadership on this market."

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India's First PACE Institution Established at PES Institute of Technology in Bangalore

6 March 2007

General Motors (GM), EDS, Sun Microsystems and UGS joined together for the launch of a new automotive planning, design and engineering partnership with the opening of India's first PACE Institution at the PES Institute of Technology (PESIT) in Bangalore.

Partners for Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE) is a corporate initiative between GM, EDS, Sun Microsystems and UGS, with contributions from Altair Engineering, Autodesk, Engineous, Fluent, Hewlett-Packard, LSTC and MSC Software. Founded in 1999, PACE has supported more than 38 leading academic institutions around the world through the contribution of computer-based

engineering tools. Its goal is to provide students practical skills in professional careers such as mechanical design, engineering, analysis and manufacturing processes.

PESIT will receive advanced computer hardware along with NX, Teamcenter Community and Teamcenter Engineering, MD Nastran and Altair Hyperworks software, which are used by automakers around the globe for product planning, engineering and data management. PESIT will utilize the hardware and software in its engineering curricula, enabling students to obtain practical experience using hardware and software currently used by leading global companies including GM.

PESIT also will receive technical, educational aid and automotive parts for students. The contributions are commercially valued at approximately US$155 million.

As part of its effort to promote the development of automotive engineering and foster automotive industry talent in India, GM will participate in setting up a product lifecycle management (PLM) education program with PESIT and PACE. PLM provides an organic connection between the development, production and aftersales service stages of a product. It is being widely adopted by the automotive industry around the world. Through the program, the General Motors Technical Centre - India (GMTC-I) will contribute to developing the automotive product lifecycle experts of the future. Students will be provided additional opportunities for practical learning by participating in PLM lectures and joint programs conducted by GMTC-I.

In conjunction with PACE, GMTC-I will host a PACE competition to give students an additional opportunity to enjoy networking opportunities with industry experts and evaluate their abilities. Since being selected as a PACE Institution in 2006, PESIT students have been paired with graduate students and GMTC-I engineers to undertake a project throughout their summer and winter vacations using software and hardware provided by PACE.

PESIT is currently participating in the PACE Global Vehicle Collaboration Project, which involves the development of a next-generation concept vehicle by 21 PACE Institutions around the world. Students and instructors from participating universities will cooperate in the design and engineering of a racing car of the future that will be unveiled next summer.

“It is a matter of great importance that PESIT has been chosen by the PACE worldwide network as the first and only institution from India as a partner in the program. This adds a new dimension to PESIT in its endeavor to attain the pinnacle of performance. The PACE-PESIT partnership is an opportunity by which the many-faceted latent abilities of PESIT staff and students will surface in an effective way and make meaningful contributions to the PACE program. PESIT finds for itself a role of significant potential in the program, which envisages changing the overall face of the automotive industry by attaining global synergy,” said Professor Jawahar, Director – PESIT.

“Bringing PACE to PESIT is an extension of GM’s commitment to India’s automotive industry and the development of the next generation of industry professionals,” said Sheila Sarver, Director – Engineering and Operations, GMTC-I. “By working with one of India’s leading academic institutions, we will

provide students practical experience today that will prepare them to meet the needs of industry tomorrow."

"PACE offers a unique combination of hardware and software to facilitate the learning of computer-aided design and engineering concepts," said Abhay Gupte, managing director of Applications Delivery-India for EDS. "Students gain valuable experience applying these concepts as they work on industry projects. PESIT graduates will be highly-skilled, knowledgeable and ready to work in this exciting field."

Mr. Narendar Reddy, Managing Director, UGS India, said: "UGS is strongly committed to help the engineering talent in India enhance their skills to meet the needs of the industry. We are proud to partner with the PES Institute of Technology and other members of the PACE program to meet the objective of providing students with the most current and technologically relevant education, thus equipping them with the skills demanded by industry. Through our participation in the program, we are happy that students and the faculty of the college will have access to the software tools from the global leader in PLM solutions. This will help them conceive, design, engineer and validate projects using the same tools that today's leading global manufacturers like GM employ."

"We are proud to partner with PESIT and the PACE program in enabling the skill enhancements of engineering students," said Ashish Khushu – Director, Public Sector, Sun Microsystems India. "We have been long associated with the academic developer community. We work closely with universities to equip students with advanced skills, hands-on experience with leading-edge, open-source technologies, and the confidence to create new technologies. Not only does Sun offer training and support, the dialogue goes both ways. Sun is interested in hearing what we really need to get the most from our IT education and be ready to make a difference in the business world."

For more information on PESIT, visit http://www.pes.edu. For more information on GMTC-I, visit http://www.gm.com/. For more information on EDS, visit http://www.eds.com/. For more information on UGS, visit http://www.ugs.com/. For more information on Sun Microsystems, visit http://www.sun.com/. For more information on PACE, its programs and member institutions, visit http://www.pacepartners.org/.

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Invitrogen Corporation Implements Agile Product Portfolio Management to Optimize Global Product Development Process

6 March 2007

Agile Software Corporation announced that Invitrogen Corporation implemented Agile Product Portfolio Management to help streamline its company-wide global product development process. Agile Product Portfolio Management, deployed as part of the latest version of Agile PLM, Agile 9.2, assists Invitrogen with the establishment of a secure global document repository, electronic workflows for approvals and global portfolio visibility down to the program level.

"Agile will enable us to streamline our new product introduction reviews and measurement processes, and will make cross-site and global collaborations easier than they have ever been," said Nicolas Barthelemy, senior vice president, Cell Culture Systems, Invitrogen Corporation. "Our focus is to drive the adoption of this tool and keep the data current, so we can start capturing these many benefits as soon as possible."

Agile was chosen for its out-of-the-box PLM functionality, enterprise solution footprint, open architecture, and its high customer satisfaction levels. Agile Product Portfolio Management enables Invitrogen to improve the flow of new products from concept to market introduction by building a common agreement and understanding of the phases and milestones of the life of a product, and by better defining budgets and schedules for product projects and portfolios.

"During the implementation process, we were pleased with Agile's strong functional solution, open technology architecture and their long term PLM vision and roadmap. More importantly, we feel we have a partner that we can trust and build a relationship with over the long term," said Karen Gibson, chief information officer, Invitrogen. "We expect to have better visibility of resource commitments across various product programs, which will help us proactively plan how much additional capacity we need to meet program objectives. In short, Agile Product Portfolio Management will help us make informed decisions about product strategy."

Invitrogen's company-wide Agile PLM implementation is multi-phased. The first phase focused on Agile Product Portfolio Management for program and resource management. In Phase 2, Invitrogen will implement Agile Product Collaboration to manage Invitrogen's global product record, including part creation, item master, bills of material management, and product change processes. The Agile solution will provide a seamless integration of program and product information.

"Invitrogen is a leading global life sciences technology company, and that leadership position is due in large part to their commitment to developing innovative products," said Jay Fulcher, Agile CEO and president. "As an integral part of Invitrogen's product development process, we are committed to providing the company with a platform to manage its extensive product portfolio and aid in the development of innovative new products."

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MAN Roland Druckmaschinen AG Replaces Incumbent PDM System with UGS Teamcenter and NX Solutions in its Sheetfed Press Segment

8 March 2007

UGS Corp. announced that MAN Roland, the world's second largest printing systems manufacturer, will replace CATIA®, which it has used for 20 years, with UGS' Teamcenter® and NX® software in its location in Offenbach, Germany. MAN Roland chose the UGS technology in December 2006 and plans to implement Teamcenter in 2007 and NX in 2008.

MAN Roland will use Teamcenter, UGS' digital lifecycle management solution, as its product data management (PDM) platform for its design database, which is a significant source of information for the company.

In addition, following pilot programs which included extensive competitive evaluations, MAN Roland also selected NX, UGS' digital product development solution, as its computer-aided design (CAD) platform for sheetfed offset presses. The company also uses data migration tools from UGS to convert high quality construction data in an effort to reduce the time spent on post-editing by design engineers.

"As a result of our involvement with UGS, we are convinced one hundred percent that the Teamcenter solution is the clear leader in product data management," said Dieter Callies, expert for CAD, PDM and PLM in the sheet sector at MAN Roland. "Teamcenter allows us to work on the printing machine's entire product structure in real-time across multiple disciplines. Combining this capability with NX will allow us to further enhance efficiency and be more cost-effective."

"With MAN Roland we have won one of the most important customers in the printing industry and thus considerably increased our market share in this segment," said Paul Vogel, senior vice president and managing director, Europe, Middle East and Africa, UGS. "The openness of our solutions provides flexibility to our customers and helps them to adapt quickly to the demands of their customers in a highly competitive market."

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'Megayacht' Design Sails Home with Grand Prize In 10th Annual Solidworks Design Contest

5 March 2007

A 164-foot yacht. A giant Ferris wheel. A watch with four faces. These are just some of the arresting innovations that captured judges' and spectators' imaginations in the 10th annual SolidWorks Design Contest.

Eleven winners took home more than US$150,000 in prizes and were spotlighted at the SolidWorks World 2007 International User Conference and Exposition earlier this month in New Orleans.

The grand prize, a Dell Precision™ 390 Workstation and 20-inch monitor, went to Jack Sanford, an application engineer at Westport Shipyard, for a model of the Westport 164 Tri-Deck Motoryacht. The boat sleeps 12 and features a formal dining room, VIP suite, salon, commercial-grade galley, garage for water toys, and a wet bar.

Purveyor of "the ultimate Megayacht experience," Westport Shipyard uses SolidWorks® Office Professional software in its yacht design because of its ease of use, large assembly configuration capabilities, integrated PDMWorks® product data management (PDM) software, and superior support, according to Sanford. Using SolidWorks, Westport established the first production-based design

approach in the domestic motoryacht industry, reduced customer delivery times by 75 percent, minimized fit and interference issues, and automated cabinetry production operations. The software also reduced interior joinery production time by 50 percent, cut installation time by 15 percent, and supported better material usage.

“The ability to have models in production on a continual basis, while using configurations to provide customers with choices and options on different parts of the boat – such as variations on the state room design – makes us more efficient,” said Sanford. “It also has a positive impact on profit margins.”

Other winners were:

Model Contest

1st Runner-up - Made-to-order, individual-serving ice-cream-making machine, MooBella LLC, submitted by Jim Baxter, VP engineering, MooBella

2nd Runner-up - (tie) Gary Fisher carbon hi-fi bicycle, Trek Bicycle Corporation, submitted by Christopher R. Carlson, senior industrial designer, Trek

2nd Runner-up - (tie) LeMond Triomphe carbon fiber bicycle frame platform, submitted by Chad Lockart, senior industrial designer, Trek Bicycle Corporation

3rd Runner-up - Datacard MX6000 Card Issuance System, submitted by Gary T. Schultze, senior mechanical designer, Datacard Group

Photorealistic Images Contest

1st Place - Personalized concept vehicle, submitted by Dr. Ertu Unver, senior lecturer, University of Huddersfield

2nd Place - Voyager, submitted by Bruce Ray Buck, design engineer, Dometic Corp.

3rd Place - Brandy decanter, submitted by Einar Vedvik, designer, PavelsDesign, Norway

ANIMATIONS CONTEST

1st place - Singapore Flyer construction (Ferris wheel), submitted by Ooi Wei Khuen and Lin Shaodun, design engineer, Flash Engineering Pte Ltd.

2nd place - Nitrous Concept Watch, submitted by Harold Wylie, owner of Magineer

3rd place - Pivotrol cover and mechanism assembly, submitted by Jeff Jacobs, senior designer of Spirax Sarco

“The Oscars® have nothing on this competition,” said Rainer Gawlick, SolidWorks vice president of worldwide marketing. “There are miraculous design engineering performances every day with SolidWorks, and these winning designs are indicative of the great products SolidWorks customers create every day. They inspire us all to design better products.”

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Mentor Graphics Customers Reap Success with ADVance MS Mixed-Signal Verification Platform

1 March 2007

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced two significant customer achievements using its ADVance MS™ (ADMS) mixed-signal verification platform. ADMS is a scalable platform that has been architected for mixed-signal functional verification. The platform integrates a suite of simulation tools, Eldo®, Eldo RF, and ADiT™ for transistor-level simulation, as well as Questa™ for logic-level simulation. ADMS provides versatile capabilities that enable designers to verify that their designs are correct in either a digital-centric or analog-centric design flow.

AMS SoC Verification with ADVance MS

Portable consumer electronics and wireless products have become the dominant force in today's global electronics market. Relentless demand for new features and functionality in these devices is driving unprecedented integration of RF, analog, and mixed-signal applications. This trend toward AMS SoC integration requires the ability to verify designs at the full chip level with special attention to digital and analog interactions.

UMC verified a complete transceiver reference design that included a combination of design representations such as digital languages, analog mixed-signal behavior languages, SPICE models and fast SPICE models (ADiT) by leveraging the seamless integration of various simulation engines offered via the ADMS platform.

“Through our collaboration with Mentor, we successfully validated a full chip mixed-signal transceiver reference design in our 130nm mixed-signal process using Mentor’s ADMS technology,” said Patrick Lin, chief SoC architect, system and architecture support, UMC. “With the combination of our reference design and the ADMS methodology, we are providing our mixed-signal customers another approach to achieve shorter time-to-market with our advanced mixed-signal processes. The combined methodology is slated to be demonstrated in a series of events starting with a demo at DAC 2007.”

Mixed-signal Design Verification with ADiT

Nanometer mixed-signal designs increasingly exhibit analog behavior. Battery powered portable device types bring additional complexity because of the fluctuation in power supply. These challenges have rendered traditional fast-SPICE tools inadequate for verification purposes. The latest breakthrough in the ADMS verification platform is ADiT, a fast-SPICE simulator developed and optimized specifically for nanometer mixed-signal applications such as PLL, DLL, DAC, ADC, LDO, and SERDES.

“We are delighted that our customers achieved design success with our verification technologies,” said Jue-Hsien Chern, vice president and general manager, deep submicron division, Mentor Graphics. “Through close collaboration with our partners, we have developed leading edge technologies for AMS SoC design.”

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Primavera® Helps Atlanta Airport Deliver First Milestone of 15-Year Program Early and Under Budget

7 March 2007

Primavera Systems, Inc. announced that the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the busiest commercial airport in North America, used Primavera’s project management software to deliver the first milestone of its 15-year, $6.2 billion capital improvement plan early and under budget. Runway 10-28, a $1.2 billion program came in $102 million under budget and 11 days early.

“To effectively manage a program of this size, we required everyone to use the same project management software, which was Primavera,” said Dwight Pullen, director of Runway 10-28. “Additionally, we established project controls and business processes to ensure each member of the team had the necessary information to keep the project moving forward. Primavera enabled us to have consistent standards across the program.”

A partnership of five separate construction firms managed the Runway 10-28 program, with more than 200 people working on 22 separate projects. Program managers dealt with more than half a dozen local and state governmental organizations, built a massive bridge over an active 10-lane highway, and had to keep the airport functioning smoothly throughout the entire process.

“I wouldn’t be exaggerating when I say that all eyes were watching us,” Pullen said. “This was, quite literally, the most important runway in North America.”

“Our contractors used Primavera to resource- and cost-load their schedules so we could track what the project managers were spending and whether the work in place matched the contractor's application for payments,” said Curtis Wilson, the program cost and scheduling manager for Runway 10-28. The team developed baseline schedules for each project, and utilized Primavera to perform “what-if” scenarios that helped identify where improvements could be made.

The early completion of Runway 10-28 enabled the airport to close down another main runway to do $60 million in repairs and maintenance without disrupting the flight schedule. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is currently operating all five runways, while continuing to execute the next phase of its construction plan, a state-of-the-art rental car facility.

“The success of the new runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta is a prime example of how establishing universal processes centered on solid program management can yield tremendous results,” said Richard Faris, Chief Technology Officer of Primavera. “The success of Runway 10-28 is a model for public works programs nationwide.”

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UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Chooses Open Text Solution

8 March 2007

Open Text™ Corporation said that it has signed a contract with the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) to provide Open Text's Livelink ECM electronic document and records management solutions.

Dstl is an agency of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), housing a 3,500-strong workforce, including some of the UK's most talented and creative scientists. It exists to supply the very best, impartial, scientific and technical research and advice to the MoD and other government departments.

Since the creation of Dstl, the organization has tackled some of the most challenging science and technology problems facing the UK government and was in need of a software solution to help better support their activities. This meant reducing their paper holdings, guaranteeing better records management and enabling staff to have rapid access to a wealth of information across the organization.

Open Text was chosen as preferred vendor through a competitive tender process. Dstl chose Open Text's Livelink ECM solution based upon commercial and functional grounds, and through its own formal testing process. This particular project was driven by Dstl's change management program.

Paul Lambert, Project Manager EDRM, Dstl, said: "Dstl carried out an in depth tender exercise including formal testing and evaluation after which Open Text emerged as Dstl's preferred vendor for the supply and implementation of Livelink ECM as Dstl's electronic document and records management solution. Dstl's move to adopting this technology will enable the organization to improve its world-class reputation by ensuring its internal back-office systems enhance the service Dstl delivers to its customers. The solution will improve information storage and retrieval, improve internal information sharing and enhance organizational flexibility."

Damian Hyland, Vice President, Northern Europe for Open Text, said: "Due to the nature of Dstl's work, any document retrieval and management system had to be comprehensive, efficient and meet a variety of needs. Our Livelink ECM solution allows rapid access to past research, automatic versioning and

auditing, an intuitive interface, and users are able to search across multiple sites with ease. In addition, the solution comes with safe and secure back up. With such a variety of functions, our solutions always aim to provide better support to all our customers and we are pleased to learn that the response from Dstl staff has been very positive."

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Volkswagen AG Deploys Dassault Systèmes' DELMIA Process Engineer Throughout the Enterprise

7 March 2007

Dassault Systèmes (DS) announced that Volkswagen AG will implement DELMIA Process Engineer (DPE) software throughout its organization. On the basis of a group-wide agreement, DPE will be employed in all production sites for strategic assembly planning for the Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda and Seat brands. This will lead to improved planning reliability, shorter planning times, and a reduction of development costs.

"After initial testing and positive evaluation of the performance value of DPE at Audi, the solution will now be available for other members of the VW group and the licenses of the different brands will all be consolidated. This is an important step for complete integration of our enterprise, involving more than 500 users," says Volker Germann, Volkswagen Head of Planning. "Thanks to years of close and successful cooperation between Volkswagen, Audi and DS in the field of automotive assembly, DELMIA now fully supports our planning processes," explains Arne Lakeit, Audi Head of Planning. "We now work with the same tools and methodology in all assembly departments of the group," explains Gerhard Voges, Skoda Head of Planning. "Just nine months since implementation of DPE at Skoda and we have already seen the benefits. The Seat brand is also introducing DPE throughout the company and use it for future projects."

"We are committed to enabling lean manufacturing processes in the automotive community and this deployment within the Volkswagen group demonstrates the value of our digital manufacturing solutions," states Philippe Charlès, Dassault Systèmes , CEO of DELMIA. "After several years of successful partnership with Audi, we are delighted to be working with all entities of the Volkswagen group on the implementation of DELMIA to further enhance the manufacturing efficiencies."

Process engineer is a key element of the 3D Product Lifecycle Management solution of DELMIA. This software, for comprehensive manufacturing process planning and target costing in simultaneous engineering, ensures high-level planning reliability along with optimized planning and implementation times and costs. It paves the way for an early and reliable overview by showing the production time and investment costs, production space and the amount of manpower required so that the time from product design to the production phase is considerably shortened. The object-centric Product-Process-Resource (PPR)-Hub database, on which this solution is based, allows for redundancy-free data management, which ensures consistency of planning information in all detailing stages. As a result, DPE leads to more planning reliability, shorter planning times and a reduction of development costs.

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Product News

ABB Joins Intergraph SmartPlant Alliance Program

7 March 2007

ABB Inc., a leader in power and automation technologies, has joined the Intergraph SmartPlant Enterprise Alliance Program. The alliance extends integration capabilities from initial control system design to plant handover for Engineering, Procurement and Construction and Owner Operators using ABB's IndustrialIT Extended Automation System 800xA and SmartPlant Enterprise suite, assuring ongoing support for the life cycles of their plants and assets.

The enhanced relationship will bring integration benefits for users of the Industrial IT enabled Intergraph SmartPlant Enterprise suite and ABB System 800xA including: initial configuration of the control system; updates to the control system during design changes; documentation of control system configuration; consistent as-built documentation during plant handover; and improved decision making during critical maintenance and operations events.

"The increased integration of two of the industry's most widely used systems resulting from this alliance will provide even more ways to improve overall engineering efficiency and productivity for our customers," said ABB Group Vice President Mark Taft. "This alliance exemplifies ABB's ongoing strategy to complement System 800xA through the integration of best-in-class products and capabilities to reduce life cycle costs of our customers' automation investments and provide them with the tools and technologies they need to get the most value out of that investment."

"ABB is the third and largest distributed control system supplier to join the SmartPlant Alliance Program," said Patrick Holcomb, executive vice president, Intergraph Process, Power & Marine. "The addition of ABB to the Alliance Program underscores the widespread acceptance of SmartPlant Enterprise and its open, integrated platform to extend value across the engineering enterprise."

ABB's System 800xA extends the scope of traditional control systems to include all automation functions in a single operations and engineering environment so that plants and mills can run smarter and better at substantial cost savings. Its unique engineering environment manages one set of consistent data, for single-point entry, single-point change, and re-use across the plant.

Intergraph SmartPlant Enterprise is a comprehensive product suite offering increasing value from IT to improve project execution, handover and plant operational efficiency. SmartPlant Enterprise includes the following components: 3D Modeling & Visualization; Information Management, Engineering & Schematics; Materials Management & Project Controls and the SmartPlant Alliance Program. From concept and design through operations, maintenance and decommissioning, Intergraph enables electronic management of all of the plant's engineering information, integrating information on the physical asset, processes, and regulatory and safety imperatives.

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Alibre and FreeDesign Offer Form-and-Function Bundle

8 March 2007

Alibre, Inc., and FreeDesign, Inc, jointly announced the bundle release of Alibre Design Expert and FreeDimension. The double software package combines Alibre's most advanced parametric solid modeler with FreeDesign's revolutionary new method for 3D surface creation. Both applications have earned a reputation for easy accessibility and powerful functionality at a highly affordable price. The bundle, which retails for $1595 in North America, represents the most advanced 3D design capabilities available in the price range.

The combination of the two technologies allows even novice users to create virtually any organic shape with FreeDimension's intuitive and easy-to-learn controls. Curved 3D surfaces from FreeDimension can then be readily passed to Alibre's solid modeling environment. Surface creations may then be directly combined with solid mechanical parts and assemblies, plotted as detailed 2D drawings, rendered with 3D effects, or exported to common manufacturing and document formats. The power to create mechanical designs incorporating complex organic shapes was once only available to an elite group of design professionals. The bundle makes these capabilities accessible to literally anyone.

"FreeDesign and Alibre are breaking down the final barriers to pervasive 3D," said Greg Milliken, CEO of Alibre, Inc. "Never before has free-form design and parametric CAD been available at this price point. Free Design and Alibre have a common vision of making great 3D design software available to all. This bundle is perfect for marine design, mold making, jewelry and consumer products -- anything that requires organic shapes, precise mechanical components, or the combination of the two."

Free Design's free-form modeler is only one of the many new additions in Alibre Design Expert 9.2, which becomes available worldwide in late March. As Alibre's top of the line of solid modeling offerings, Expert 9.2 gives a full array of design features that handle all aspects of product development: conceptualization, presentation, and output to production.

FreeDesign's patented N-Sided Surfacing (NSS) technology represents a revolutionary method of surface generation and control. NSS frees the user from the restrictions of 4-sided surfaces prevalent with NURBS and Bezier methods.

"FreeDimension's NSS is radical in its simplicity," says Dick Sowar, CEO of FreeDesign. "It used to be that curves and surfaces were the most troublesome aspect in CAD. In FreeDimension, surfaces simply flow between whatever curves are necessary to define shape, and curves are so easily manipulated, that even a child can use it. FreeDimension frees the imagination, and Alibre Design is the easy, practical way to get those creations into manufacturable form."

For more information and for a free trial of Alibre Design, please visit http://www.alibre.com.

A free 30-day trial of FreeDimension is available for downloaded at http://www.freedesign-inc.com/.

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Apache Addresses Critical Area of Power and Thermal Management in UMC's 90nm Reference Design

6 March 2007

Apache Design Solutions announced that UMC's 90nm reference design utilized Apache's:

- RedHawk-EV for full-chip static-IR, VCD and vectorless dynamic voltage drop, and electromigration (EM) analysis
- Sahara-PTE for full-chip thermal analysis and thermal variation on leakage, timing, and reliability

"Apache delivers key technologies required to address the design challenges at 90nm and below," said Ken Liou, director of the IP and Design Support division at UMC. "Accuracy and ease-of-use of RedHawk and Sahara are the key reasons why UMC has decided to add Apache to our list of supported tools for power and thermal analysis."

Power integrity and thermal integrity has become one of the key design challenges, as process nodes move toward 90nm and below. Power noise such as dynamic voltage drop and ground bounce, as well as temperature variation can have significant impact on silicon's leakage, timing, and reliability. The traditional method of over-designing and guard-banding is no longer sufficient to detect potential power and timing issues prior to tapeout. Apache's RedHawk for power signoff and Sahara-PTE for power-thermal-electrical analysis deliver the industry's only silicon integrity platform solution for 90nm and below process technologies.

"UMC is one of the leading drivers for industry's advanced flow requirements and we are pleased to see RedHawk and Sahara as key components of the UMC 90nm reference design flow," said Andrew Yang, CEO of Apache. "The collaboration between Apache and UMC benefits our mutual customers and allows us to address their power integrity and thermal management issues for silicon success."

Availability

The UMC/Apache reference design flow is available now and can be accessed from UMC's website at http://my.umc.com.

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Autodesk and GlobalSpec Improve Customers' Collaboration on Design and Specification

6 March 2007

Autodesk, Inc. and GlobalSpec, Inc. announced a strategic partnership that will enhance recently announced Autodesk Design Review 2008 software to include on-demand access to GlobalSpec's extensive product and information services. By connecting specification and procurement decisions more directly to core design tasks, the companies are helping to streamline and redefine the design process.

Autodesk Design Review 2008, the company's advanced DWF-based review and markup tool for project teams, will include seamless access to GlobalSpec search capabilities. Project team members such as manufacturing and quality engineers, production planners, suppliers and customers who use Autodesk Design Review to review CAD drawings or models will benefit from the advanced content features of SpecSearch, GlobalSpec's trademarked search technology.

"We are very pleased to partner with GlobalSpec," said Kevin Wandryk, senior director, Extended Design Group, Autodesk. "Together, we're helping our customers extract even greater value from the rich detail present in 3D design information, by better connecting design to procurement for streamlined production, improved decision making and faster time to market."

Today, Autodesk Inventor software users can publish a DWF file and securely share rich design information such as bill of materials, part numbers, manufacturer and other information. By launching an Internet search of GlobalSpec content from within Autodesk Design Review 2008, extended team members such as purchasing agents can leverage this information provided by the Inventor user, and make better-informed decisions, boost product quality, time to market and profitability.

"Together, Autodesk and GlobalSpec are providing the industry with the potential for greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness," said Guy Maser, senior vice president of marketing, GlobalSpec. "With the combination of design information captured by DWF technology and exhaustive resources from GlobalSpec, customers will save time and money by locating the suppliers who have the parts that they need -- without ever leaving the design itself."

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Cimatron's New Version 8 Receives High Praises from Customers and Analysts

5 March 2007

Cimatron Limited announced the general availability of version 8 of CimatronE, its leading CAD/CAM solution for toolmakers and manufacturers.

With Version 8, Cimatron helps toolmakers and manufacturers of complex discrete parts step up to new levels of productivity, introducing breakthrough improvements such as:

- A new application for progressive die design, covering the entire spectrum of quoting, strip design, tool design, and manufacturing, compressing weeks of work into days

- New automated drilling capabilities, reducing programming time by up to 80%

- NC-Preview functionality, presenting machining results in a matter of seconds and eliminating errors early in the process

- Concurrent mold design and the ability to handle mega-size molds, allowing multiple users to work on the same assembly with increased speed and ease

- New enhancements in 5-Axis Production, delivering higher performance and better user control

Customers that have been working with version 8 during the release process expressed anticipation for the new functionality: “Version 8 gives us new tools in design and manufacturing to compete with domestic and overseas markets,” said Todd DeMint, Lead Designer at toolmaker Eimo Americas (Michigan, USA). “The improvements in version 8 - such as the ability to work on large molds, the quick split tools, and the methodology for transferring data to cavities and cores - will save us significant time in the design process.”

Adds Jay Weiner, Mechanical Engineer and IT Manager at CAM Tool & Die (Ontario, Canada): “Cimatron’s new Progressive Die Design application is highly powerful and flexible, with surfacing capabilities that are second to none. Being able to work in 3D from start to finish, we expect substantial productivity improvements.”

Following an independent review of the new release, industry analyst Alan Christman of CIMdata said: “Version 8 of CimatronE is a substantial and significant release that will greatly enhance and broaden the Cimatron CAD/CAM offering. CIMdata is favorably impressed by the evolution in Cimatron product and market strategy and the sizeable content of version 8. We expect the product to be well received in the worldwide market.” The complete CIMdata review is available for download on the Cimatron website at http://www.cimatron.com.

For more information about the availability of version 8 in your area, please contact your local Cimatron office. A list of offices and additional information about version 8 can be found on the Cimatron website.

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CollabNet® and Tasktop Partner to Bring Eclipse, Mylar, Subversion and CollabNet Together

6 March 2007

CollabNet®, the primary sponsor of the Subversion™ open source project and a leading provider of collaborative software development solutions, announced that it has partnered with Tasktop Technologies, the company newly formed by the creators of the Mylar open source project, to integrate Eclipse, Mylar, Subversion and CollabNet. The integration of these leading development tools is the first of its kind and creates a highly productive working environment that makes tasks an integrated part of the developer's workflow throughout the lifecycle of a project.

Eclipse is rapidly becoming the IDE of choice for a large number of developers. Recent results from an EvansData survey show the continued momentum of Eclipse globally with the adoption rate more than doubling in the EMEA region. In parallel, Subversion has become the de-facto version control standard for globally distributed teams.

However, in order to maximize effectiveness, software development tools must be integrated at the developer desktop level where the highest productivity gains can be realized.

Because of the complexity of today's enterprise applications, all modern IDEs overload developers with information. The lack of task integration across tools causes developers to waste an inordinate amount of time on switching from one context to another when multi-tasking.

"The Eclipse Mylar tool solves the information overload problem by integrating rich task management facilities with Eclipse", says Mik Kersten, lead of the Mylar project (http://eclipse.org/mylar) and President & CTO of Tasktop Technologies. Mylar streamlines the developer workflow through its innovative Task-Focused UI. By showing developers only the information they need to see for any given task it improves productivity by removing the need for repeated searching, scrolling, and navigation." Field studies of Mylar have validated with statistical significance that it makes developers more productive.

Eclipse and Subversion are already closely integrated through the Subclipse project. CollabNet's partnership with Tasktop Technologies extends the Eclipse-CollabNet integration. Developers that are currently using Eclipse and CollabNet® Enterprise Edition will enjoy:

A simplified development environment

When working on a project, developers might have more than a dozen tools opened at the same time in different windows. The integration of Mylar and CollabNet simplifies the development environment and provides, within the Eclipse environment, access to the project tasks and artifacts managed in CollabNet Enterprise Edition.

Immediate Prioritization of Project Tasks managed in CollabNet Enteprise Edition

The integration between CollabNet and Mylar allows users to view CollabNet tasks from within Eclipse and enables Mylar's automatic context management to only present the information that's relevant to the task that the user is currently working on.

Improved productivity due to reduced information overload and easier multi-tasking

The consistent Eclipse-based UI between Eclipse, Mylar, CollabNet and Subversion, the prioritization of tasks and the one-click task switching, make developers a lot more productive.

"Since its inception, CollabNet has been committed to leading the industry in the tools and processes which allow software developers to collaborate more efficiently across geographically distributed teams," said Bill Portelli, CEO of CollabNet. "The deep integration of the Eclipse-based Mylar project and Subclipse capabilities into the CollabNet distributed software development platform is the first of its kind. It brings the task tracking capabilities of CollabNet across the development lifecycle directly to the developer's desktop and within their IDE environment. This level of integration offers a quantum leap in software development productivity."

The integration component will be available in April 2007 and will be downloadable at http://open.collab.net

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Common Power Format 1.0 Released by Si2's Low Power Coalition; Specification publicly available at no charge

5 March 2007

In a significant step forward for the Low Power Coalition, the Common Power Format 1.0 (CPF) has completed the legal exclusionary review period, and is now available at Si2's OpenEDA.si2.org web site at no cost for everyone to download and use. CPF is a new design specification language that addresses the limitation in traditional design automation tool flows by capturing the designer's intent for power management and enabling the automation of advanced power-lowering design techniques. The Common Power Format enables all design, verification, implementation — and technology-related power objectives to be captured in a single file and allows the application of that data across the design flow, providing a consistent reference point for design development and production.

Download instructions, along with an FAQ with important details on this process, as well as more information on the LPC is located at this link: http://www.si2.org/?page=811.

In joining the LPC, members mutually agreed to an Intellectual Property Policy that ensures that contributors, participants, and adopters all have mutually-assured safety from latent patent or royalty surprises. To achieve this, LPC members commit to make known their position with respect to reasonable and non-discriminatory licensing of all necessary patents in any specification developed by the LPC. A "safety" period is provided before any specification is adopted by Si2 to allow full disclosure of any patent positions that may apply. The initial version of CPF, version 1.0, has completed its patent safety period as of March 4th.

Steve Schulz, president and CEO, Si2 says "Today's public release of the CPF 1.0 specification opens this proven technology to the entire industry for broad adoption. The LPC members will now use this as a basis for upcoming enhancements in alignment with the LPC's overall roadmap for new capabilities."

About the Low Power Coalition (LPC)

The Low-Power Coalition (LPC) will deliver enhanced capabilities in low-power Integrated Circuit (IC) design flows in particular relating to specifications of low-power design intent, architectural tradeoffs, logical/physical implementation, design verification and testability. The latest list of LPC members can be found at: http://www.si2.org/?page=751.

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Dassault Systèmes and BCP Team Up to Bring Focused PLM Solutions to the Nuclear Industry

5 March 2007

Dassault Systèmes and BCP Engineering & Consulting, one of the world's premier nuclear engineering firms, announced a partnership to deliver dedicated 3D PLM solutions that support major plant retrofits and new projects. This partnership offers energy companies a single source for extensive consulting experience in major modifications and replacement of critical plant components, some of which have price tags of half a billion dollars or more, as well as the best design, collaboration and simulation technology for project planning and execution.

The Dassault Systèmes-BCP partnership comes as the majority of nuclear facilities in the United States have received, or are applying for, license renewal. Dassault Systèmes and BCP see an opportunity to offer companies going through the re-licensing process a more versatile and effective management system to comply with new license requirements, while offering those utilities building new facilities even greater advantages.

"Schedule overruns and unforeseen problems are big issues in major plant retrofitting projects. Using PLM minimizes the risk of revenue loss from extended outages," said Chris Staubus, BCP's general manager of utility services. "When a company can model and simulate a capital improvement project right down to coordinating supplier schedules and equipment usage, operating plant managers can make sure there is improved collaboration and minimal conflict during all of these processes. That applies to routine maintenance, as well as to capital projects."

Dassault Systèmes PLM solutions enable plant operators and engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms to model their facilities in a virtual 3D environment and then simulate the construction process of replacing a major piece of equipment, such as a steam generator. Such a project typically requires tearing down or moving structural elements, piping, cabling, etc. Simulating the project in a 3D environment enables plant operators to coordinate operations and anticipate problems before physical

work begins, avoiding time and cost overruns. In addition, managing design, configuration and construction of new facilities in a 3D environment will pay dividends over the entire plant lifecycle.

BCP's knowledge of nuclear and conventional power plant engineering will help clients easily adopt Dassault Systèmes software solutions to meet their individual needs. BCP is one of the top names in nuclear engineering, counting among its clients large regional nuclear plant operators such as Entergy, Exelon and Pacific Gas & Electric, in addition to major power equipment manufacturers such as General Electric and Westinghouse.

"Our solutions are designed to handle complexity, and it doesn't get much more complicated than a nuclear plant," said Al Casas, Dassault Systèmes' nuclear industry specialist. "Modeling a facility in 3D, using an enterprise collaboration solution as a common knowledge repository and a digital manufacturing solution to simulate processes is more efficient than paper-based management systems by orders of magnitude. Working together with BCP, we offer nuclear plant operators and EPCs management systems that match the sophistication of their facilities."

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Engineous Software, Inc. Announces the Release of FIPERTM Express; New Package Will Simplify Installation and Configuration of the FIPER Enterprise Solution

7 March 2007

Engineous Software announced the upcoming release of FIPER Express, a new FIPER package intended to simplify the installation and configuration of the FIPER enterprise product. FIPER (Federated Intelligent Product Environment) is a web-based, distributed engineering process infrastructure that allows companies to link engineering processes together in a unified environment. Through the FIPER infrastructure, models, applications and "best" processes are collaboratively shared, accessed and executed with other engineers, groups and partners.

The FIPER Express package will include bundled IBM middleware that will eliminate the need for organizations to separately install and configure an application server and database. IBM's Express Runtime package includes IBM WebSphere® Application Server Express and IBM DB2R Universal Database™ Express Edition. Benefits of the integrated solution include lower cost and flexible pricing, automatic configuration and greatly simplified installation and maintenance.

"The FIPER Express package represents a new option for our existing customer base as well as a new mid-market opportunity for Engineous," said J.P. Evans, Vice President of Marketing and Product Development for Engineous. "We are proud to offer a fully functional enterprise product for our customers that is still incredibly easy to install, deploy and maintain."

"By integrating FIPER Express with IBM's Express Runtime product, Engineous will deliver a simplified, cost competitive product that will improve the customer experience for midmarket customers," said Chris Wicher, vice president of midmarket solutions, IBM.

Engineous will launch the Express package at their 2007 International Symposium, March 12th – 14th at the WALT DISNEY WORLD® Hilton in Orlando, FLA. The event, co-sponsored by IBM, is expected to draw over 200 industry experts, analysts, thought leaders and software vendors. FIPER Express is planned to be released for general availability in April 2007.

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JETCAM and Finn-Power Announce Worldwide Software Agreement

8 March 2007

JETCAM International and Finn-Power Oy announced a global agreement whereby JETCAM Expert CADCAM software will be offered with Finn-Power CNC punching and laser machines.

The agreement will ensure that current and future Finn-Power technologies are supported by JETCAM products, with closer co-operation between sales, marketing, technical and development staff of both companies.

Mike Weber, Managing Director of JETCAM International;" This agreement will allow Finn-Power not only to provide the full JETCAM automated solution for new customers, but will also deliver this and many benefits to their existing customers. Manufacturers today look for an overall solution that they can feel confident with – this collaboration will ensure that our joint customers will continue to benefit from the stability that JETCAM is renowned for to drive Finn-Power's leading-edge technology."

Juha Mäkitalo, Vice President R&D of Finn-Power Oy, added;" After a long period of cooperation, JETCAM and Finn-Power Oy has signed a written contract. This written contract will help JETCAM customers having Finn-Power equipment to have best possible support also in the future."

JETCAM and Finn-Power have worked together non-exclusively since 1991.

About JETCAM International

JETCAM International has been developing and distributing its JETCAM Expert range of CADCAM software since 1986. In use in over 70 countries worldwide, JETCAM Expert software supports virtually every CNC punching, laser, plasma, routing, waterjet and flatbed cutting machine available today, allowing users to program any combination of CNC machines with a single CAM system.

About Finn-Power Oy

The FINN-POWER group operates globally and has specialized in sheet metal working technology since 1983. FINN-POWER offers a wide range of products for punching, laser cutting and bending. In addition to machine tools, the company is well known for integrated punching / shearing and punching / laser cutting cells, as well as for Flexible Manufacturing Systems.

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Latest Theorem CADverter Provides Universal CATIA to UG NX Data Translation

6 March 2007

Theorem's new Universal CATIA translator for UGNX users both streamlines and simplifies data translation and collaborative working under 'real world' conditions, by automatically differentiating between CATIA V5 and V4 data files and converting them to UGNX in a single operation.

CATIA and UGNX are widely used in many long term design projects and it is not unusual for design and manufacturing companies to employ both CATIA V4 and CATIA V5 on production work. Other supply chain partners may operate UGNX - resulting in collaborative projects that can involve a mix of two CATIA file formats as well as UGNX data. A further complication is that CATIA V5 assemblies may incorporate embedded CATIA V4 files; a fact that might not become apparent until there is a need to undertake data translation.

Providing a complete solution within a single product, Theorem's Universal CATIA to UGNX CADverter eliminates the need for users to identify which version of CATIA the target data is supplied in. It not only identifies and converts mixed native CATIA V5 and V4 files automatically, but also recognises and translates CATIA V5 assemblies that include embedded V4 data - all without operator input.

Because most single version translators are unable to accommodate such shared format assemblies, Theorem's new Universal CATIA CADverter more than exceeds the capabilities of separate products - as even a combination of stand-alone V5 and V4 translators will fail to meet all user requirements.

Operation of the new CADverter could not be easier or more effective. Working on a batch of files via the command line interface UGNX users simply direct Theorem's new translator at a folder containing mixed CATIA models and assemblies, indicate the translation parameters to be applied, specify the destination folder and press enter. They can then move on to other tasks while the Universal CATIA CADverter for UGNX translates the target files without the need for any further operator interaction.

"This is not simply a case of bundling two translators in the same wrapper," says Keith Jeacock, Theorem's General Manager. "The new CADverter is a specifically designed translator in its own right, which will save UGNX users a great deal of time and effort. It is neither priced at the level of two translators, nor carries the maintenance costs of two translators. It therefore represents a real 'win-win' solution for UGNX users working in a CATIA collaborative engineering environment.

"Anybody looking to implement a UGNX/CATIA translator and offered a choice of CATIA V4 or V5, should seriously question what they are doing. Specifying translators that only convert either CATIA V4 or V5 data will almost certainly create the need to buy both. Even then, two separate translators will not be capable of handling CATIA V5 assemblies that contain CATIA V4 files. With its universal CATIA

version recognition and data translation capabilities, our new CADverter is the only CATIA translator UGNX users will need."

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Latest Version of ANSYS Icemax Offers System-in-Package Support

6 March 2007

ANSYS, Inc. announced the release of version 3.0 of its ANSYS® Icemax® software for circuit extraction of advanced integrated circuit (IC) package designs. This new release provides IC package designers with a flexible modeling environment, to set up and analyze a wide range of system-in-package designs, including package-on-package, package-in-package and package-on-PCB structures. ANSYS Icemax technologies are now part of the ANSYS suite, from the company's 2006 acquisition of Fluent Inc. The release aligns with the ANSYS focus on powerful industry solutions, based on the Company's commitment to Simulation Driven Product Development.

The ANSYS Icemax user interface allows users to import multiple designs within the same model, use automatic alignment tools and analyze the assembled design as a unified structure. "Stacked packages are becoming increasingly common, especially in the handheld and wireless space. Existing design flows in most semiconductor companies are set up to analyze individual layouts separately and then connect them up in the system-level electrical model. For 3-D stacked packages, and in general system-in-package designs, this approach has obvious limitations," says Chetan Desai, ANSYS Icemax product manager. "The electrical model has to be extracted by accounting for all possible interactions within the 3-D package assembly at the field solver level. Appropriate return paths across package interfaces have to be accurately detected for generating the final equivalent circuit. ANSYS Icemax 3.0 technology helps engineers realize this objective."

The software enhancements are complemented by additional optimizations of core meshing and field solver technologies that have been integral to earlier product releases. Improvements have been made to simplify the specification and detection of return paths in the package and PCB.

Batch processing is a major new addition to the solver, providing further automation in the design flow. ANSYS Icemax 3.0 software will continue to operate on multi-CPU machines as well as 64-bit Windows® and Linux® platforms, helping customers easily analyze high pin-count packages with complex power and ground structures.

New visualization capabilities include custom widgets for layer-by-layer model display and finite volume mesh display. Other key enhancements include analysis of lossy dielectrics and specification of user-defined terminals in the ANSYS Icemax model. In addition to RLCG data, results can now be exported in the form of S/Y/Z parameters in industry standard touchstone format.

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Lectra Launches its Newest Generation of Automated Cutting Solutions—the most high-Performance On The Market—Dedicated to the Automotive Industry

2 March 2007

Lectra announced the launch of its newest range of VectorAuto cutting solutions, specially dedicated to the needs of car makers and their suppliers. The VectorAuto provides a powerful, intelligent solution to the needs of manufacturers, including the needs to improve flexibility, reduce the cost of production and material consumption, and ensure consistent and predictable quality, all within a secure and reliable process.

"This new generation of automated cutters relies on more than 20 years of intelligent cutting room expertise and strong partnerships established with the leading companies of the automotive industry," said Daniel Harari, Lectra CEO. "It represents a genuine technological leap forward, with more powerful and more intelligent solutions."

Three new lines that provide unmatched performance

The VectorAutoFX is the most advanced response to manufacturers' need for flexibility. Versatile and reliable, it is the ideal solution for short deadlines and small series production. Like the complete Vector Auto range, the FX also ensures maximum productivity using the capability to cut non-stop while the material is automatically loaded in the cutting area. All of the VectorAuto systems incorporate an advanced operating software that optimizes the blade path in order to guarantee perfect quality of cut pieces. The software adapts the system's behavior to the requirements of various material types and ensures the best cutting path to achieve accuracy and quality even on the most complex patterns. Cut parts of impeccable quality can then be produced and made available quickly.

Developed on the success of Lectra's MP technology, the VectorAutoMH and VectorAutoMH8, with their high performance and excellent cutting quality, are the standards in the mass production of car seats and interiors, regardless of the complexity of shapes or fabrics to be processed. The intelligent software at the heart of the VectorAuto range analyzes each action to optimize raw material consumption and guarantee flawless results. Large manufacturers benefit from a reliable solution that is user friendly and easy to maintain. The VectorAutoMH and MH8 safeguard production and minimize the risk of process interruptions that lead to costly delays and penalties. Designed for high volume cutting, the VectorAutoMH and MH8 offer cutting time optimization that is far superior to that of other systems available on the market. They streamline the cutting process and eliminate bottlenecks that can occur in the cutting room.

The VectorAutoMX represents a technological leap, providing levels of production speed and cutting quality never before achieved. Large manufacturers find in the VectorAutoMX an ideal response to increasing orders, reduced lead times and the need to optimize production. The search for constant improvement is at the heart of the system, which proposes a solution for increasing its own yield. Unprecedented cutting room flexibility as well as raw material savings are achieved due to the surprising speed with which the VectorAutoMX is able to cut the most complex patterns with little or no buffer

between cut pieces. Even the largest orders can be handled swiftly, enabling manufacturers to multiply the various orders to be produced while respecting lead times.

The VectorAutoMX9, is the ultimate solution for automotive suppliers who are accustomed to working either with die cutting or with extremely high volumes. As car makers make decisions regarding auto interior designs later and later in the development process to stay close to consumer trends, it is becoming critical to have manufacturing tools that allow programs to be put into production quickly and efficiently with the flexibility to modify the model if needed. Die boards often require five to six weeks to be produced or modified, while the VectorAutoMX9 enables suppliers to accommodate design and cutting changes in a few minutes. This allows car makers to more easily address quality or competitive issues, and allows their suppliers to be more reactive to their needs.

Software intelligence in the service of preventive action

Confronted with accelerating cycles of consumption, manufacturers face new pressures to produce more volume, faster, and cheaper than ever before. Lectra has gone a step further in order to help its customers meet their new challenges with the new intelligent VectorAuto range. The maintenance plan integrated into the piloting software enables it to act proactively; using warning alerts, actions can be taken even before failures occur, thus limiting the need for intervention by Lectra technicians and guaranteeing maximum availability of the cutting system. In order to make the cutting system integration within the production site more efficient and reliable, its piloting software offers performance and activity reports. The system's intelligence provides a revolutionary response to manufacturers' demand for reliable solutions in a context in which delays are penalized.

The new Vector range at the heart of the intelligent cutting room

The VectorAuto range provides answers adapted to the specific needs of customers. The software guarantees traceability and optimization of manufacturing costs. While Lectra equipment and software perfectly integrates cutfiles created with other CAD software, the VectorAuto achieves maximum productivity and material savings when connected with Lectra's planning, nesting and spreading solutions. VectorMethod generates cut specification sheets in coordination with a bar code reader integrated with the VectorAuto cutters to secure the production process against human error. The piloting software delivers detailed analyses of the cutting room with production reports.

"Because we work in close cooperation with our customers, Lectra's innovation policy has enabled the company to develop a complete, coherent solution which ensures productivity, flexibility and a secure process, the most important requirement of the automotive business," said Roy Shurling, Director of Lectra's worldwide automotive and transportation markets.

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Lectra Launches Revolutionary New Airbag Cutting Solution

2 March 2007

Lectra announced the launch of its new FocusAirbag OPW solution, for the production of One Piece Woven airbags, a multi-layer weaving technique that allows the pieces to be woven at the same time as the fabric and represents the airbag's market future.

"Lectra holds 80% of the world market for cutting solutions dedicated to airbags, with the most prestigious customers in the sector," said Daniel Harari, CEO of Lectra. "The new FocusAirbag range of laser cutters is the result of Lectra's unwavering innovation efforts, in partnership with these companies, over several years. Today, Lectra is the only company on the market with the capability to meet the requirements of major airbag manufacturers and guarantee their productivity, quality and process reliability."

A Leading-Edge Solution for a Rapidly Expanding Sector

The airbag market is booming. On average, vehicles were equipped with a little more than one airbag in 1999, whereas today there are more than three airbags per vehicle. The latest U.S. regulations will require side airbags in all vehicles produced from 2008 onwards, ensuring strong growth in this market in the coming years. This expansion provides a new challenge for producers to increase productivity and reduce the time and cost of production, while continuing to guarantee top quality.

In this environment, the industry's leading players have adopted OPW technology, which offers a considerably more efficient way to produce side airbags, accelerating time-to-market by bypassing the assembly phase and guaranteeing increased safety through better sealing.

A More Intelligent Solution to Meet New Challenges

This evolution, which makes the cutting process more complex, is only possible for companies choosing to innovate. Lectra supports these companies by offering them the most forward-looking solution on the market. The new vision system integrated in Focus Airbag takes account of the shape of pieces. The fabric and the pieces comprising it are thus automatically scanned and analyzed during the cutting phase. The geometry of the components, the position of the airbag and any possible distortions are taken into account. Each defective piece is identified to facilitate quality control, but without interrupting the cutting process.

The FocusAirbag OPW guarantees increased productivity and substantial material savings through an optimized and smoother process. Its new operating software offers a more effective tool path. The traceability of the airbags produced is ensured throughout the cutting operation via detailed activity reports which enable it to be analyzed and improved.

An Entirely Secure Process

The FocusAirbag OPW can be directly connected to Lectra's Call Center and thus be linked to the best experts who will ensure successful operation of the solution. The operating software offers secure access based on user profiles. The basic features can be opened to less experienced operators, with access to the different system parameters being restricted to trained persons only. All stages of production are

computer-managed through the transmission of data by barcode, reducing human intervention to the minimum to avoid any risk of error.

“The integrated intelligence meets the reliability requirements of producers, who need production solutions that are available at all times, in a context where delays are heavily penalized,” said Roy Shurling, Director of Lectra’s worldwide automotive and transportation markets.

In parallel with the release of the FocusAirbag OPW solution, Lectra is launching a new VectorAuto automated cutting range that is specially designed for the production of automotive interiors and seats.

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Lectra Works Together With Microsoft to Give Fashion Designers a First Opportunity to Test 3D Storyboard Creation with Kaledo 3D Trend

7 March 2007

Lectra invites designers to test a revolutionary solution which enables them to create 3D storyboards.

Kaledo 3D Trend was developed on Windows Vista: Microsoft worked with Lectra during the launch of Microsoft's new operating system, which will enable designers to work in a user-friendly environment intended to aid their creativity.

Kaledo 3D Trend is presented on the Microsoft website and a trial version can be downloaded free of charge from the Lectra website. It is an addition to the new textile creation and collections range, Kaledo, tailored specifically for fashion designers.

Think in three dimensions with Kaledo 3D Trend

Moving from static 2D storyboards to 3D animated storyboards gives fashion designers more ways to convey their creative ideas, to recreate the atmospheres which inspire them and present their fashion products form all sides. A film, produced in Kaledo 3D Trend's three dimensional world, by a student at the Paris Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture fashion school, is available on lectra.com.

To learn more about this discovery, Lectra invites visitors to download and test a trial version of Kaledo 3D Trend, which will enable all visitors to become familiar very quickly with this new, very easy to use technology.

A Kaledo 3dTrend presentation is also available at the Windows Vista Innovation Cafe on Microsoft's website (http://www.windowsvista.com/innovation) and Lectra's website (http://www.lectra.com/) in the section which is entirely dedicated to design.

Finally, in "Design by Lectra" on Lectra.com, fashion professionals can find out about the full new Kaledo solution, which meets all the needs of designers working in this industry: creation of collections, models and textiles.

Make your ideas come alive

Using Kaledo 3D Trend to create and animate storyboards, designers create their collection's environment in three dimensions by combining styles and designs, in particular those produced using Lectra's design software, along with other multimedia components such as sound or video. They use an interface which is perfectly suited to the way they express themselves artistically. Designers can now easily create an atmosphere and orchestrate a virtual walk through a three dimensional world where all their ideas are strongly expressed.

At last, fashion companies can show and explore all aspects of the storyboard to validate the collection, present it to sales teams and to customers to ensure the most efficient promotion of the collection. Kaledo 3D Trend enables communication to be visual, avoiding language barriers and allows things to be shown rather than explained, which represents an essential differentiator in an international industry such as fashion.

Kaledo 3D Trend's release to market date will be announced in 2007.

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Magma Announces FineSim Pro Parallel Manager – First Parallel Fast-SPICE Simulator

6 March 2007

Magma® Design Automation Inc. announced the availability of FineSim® Pro Parallel Manager, the first parallel fast-SPICE simulation capability available to the semiconductor industry. Built on Magma's proprietary Native Parallel Technology™, this parallel fast-SPICE option to FineSim Pro changes the landscape of analog design by making possible the verification of very large, complex mixed-signal systems on chip (SoCs).

"Key customers tested this new product on several of their large mixed-signal designs and are very excited about its performance and capacity," said Anirudh Devgan, general manager and vice president of Product Development for Magma's Custom Design Business Unit. "FineSim Pro Parallel Manager showed significant speed advantages, as much as an order of magnitude when the results were compared to other commercial fast-SPICE simulators. In many cases the Native Parallel Technology in FineSim Pro enabled the simulation of very large, complex designs that other products could not simulate at all."

This technology not only provides much faster simulation, but also delivers more accurate results than other commercial products. With increased performance, capacity and accuracy, analog designers can now simulate advanced mixed-signal designs, such as wireless SoCs or very large Flash or DRAM designs. "The addition of FineSim Pro Parallel Manager to our circuit simulation product family

demonstrates Magma's ongoing commitment to understanding and addressing our customers' toughest challenges," said Suk Lee, general manager of Magma's Custom Design Business Unit. "With this technology, our customers can now validate their most complex mixed-signal designs with the best performance and highest level of accuracy possible, before they commit to silicon".

FineSim Pro Parallel Manager is available now for production use with FineSim Pro for full-chip circuit-level simulation and analysis.

About FineSim Pro

FineSim Pro is a circuit-level simulation and analysis tool that incorporates transistor-level simulation capabilities for full-chip mixed digital and analog designs. FineSim Pro contains a new tri-mode simulation engine with distributed processing that enables customers to simulate entire mixed-signal system chips at the transistor level.

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Mentor Graphics Announces Synthesis Support for Xilinx Virtex-5 SXT FPGAs

8 March 2007

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced that its suite of advanced synthesis products supports the newly introduced Virtex™-5 SXT field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) from Xilinx, Inc. Synthesis support for Virtex-5 SXT FPGAs is available now in Precision® Synthesis, release 2006a Update 2. Support within the LeonardoSpectrum™ tool suite will follow.

Designed to address the ultra-high DSP bandwidth and lower system cost requirements of next-generation wireless and video applications, the Virtex-5 SXT family expands the Xilinx XtremeDSP™ offering with three new devices. "Virtex-5 SXT greatly expands the Xilinx DSP capabilities, providing solutions for designs that previously required an ASIC or ASSP," said Simon Bloch, general manager, Mentor Graphics Design Creation and Synthesis Division. "With the large number of DSP and memory blocks available in this new family, Virtex-5 SXT designers will need the sophisticated control capabilities found within Precision Synthesis and other Mentor DSP-related tools."

The companies began work last year on Virtex-5 SXT FPGA support within the Mentor Graphics family of synthesis tools. "Complex FPGAs and designs require much more than push-button solutions," said Sandeep Vij, vice president of world-wide marketing for Xilinx. "With its capabilities of analyzing and managing large, complex designs and advanced FPGA architectures, Precision Synthesis is the perfect match for our new Virtex-5 family."

Precision Synthesis forms the centerpiece of Mentor Graphics' FPGA flow. With advanced support for ASIC prototyping (support for DesignWare® libraries, SDC constraints, gated-clock handling, etc.) plus advanced implementation and optimization techniques such as automatic mapping and inferencing of dedicated DSP and RAM blocks, Precision Synthesis is uniquely suited to handle today's high-end

FPGAs. In addition, Precision Synthesis features an award-winning design analysis capability, allowing designers to cross-probe between multiple views as well as perform interactive static timing for rapid "what-if" analyses. Precision Synthesis reduces design iterations, and enables faster, more predictable completion of designs, while delivering high quality of results. As a part of the Mentor Graphics synthesis product line, LeonardoSpectrum offers customers a well-proven, mature synthesis solution for both FPGAs and ASICs.

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Mentor Announces PADS2007 With Major Technology and Productivity Enhancements

6 March 2007

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced the availability of the next generation of PADS® flow with the introduction of PADS2007. This newest release offers layout designers and engineers the ability to implement RF and microwave circuitry using highly automated functionality, perform design for fabrication (DFF) checking early in the design process, and optimize performance with advanced high-speed analysis/verification functionality, thus significantly improving their productivity and design quality.

“Mentor Graphics continues to invest in the future of PADS by strengthening the capabilities of designers to integrate RF circuitry design, high-speed net analysis and routing, and DFF into the PADS design flow,” said Dan Boncella, director of marketing, System Design Division, Mentor Graphics. “This new release extends Mentor Graphics’ technology leadership by moving these sophisticated design capabilities into the PADS desktop PCB solutions.”

“Harris Corporation is excited about the new enhancements and features that are included in the new PADS 2007 release. The new library structure and direct DXF into the decal editor will save hours of effort for our EDA librarian staff by solving alpha-numeric translation issues and importing RF modeling directly into the decal editor,” said John Adamski, EDA Specialist, Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division. “The new RF module has several time saving features. Trace manipulation for RF circuits, automated via shielding for sensitive traces, via plane flooding feature that is user selectable for interior plane fill or exterior (edge) fill. Manual via shielding for RF or EMI is now a thing of the past.”

Additional enhancements in this release include:

- High-speed routing improvements: controls for matched length nets and differential routing improvements.
- Square and chamfered corners, DXF-in import, and via matrixing enhancements for RF design.
- Blind/buried via drill table improvements: designs with partial vias (blind or buried) are automatically updated with the layer pairs and drill count of the partial vias in the design.

- Alpha-numeric pin improvements: simplifies creation of large BGA-based parts.

- ECO enhancements: includes comparison of design rules between the schematic and layout databases.

- Design for fabrication (DFF) analysis: powerful fabrication checks, such as acid trap, starved thermals, solder mask slivers are checked in the CAD environment and database, allowing the designer to identify and correct manufacturing problems in PADS Layout, before Gerber generation.

- Pin number visibility: the user has the ability to turn on/off the visibility of the component pin numbers, either numeric or alpha-numeric, improving designer productivity during routing.

- SI analysis: integration of DxDesigner™ and the HyperLynx® LineSim® tool through a new interface allows fast transfer of a circuit for analysis and back annotation of termination resistor values.

- Analog simulation: provides a board level simulation analysis and verification through a common schematic editor for both simulation and PCB design entry.

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Metafore Takes Over PLM Practice from Axian

8 February 2007

Metafore and Axian have concluded an agreement to transfer Axian's Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) practice to Metafore. This will best serve the needs of both Axian's software development customers and Axian's PLM customers. This move allows Axian to remain strongly focused upon Software Engineering and Web Services Programming while Metafore further strengthens its Product Lifecycle Management consulting and delivery capabilities.

Laila Hirr will serve as Director of Business Solutions and Manager of Metafore's Pacific Northwest Office and will be transitioning Axian's PLM customers to Metafore during the month of February 2007. Metafore will maintain the current Axian service delivery team, which will augment the already existing expertise and allow Metafore to provide even broader support to existing and new clients.

"We are excited about Laila and her team joining us," says Andreas Lindenthal, Principal of Metafore. "Our teams have very complementary capabilities, and our customers will quickly experience the additional value our combined teams can provide. It will also further strengthen our position as an independent PLM solution provider".

Axian's Product Software Engineering and Web Services customers will not be affected by this change.

For additional information on the move visit http://www.meta-fore.com and http://www.axian.com.

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MSC.Software Global University Program to Help Educators Meet Business Demand for Enterprise Simulation

5 March 2007

MSC.Software detailed its Global University Program, a multi-dimensional offering to complement the recent introductions of MSC.Software's SimEnterprise solutions.

Uniquely designed to help professors and students worldwide meet the needs of business and industry as its primary goal, MSC.Software's University Program provides affordably-priced software bundles as well as curriculum development and teaching assistance and an online community to make principles and theory more understandable, enjoyable and relevant for engineering students. Available as an online resource at http://www.mscsoftware.com/university/ and with online forums at http://forums.mscsoftware.com/universities/, the program delivers gold-standard software and resources to today's engineering institutions.

"The University Program has been created to allow professors to easily include MSC software in their teaching and engineering coursework so they can then enable engineering students to experience industry-leading enterprise simulation software in an educational context," said Bill Weyand, chairman and chief executive officer of MSC.Software.

MSC.Software's solutions have been used for research and teaching at prestigious engineering universities around the world for many years. These include institutions such as Purdue University, Technische Universität München, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Osaka University, AIP-PRIMECA, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras located in Chennai, India, and nearly a thousand others.

To help universities take their multi-disciplinary curricula and research to the next level, MSC.Software has introduced three software bundles containing unmodified versions of the same industry-standard simulation products used by some of the largest manufacturers in the world:

The University FEA Bundle includes MD Nastran, MSC Patran, Marc, Dytran, and Sofy for finite-element analysis (FEA) of mechanical components & systems such as aircraft, ships, ground vehicles, consumer products, buildings and structures, as well as biomedical, micro (MEMS), and nano devices.

The University Motion Bundle includes Adams, Adams/Car and Easy5 for system-level simulation of mechanical systems that move (multi-body dynamics), such as aircraft, ground vehicles and robots, as well as those that involve hydraulics and controls, such as mechatronics devices.

The University SimDesigner Bundle offers SimDesignersoftware providing CAD-embedded simulation inside CATIA V5, especially for structural, thermal, and impact-related FEA and motion analysis.

Universities and Industry Speak Out in Strong Support of MSC.Software's Program

"MSC.Software's focus on providing universities with software that enables integrated, multi-disciplinary, template-based, managed simulation processes for the entire engineering enterprise is a perfect fit with our PLM Center of Excellence (http://www.purdue.edu/plm)," said Richard Couch, director of engagement, Purdue University. "The world's leading manufacturers in the automotive and aerospace industries, who regularly hire our students, have told us they expect our graduates to hit the ground running with the kind of simulation software provided by MSC, so being a part of MSC's University Program is a win-win for Purdue University students and faculty and our industrial partners."

"We truly appreciate MSC.Software's continuing support for our Partners for Advanced Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE) Program (http://www.pacepartners.org)," said Elaine Chapman-Moore, Manager of Global PACE Partnerships, General Motors. "Our common goal is to help prepare students at world-class engineering schools around the world to apply computer-aided design and simulation in their subsequent work in industry, thus accelerating their time-to-productivity in their jobs."

Dr Paul Allaire and Dr Pradip Sheth, professors of Engineering at the University of Virginia, are also Directors of the ROMAC Industrial Research Program, the largest university-industry consortium for Rotating Machinery and Controls (http://www.virginia.edu/romac/). "In addition to using MSC.Software's products to teach our students, we are delighted to collaborate with MSC.Software in our research so we can build our advanced rotor dynamics algorithms on top of the open architecture of industry-standard software like MD Nastran," said Allaire. "Our software utilizes advanced component modeling for fluid film, bearings, and seals as input into MD Nastran for evaluating the response and stability of rotors undergoing vibrations in industrial rotating machinery."

"To strongly serve an educator's needs to provide his or her students with experience using commercial engineering software, we are introducing new consolidated software bundles to our University Program members, together with innovative licensing and pricing, to motivate and reward broader use of MSC.Software's multi-disciplinary software in classes, research, and collaborative projects throughout entire engineering schools," said Jim Ryan, MSC University Program Manager.

"With this program, universities around the globe can now cost-effectively obtain hundreds of networked licenses of MSC.Software products. That gives schools the option to use the same set of best-in-class, CAD-neutral simulation software products for wide-ranging applications across multiple departments such as mechanical, aerospace, civil and biomedical engineering," continued Ryan.

More information on the MSC.Software University Program is available at http://www.mscsoftware.com/university/.

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New Flovent Diffuser "SmartParts" Improve Airflow Simulation in Buildings

March 2007

Flomerics has announced the availability of six new "SmartParts" for its Flovent software that save time and improve accuracy in simulating the performance of diffusers. In the past, modeling diffusers has required detailed information from manufacturers about physical tests, building a room model to simulate the tests, and adjusting the model to match the test results. The new SmartParts models, on the other hand, can simply be dropped into a Flovent model and require only commonly available data for the diffuser such as outside dimensions, flow rate and temperature data.

"Diffuser data is hard to obtain and even when you get it it's very time-consuming to build a model that properly utilizes that data," said Dr. Andy Manning, Director of Engineering at Flomerics. "The new Flovent SmartParts dramatically reduce the time required to accurately model diffusers. We have carefully tested these SmartParts and determined that provide a similar level of accuracy equal to building a room model and matching the flow. The built-in intelligence of the new SmartParts eliminates what used to be a difficult and time-consuming task. Another advantage of the new SmartParts is that they automatically generate the correct grid geometry and constraints, which helps avoid errors."

The new SmartParts models are based on research done by Drs. Qingyan Chen and Jelena Srebric of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who are now professors at Purdue University and Pennsylvania State University, respectively. The researchers defined a method by which readily-available diffuser parameters can be translated into computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models. "The correct description of the flow and thermal information from an air supply diffuser is extremely important for a reliable prediction of room air distribution with CFD," Chen said. "I am very pleased that Flomerics is making use of the methods that we developed for ASHRAE to ensure accurate representation of diffusers in CFD models."

The Flovent SmartParts for displacement, square ceiling, round ceiling, vortex ceiling, and grille diffusers are based on the momentum method developed by Chen and Srebric. The momentum method de-couples momentum and mass flow in the CFD simulations from the room airflow. This method uses the initial momentum and mass flow rate from a diffuser as boundary conditions for the diffusers. Flomerics has also introduced a drum louvre diffuser SmartPart which is based on research performed by Paul Rose with Gilberts, a UK-based manufacturer of diffusers.

Flovent software from Flomerics reduces the time and skill required to simulate complex ventilation problems, because it is specially designed for applications in the built environment. Flovent provides tools that allow users to assemble models from libraries, avoiding the need to create them from scratch. Flovent provides an environment that enables fast, automated design studies. Automated gridding and distributed processing across networks streamlines the process of evaluating multiple iterations to optimize the design. With this new version, Flovent continues to set the standard for airflow simulation in the construction industry. Thermal dimensioning, contamination/moisture control and airflow inside large buildings can now easily be undertaken in Flovent.

For more information, visit Flomerics' Web site at www.flovent.com.

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Seapine Software Announces All New QA Wizard™ Pro 2007

6 March 2007

Seapine Software, Inc. announced that next month it will release an all new version of its QA Wizard automated software testing tool. In recognition of the new code and extensive new capabilities, Seapine is calling this product QA Wizard Pro 2007. QA Wizard Pro 2007 will be shipped to all existing QA Wizard customers under maintenance as a part of their software support contract.

Software quality is critical to organizations that write programs for sale, for use internally or on a Web site, or as on-board logic for devices. Managers responsible for quality, customer satisfaction, market share, and risk management realize the tremendous costs associated with poor quality software getting into the hands of users. QA Wizard Pro 2007 was designed to make it easy for companies to test more of an application, test it more thoroughly, and test it faster than ever before, giving an organization a high degree of confidence in the application when it is made available to users and customers.

"In the past, software quality automation tools were difficult to use, hard to maintain, and not very efficient," said Richard Riccetti, president and CEO, Seapine Software. "With QA Wizard Pro 2007, Seapine blasts through these barriers to automated software testing with robust debugging capabilities, a powerful scripting language, and fast playback speed."

Other features of QA Wizard Pro 2007 include a global application repository for ease of maintenance, support for remotely running scripts, script editing in both grid view and text view, and support of both Windows Vista and Internet Explorer 7.

QA Wizard Pro 2007 is one tool in Seapine Software's suite of software application lifecycle management solutions. Other tools in the suite include Surround SCM® for software configuration management and version control, TestTrack® Pro for defect and issue tracking, and TestTrack® TCM for test case management.

Global organizations are successfully using Seapine's tools to:

- Provide real-time, secure access to source code files and issues while enabling parallel development, facilitating team communication, managing processes and tools used to create repeatable builds, and ensuring configuration changes are tracked.

- Track and prioritize tasks, issues, and work items while streamlining communications and meeting critical compliance and policy requirements, such as Sarbanes-Oxley.

- Automate functional and regression testing while tracking development-related defects and controlling changes to test scripts.

All of Seapine's ALM products generate metrics-rich, customizable management reports, and enable compliance with internal and external management controls. Seapine's tools enable a variety of popular software development methodologies and help managers implement and enforce industry-recognized software engineering best practices.

Seapine's ALM tools are available both as individual solutions and integrated suites such as Seapine CM for complete change management, TestTrack® Studio for software test planning and tracking, and Seapine SQA for end-to-end quality assurance.

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Sequence CoolTime/CoolCheck a Hit With Stretch;"Helps Find Issues Early in the Design Flow ...!"

6 March 2007

Sequence Design's CoolTime and CoolCheck are winning praise from Stretch Inc., technology leader in software-configurable processors, for their valuable early-analysis physical design capabilities and ease of use.

"CoolTime and CoolCheck automate elements of the physical implementation process that previously required excessive manual effort and time," said Edson Gomersall, Stretch physical design manager. "Both of these tools help us find issues at the early stages of the design flow, saving engineering time while compressing time to market." Gomersall also noted ease of use as a key selling point: "For example, CoolCheck's GUI was very intuitive and helped us quickly pinpoint areas of the grid on which to focus."

The Sequence's Cool Products family – CoolTime, CoolPower, and CoolCheck – cut design closure times by preventing time-consuming iterations. CoolTime is the industry's most accurate dynamic voltage drop analysis and optimization solution, concurrently analyzing timing, signal integrity, static IR drop, power, and electromigration. CoolCheck enables effective power grid debug early in the flow with a fast vectorless technique and 100% coverage.

Stretch employed the Sequence tools as part of a design flow for a multi-million gate device comprised of customer logic, commercial IP, and custom memory. Gomersall said his team found areas of missing vias and high resistive connections to macros using CoolCheck very easily. It also identified areas where some instances were placed between macros, creating high-resistance connections to those cells. "CoolCheck saved us several design iterations, and a lot of time we would have spent performing manual debug, and it did it quickly," he said.

Gomersall also appreciated CoolTime's speed and accuracy: "For a 150K instance block, CoolTime produced timing results within six minutes, and memory usage was 1.5G."

"Companies on the leading edge like Stretch must not get bogged down by long design cycles," said Vic Kulkarni, Sequence president and CEO. "CoolTime and CoolCheck offer the ease of use, and fast, accurate analysis Stretch needs to consistently hit its market windows with the most innovative products."

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STAR-CCM+ V2.06: Optimizing Aerodynamic Simulations and the Engineering Process

7 March 2007

CD-adapco announced the release of STAR-CCM+ V2.06, their Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) tool. Replete with new features, V2.06 marks a significant step on STAR-CCM+'s route to being the default code for all types of external aerodynamic calculations. Its combination of ease-to-use, an automatic simulation process, and powerful physics modeling means it optimizes the engineering processes in which it is deployed.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

STAR-CCM+ is becoming the code of choice for external aerodynamicists: of planes, trains, and automobiles or oilrigs, ships and buildings. A combination of features, many unique to STAR-CCM+, makes it a complete toolkit for the CFD aerodynamicist. These include an automatic process from geometry to high quality hexahedral or polyhedral mesh, accurate solvers (implicit algebraic-multigrid and explicit multistage Runge-Kutta coupled solvers and a segregated solver), custom-made pre- and post-processing for external aerodynamics and unrivaled efficiency in handling calculations involving hundreds of millions of cells.

Optimizing the Engineering Process

Rapid and robust access to accurate CFD results oils the cogs of the engineering process. STAR-CCM+ achieves this through a range of unique features that cut preparation time for simulations while guaranteeing accurate results.

By automatically "shrink-wrapping" CAD geometry with a high-quality triangulated surface, STAR-CCM+'s surface wrapper fills holes, removes overlapping and non-manifold surfaces to cut the geometry preparation time from days to minutes. The advanced automatic hexahedral or polyhedral meshers then produce a high-quality computational mesh without further user intervention. Finally, the ability to solve, post-process, update the geometry and automatically rerun the calculation, all within a single coherent environment has reduced the time required for iterative design studies.

Powerful CFD in an easy-to-use environment

From its inception, STAR-CCM+'s goal has been to deliver powerful CFD in an easy-to-use environment. STAR-CCM+ V2.06 continues in this vein with further enhancements to the user interface,

visualization when meshing and post-processing and a raft of new and advanced physics models. The main modeling advances improve calculations that involve unsteady flow and/or combustion, radiation and heat transfer in multiphase systems. Turbulence models enforce realizability, one of the benefits being to promote higher accuracy near stagnation and impingement regions; Large Eddy Simulation (LES) has been introduced and Detached Eddy Simulation (DES) capabilities have been enhanced to incorporate the Spalart-Allmaras delayed detached eddy model (or DDES); solar radiation has been introduced; the Volume Of Fluid (VOF) or free-surface model now allows heat transfer; and, STAR-CCM+'s wealth of combustion models now includes the Partially Premixed Coherent Flame Model (PCFM). Not to mention further enhancements to the boundary conditions and treatment of multi-species.

Automatic Fluid Volume Extraction

Also bundled with STAR-CCM+ V2.06 is the latest version of STAR-Design: CD-adapco's parametric geometry modeling tool, including Parasolid, IGES and STEP file import. This release includes fully automatic extraction of the internal or external fluid volume from CAD geometry. Fully compatible with STAR-CCM+ V2.06, STAR-Design is ideal for CFD engineers who need to manipulate CAD geometry prior to simulation, without access to a full 3D-CAD/PLM package.

STAR-CCM+ V2.06, bundled with STAR-Design, is now available from CD-adapco's User Services site, or from your local CD-adapco office.

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Synopsys Extends VMM Methodology for Higher Functional Verification Productivity

5 March 2007

Synopsys, Inc. announced it has extended VMM methodology to enable product development teams to more effectively define, measure and achieve their verification objectives. The next-generation VMM solution delivers higher verification productivity with three new components: VMM Planner, VMM Applications, and VMM Automation. VMM Planner enables managers to systematically plan and track verification progress to increase verification visibility and predictability; VMM Applications reduce testbench creation time by allowing architects to construct more effective verification environments; and VMM Automation improves the productivity of engineers developing and using advanced testbenches. The next- generation VMM solution builds on the proven VMM methodology defined in the popular book Verification Methodology Manual for SystemVerilog.

VMM Planner Increases Verification Visibility and Predictability

Verification planning and tracking are often ad-hoc processes, based on a collection of spreadsheets, documents, reports, log files and emails. This often results in incomplete or inaccurate assessments of the true status of verification and increases the risk of unexpected delays in verification closure.

VMM Planner addresses this challenge by enabling verification teams to systematically capture a feature hierarchy of the design to be verified, together with associated coverage, test, ownership and schedule data, as an executable verification plan. VMM Planner extracts and rolls up a variety of verification results such as code and functional coverage, formal and dynamic assertions, and test pass/fail data, into an annotated plan that can be shared as an accurate, objective and transparent assessment of verification progress.

"The VMM Planner is an important addition to Synopsys' VMM solution, addressing the critical need of chip development teams to have a systematic way of capturing and tracking verification progress," said Randy Mullin, director of verification at Tundra Semiconductor. "The VMM Planner will provide full verification transparency to the chip development team, enabling key milestones to be measured, issues to be quickly identified, and the overall process to become more predictable."

VMM Applications Speed Testbench Creation

VMM Applications provide a collection of high-level functions to further reduce testbench creation time for commonly used design elements, including registers and memories. These new applications are built on the VMM Standard Library, a set of generic building-blocks defined in the Verification Methodology Manual for SystemVerilog. The initial set of VMM Applications includes:

Register Abstraction Layer to quickly and easily manage verification of thousands of chip configuration registers with automatically-generated tests.

Hardware Abstraction Layer to create VMM testbenches that can be quickly configured to target simulation or hardware-assisted verification platforms.

Reusable Environment Composition enables the creation of verification subsystems that can be reused without modification at the system level.

Memory Allocation Manager to test for potential memory buffer content and address bugs.

"We have seen large verification productivity gains using the Synopsys VMM methodology," said Tim Houlihan, verification manager at Cypress Semiconductor. "We used the VMM Register Abstraction Layer application on our West Bridge Antioch chip and saved two months of effort over a traditional ad-hoc register verification approach. The built-in bit-bash tests were especially helpful in the re-verification required after register set changes."

"The VMM Hardware Abstraction Layer application provides an easy-to-use, high-bandwidth means to connect advanced testbenches to high-performance accelerators and emulators," said Lauro Rizzati, general manager of EVE USA. "By using the Hardware Abstraction Layer's transaction-level interface between the EVE ZeBu emulator and Synopsys' VCS® solution we were able to achieve data transfer rate of more than 500MB per second data transfer rate."

VMM Automation Improves Verification User Productivity

VMM Automation provides a variety of methodology automation tools and features to improve the productivity of verification users. The VMM SystemC™ transaction level interface provides a high-performance interface between VMM testbenches and SystemC reference models. The VMM Compliance Checker analyzes verification environments against the rules and guidelines from the Verification Methodology Manual for SystemVerilog, providing an easy means to help ensure interoperable and reusable verification components.

"A proven, robust methodology continues to be a key requirement for engineers to realize the power of SystemVerilog for verification" said Manoj Gandhi, senior vice president and general manager of Synopsys' Verification Group. "Synopsys' is extending the proven VMM methodology with the latest addition that enables chip developers to efficiently define, measure and achieve their verification objectives."

Availability

VMM Planner, VMM Applications and VMM Automation will be a part of Synopsys' VCS functional verification solution and Pioneer-NTB testbench automation tool. VMM Planner and VMM Applications are available now in beta; VMM Automation tools will become available over the next 12 to 24 months.

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Technia Offers ENOVIA SmarTeam Express Packages: Affordable, Easy To Install, With Rapid ROI in Just Days

5 March 2007

Technia now offers SmarTeam Design Express (SDE) for Multi-CAD, an out of the box solution that helps small to medium sized businesses (SMBs) get started optimizing their use of product knowledge. SDE lets manufacturers fully implement an optimized collaborative product data management scenario in just days.

“Based on years of experience delivering solutions to the SMB market, we have come to understand their distinct PLM needs,” said Alex Zeltcer, General Manager, ENOVIA SmarTeam. “SDE is affordable, easy to install, involves little impact on hardware, and no services up front. We believe it is a unique enabler for bringing mid-sized organizations into the growing community that is gaining tangible business benefits through PLM.” SmarTeam Design Express for Multi-CAD is a preconfigured solution designed to help SMBs benefit from PLM by beginning with basic product data management. Highly intuitive, with streamlined functionality accessed from within the designer’s everyday CAD environment, SDE eases design teams into an optimized way of working.

SmarTeam Design Express for Multi-CAD offers SMBs a bottom-up approach to meeting design department needs – and with minimal disruption to day-to-day operations. Its optimized scenario

integrates design data and offers the first level of PLM functionality. This enables designers to securely access, manage, and reuse the most accurate, up-to-date product information, gaining efficiency, avoiding errors and reducing risk.

While enabling design teams to improve productivity today, SDE goes a significant step further. It provides a documented methodology for ensuring PLM solution expansion of a fuller scope on the same platform, such as:

- Improving design methodology based on company-specific needs
- Automating product data and business processes, such as Bill of Materials management and change management, across the organization and sites
- Bridging to manufacturing and other enterprise applications
- Linking design management to OEM customers or suppliers
- Tailored solutions for SolidWorks, Autodesk Inventor, Solid Edge and Pro/ENGINEER

SDE is a first step towards an evolving PLM solution that can be built modularly, according to a company's capabilities and needs.

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UGS Announces New Releases for its D-Cubed 3D Component Software Solutions

6 March 2007

UGS Corp. announced the immediate availability of new releases of four of the D-Cubed component software products. Version 36.0 of 3D Dimensional Constraint Manager (3D DCM), Assembly Engineering Manager (AEM), Collision Detection Manager (CDM) and Hidden Line Manager (HLM) contain new enhancements to improve function and performance.

Detailed descriptions of the enhancements are available online at: http://www.ugs.com/products/open/d-cubed/latest_releases.shtml.

D-Cubed

D-Cubed™ software is part of UGS' PLM Components suite of solutions and represents a family of geometric software components that enable key functionality in CAD, CAM, CAE, and PLM applications, including sketching, part and assembly modeling, motion simulation, collision detection,

clearance measurement and hidden-line visualization. For more information, please visit http://www.ugs.com/d-cubed/.

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