CIMdata

PLM Industry Summary

Editor: Christine Bennett

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Contents

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CIMdata News

CIMdata in the New
Your Best Bet in Mechatronics: Use PLM for Multidisciplinary Design Collaboration

By Ed Miller, CIMdata Inc.

Manufacturing Business Technology

September 22, 2008

A wide range of today's mechanical products use software-driven electronics to make them work. Creating software is generally cheaper than building hardware, and electronics can be used to pack greater levels of intelligent features into products. Dubbed "computers on wheels," cars use electronic circuitry for a wide range of safety features, diagnostics, engine control and other functionality. Likewise, aircraft, defense systems, machine tools, home appliances, toys and an expanding variety of other products are based on mechatronics: designs that blend mechanical, electronics, and embedded software components.

Effectively incorporating mechatronics systems into product designs isn't done without overcoming some formidable barriers, however. Mechanical Computer-Aided Design (MCAD), Electronic Design Automation (EDA), and Computer-Aided Software Engineering (CASE) tools typically operate as separate systems that do not support reasonable exchange of data between each other. Moreover, at most companies the different disciplines work independently, for the most part functioning in isolation from one another and passing project information from one group to another in serial fashion. In many cases, mechanical engineering completes work and then forwards tasks to electronic/electrical design engineering, which then forwards tasks to software engineering. Disciplines work in silos with their own individual design processes and non-integrated information system tools. As a result, engineers downstream in development have little opportunity to provide valuable input early in the cycle, and design deficiencies often are not uncovered until late in the process when changes are costly and time-consuming.

By necessity, companies increasingly are implementing product life-cycle management (PLM) to

address these issues, enabling multidisciplinary design team members to work in parallel and more collaboratively in a virtual "big room" where information is more readily exchanged, work is completed more efficiently, problems are circumvented early, product design is optimized, development time is shortened, and innovation is encouraged.

PLM provides these benefits through specific work processes that accommodate the nuances and intricacies of the different design fields in a single coherent program. Through such an approach, MCAD, EDA and CASE tools are integrated into a common design environment where people in the different disciplines can easily check-out and check-in appropriate design components from the enterprise PLM application. PLM provides these cross-functional teams with a common repository that serves as a "single source of the truth" – one place to store all of the design data, to maintain integrated configuration control, and to use as a basis for iterating back and forth in the design process.

By providing a product information backbone, PLM supports close collaboration in mechatronics development by giving all team members real-time access to reliable, up-to-date information. PLM maintains individual views of the data for mechanical, electrical, and software engineers while managing a global, integrated view of customer requirements and issues so that portfolio tracking, project and program management become integrated across all disciplines. Moreover, in industries where stringent design protocols must be followed, PLM workflow engines support the execution of the required steps across all design disciplines, providing an audit trail and guaranteeing that reliable and timely new product builds will be executed. Such capabilities are especially valuable to supply chain managers who need to ensure that all intellectual property of the product is available in time for planning, engineering, and procurement processes.

Enabled by PLM in this manner, companies can more effectively organize and manage the integrated, collaborative teams needed to develop the mechatronics designs that are becoming critical to the success of a growing number of manufacturers. In the coming years, the most successful companies will be those that address this increasingly critical aspect of product development, as a differentiator against slower-moving competitors that may not yet fully understand the shifting dynamics of product design.

Ed Miller is president of CIMdata Inc. (1-734-668-9922), an independent worldwide firm providing strategic consulting to maximize an enterprise's ability to design and deliver innovative products and services through the application of PLM strategies. CIMdata works with both industrial organizations and suppliers of PLM-related technologies and services. The company also conducts research, provides subscription services, produces several commercial publications, and offers industry education throughout North America, Europe, and the Asia Pacific region.

Click here to return to Contents

Company News

Dassault Systèmes Launches "Green" Global Headquarters

September 24, 2008

Dassault Systèmes (DS), a world leader in 3D and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions, today announced the launch of its new "green" global headquarters "Dassault Systèmes Campus," with employees moving to the campus starting early November. Dassault Systèmes Campus has earned the

French HQE (High Quality Environment) label and is positioned to earn the first HQE Exploitation label once available.

Starting in 2009, the HQE Exploitation label will help French businesses manage their facilities based on strict sustainable development and environmental requirements. Currently only the facility designers and constructors are required to follow HQE standards.

For its global campus's design and construction, Dassault Systèmes earned an HQE High Performance score in five environmental target areas versus the three required by the label. Dassault Systèmes surpassed requirements to include facility management standards for the upcoming HQE Exploitation certification. Examples include:

- Energy Efficiency—Dassault Systèmes Campus maximizes renewable energy sources throughout its facility of four buildings covering 57,000 square meters.
    - Computer Servers: A software research and development company, Dassault Systèmes possesses a significant amount of computer servers; the company will harness heat generated by their usage to warm 70 percent of the facility's hygienic air on the coldest days (-7° exterior temperature).
    - Lighting: Dassault Systèmes will economize 30 percent of the energy required to light the campus by using a combination of photovoltaic solar panels, motion and natural light detectors, as well as highly efficient lighting components. For example, compared to fluorescent lights, the selected lamps are 30 percent superior. Compared to incandescent lamps, they are five times more efficient and have life spans 12-15 longer.
    - Maintenance: A centralized computer control panel monitors the campus' energy consumption, and in case of overuse will detect the location of leaks and breakdowns for quicker repair and energy savings.
- Respecting the Natural Environment—Dassault Systèmes Campus sits adjacent to Meudon Forest, providing its employees direct walking and biking paths into the woods. Dassault Systèmes has planted indigenous flora on the campus itself, and is developing plans to help preserve the forests' biodiversity.
- Low Carbon Construction—An on-site cement mixer produced the daily equivalent to that of 100 cement trucks, reducing noise pollution and close to 30 percent in carbon gas emissions directly linked to the avoided transportation.
- Workplace Wellbeing—Measures taken to promote employee health and wellbeing include:
    - Air quality: Each meeting room is equipped with a carbon gas detector that will activate fresh air circulation in function of the amount of people in the room. o Nutrition: Employee restaurants will have menus based on organic products; fair trade coffee will be served on campus.
    - Fitness: Onsite workout facilities and equipment will include a gym, tennis courts, skate park, outdoor bicycles and individual showers.
    - Services: Employees will benefit from an online carpooling system and an onsite concierge and bakery.

Thanks to these and other innovative efforts, Dassault Systèmes will reduce its corporate environmental

footprint. Continuing in this dynamic, Dassault Systèmes will soon undergo a carbon emission evaluation run by Action Carbon, a non-profit program to combat climate change.

"One of our key missions is to help customers create innovative products for a better environment through Dassault Systèmes' 3D and PLM solutions. Mirroring this objective, our innovative campus has been designed and constructed in respect and harmony with the environment. We are confident that this global collaborative platform will provide workplace performance and wellbeing for our employees, partners and guests," says Laurence Dors, senior executive vice president, Global Development and Resources, Dassault Systèmes

Click here to return to Contents

Dassault Systèmes to Broaden 3-D CAD Software Sales in Japan

September 21, 2008

Dassault Systèmes SA, the world's leading provider of 3-D CAD (computer-aided design) software, plans to double its Japanese sales force by 2012 and develop new marketing routes among smaller manufacturers, apparel makers and drug companies.

Japan now accounts for around 20 per cent of the French firm's worldwide sales. But by broadening the scope of its business beyond large automakers and producers of electronics and machinery, it aims to double this ratio by 2013.

Dassault Systèmes now has roughly 750 salespeople working for 38 sales agents in Japan, centering on leading information-processing companies like IBM Japan Ltd. and NTT Data Engineering Systems Corp.

To cultivate the market for apparel makers and pharmaceutical firms, Dassault Systèmes will strengthen its collaborative ties with companies that have experience installing information systems in these sectors, getting them to handle its 3-D CAD software products.

The firm plans to increase the sales force by around 20 per cent each year to 2012 and will introduce low-cost 3-D CAD applications that smaller companies can introduce for around 1 million yen (US$9,385).

Click here to return to Contents

DP Technology Expands Agreement with Siemens PLM Software

September 23, 2008

DP Technology, an innovative leader in the computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) sector and author of the ESPRIT® CAM systems, recently signed an agreement with Siemens PLM Software — a leading global provider of product lifecycle management (PLM) software and services — to extend the use of Parasolid® software, a geometric modeling component for demanding 3D applications, in its ESPRIT CAM software.

The standard base license of the ESPRIT 2000 series will now utilize the Parasolid Designer level functionality, thereby offering the advanced solid modeling capabilities of ESPRIT, previously an optional product, as a standard component of the software. The ESPRIT Mold version of the software will, for the first time, utilize Parasolid Communicator as part of its standard base license.

"Utilizing this new technology, ESPRIT will now offer significantly more modeling and interoperability capabilities within the ESPRIT base license," said Chuck Mathews, DP's vice president. "Interoperatbility that was previously unavailable within ESPRIT Mold and advanced modeling capabilities that were optionally available at additional cost are now both included within the base product. The change provides our customers with significantly more capability and value."

"As the PLM industry's leading provider of open solutions, we are pleased when a progressive company like DP Technology leverages one of our software components to enhance value for their customers," said Chris Kelley, vice president of Partner and Platform Marketing, Siemens PLM Software. "With today's announcement, the robust quality and functionality of Parasolid is now available to every ESPRIT customer."

Existing ESPRIT customers with active software maintenance contracts will receive these upgrades at no additional cost as part of their existing service agreement with DP Technology.

Click here to return to Contents

Sescoi Micro-Machining at Micronora, France

September 18, 2008

Visitors to Micronora, the international micro-technology show running from 23rd to 26th September in Besançon, France, will have the opportunity to see WorkNC, Sescoi's automatic CAM/CAD system, in action.

Sescoi and partners, Makino and Hitachi tools, will be running live machining demonstrations on the Makino stand (A1 3 / 311-313 and 4/408-410).

Visitors can watch the micro-machining in 54HRC, 45NiCrMo16 material of a watch casing part, modeled and programmed in WorkNC. WorkNC engineers will explain how trochoidal roughing, precise rest material detection and WorkNC's enhanced finishing and 3D engraving routines combine to produce this high quality part while greatly extending tool life.

In addition to the milling activity on the Makino stand, Sescoi will be demonstrating WorkXPlore 3D on its own stand (B2 4/415b). This high speed collaborative viewer, which gained the Productivity Excellence Award at the Industrie 2008 show, is used by leading French moldmakers such as Georges Pernoud, where data handling and quoting times have been cut by up to half.

WorkXPlore 3D can quickly import large models from a wide variety of CAD systems. Engineers can interrogate, analyze and mark-up model data and share this in an easy, lightweight format, inside and outside the company. WorkXPlore 3D provides a cost effective way of handling design information from various sources without the expense and complexity of running multiple CAD systems. It also helps engineers to optimize design and manufacture, shortening delivery times and bringing products to market sooner through concurrent working. A free version of this software can be downloaded from the Company's website (www.workxplore-3d.com)

Watch casing to be machined with WorkNC at Micronora

About Sescoi

For over 20 years, Sescoi has been developing software solutions renowned for their quality, reliability, ease of use, and automatic features, as well as for world-class technical support and service.

Sescoi has established sales and support offices across the United States, Europe and Asia in order to serve thousands of local and international customers from a range of industries.

Sescoi's software solutions include:

- WorkNC, an automatic CAM/CAD solution for 2 to 5-axis milling,
- WorkNC-CAD, a uniform CAD solution for the entire manufacturing process
- WorkXPlore 3D, an advanced 3D data visualization, interrogation and analysis solution
- WorkPLAN Enterprise, a new generation ERP solution for custom manufacturers
- MyWorkPLAN, a cost effective and easy to use job management system.

With many years' business, engineering and software development experience, Sescoi understands customers' requirements, helps them master the challenges of new software implementation and build their business long-term.

Click here to return to Contents

Events News

AspenTech Launches Webinar Series on the Seven Best Practices of Engineering Excellence

September 22, 2008

Aspen Technology, Inc., a leading provider of software and services to the process industries, has launched the Seven Best Practices of Engineering Excellence™ webinar series. The series will illustrate how process industry companies can adopt engineering best practices using aspenONE V7 software. The best practices enabled by aspenONE V7 reflect proven, state-of-the-art engineering work processes used by leading AspenTech customers.

The first webinar, "Uncovering Asset Lifecycle Management," will be held on September 23, at 10:00 a.m. EDT and will demonstrate how engineering best practices support Asset Lifecycle Management.

During this free 60-minute webinar, Dr. Sid Snitkin of ARC Advisory Group will show how process manufacturers can refocus their information management strategies to better support the design, maintenance and improvement of process assets. The webinar will also explain how AspenTech customers use aspenONE software product suite to support the asset lifecycle management approach, and the resulting impact on operational excellence.

Supporting Resources (Links to more information):

Seven Best Practices of Engineering Excellence webinar series schedule

aspenONE V7 information

Industry and Customer Testimonials

ARC Advisory Forum: Optimizing Asset Life Cycle Performance

Click here to return to Contents

Largest ANSYS International Conference to-Date Underscores Increasing Value of Engineering Simulation

September 24, 2008

ANSYS, Inc., a global innovator of simulation software and technologies designed to optimize product development processes, today announced that its 2008 International ANSYS Conference: Inspiring Engineering, the largest such event to date, offered attendees a wealth of opportunities to learn about best practices for using simulation as a critical element of both product and process development strategies. Designers, engineers and other technical personnel along with managers and executives from 30-plus countries and approximately 30 industries took advantage of the plethora of technical presentations, the World of Inspiration Expo, social networking activities, hands-on software demonstrations and roundtable panel discussions.

The conference showcased how global, innovative companies use engineering simulation to inspire their designs, resulting in improved products and processes. "The International ANSYS Conference opened my eyes to a whole new world of ANSYS tools and capabilities. You can count on seeing me back next year," said Gerin Goldensoph from Carleton Life Support Systems, a world leader in the application of air separation technology for aviation applications.

"It was great to share some knowledge with colleagues; maybe the answer to our problem was right next door. And it was a good opportunity to know lots of people with the same problem, solving it in different ways," said Luis Vidriales from Mabe, a major producer of appliances in Mexico.

"The ANSYS conference not only provides opportunities to strengthen your company's knowledge of ANSYS products, but also provides the user with knowledge they can apply directly to their problems," said Christopher Johnson from Emerson Process Management, a diversified global manufacturing company.

Other attendees found the conference "a motivating visit" and "a time to get inspired." Participants were particularly intrigued with the hands-on demonstration area, where they took advantage of the opportunity to try out the functionality in both current and future product releases. The general session featured keynote speakers from BMW Sauber F1 and Boeing—Phantom Works, organizations that are looking to move to the next level of engineering simulation as a mission-critical strategy. ANSYS presenters discussed the trends that are shrinking industry's margin for error and the possibilities inherent in Simulation Driven Product Development(TM). During the World of Inspiration Expo, attendees had a chance to "Meet the Founders," three pioneers who, in their own ways, helped to shape the industry. John Swanson, Zol Cendes and Ferit Boysan, founders of ANSYS, Ansoft and Fluent respectively, were on hand to reflect on the changes in engineering simulation during their careers.

"We designed the 2008 International ANSYS Conference to inspire those who are strategically focused on solving complex engineering simulation challenges at that next level," said Jim Cashman, president and CEO of ANSYS, Inc. "The success stories presented by attendees show how world-leading companies are using our technology to spark innovation and push the envelope of conventional product designs."

In late August, the 2008 International ANSYS Conference kicked off a series of regional and industry-specific conferences that will take place around the world this fall. In early September, the ANSYS Automotive Conference was held in Michigan; the Engineering Simulation Energy Conference will take place November 11 and 12 in Houston, Texas, to cover multiple sectors including oil and gas, renewable energy, and nuclear power. Regional user conferences are scheduled for China, Korea, Belgium, Turkey,

Japan, Germany, France, U.K., Brazil, India, Russia and others countries. For a complete list of conferences, visit http://www.ansys.com/events.asp and select "user conferences."

Click here to return to Contents

Financial News

Arena Solutions Reports 38% Increase in Revenues and Continued Growth in International Customer Base for Second Quarter 2008

September 24, 2008

Arena Solutions, the leading provider of on-demand product lifecycle management (PLM) software for manufacturers of all sizes, today announced a 38 percent quarter-over-quarter gain and 103% year-over-year gain in revenues for its second quarter, ended June 30, 2008. During the Q208 quarter, Arena continued to see growth in its customer base, with continued interest from manufacturers outside of the United States. Sales cycles were also considerably shorter, as more than half of all sales closed in eight weeks or less.

Challenging economic conditions inspired many existing customers to work with Arena to maximize their subscriptions and expand their use of Arena PLM to further accelerate product development and optimize the way they handle key processes, such as engineering change management, new product introduction, compliance, and manufacturing outsourcing. These customers clearly see that increasing their investment in on-demand Arena PLM now quickly pays for itself with reduced errors, higher productivity and greater control.

“As a contract manufacturer we get bills of materials (BOMs) in every conceivable form. Arena PLM gives us a central repository, a common format, and revision control that is nearly impossible to maintain otherwise,” said Rod Mullins, process engineering manager at Idaho-based Western Electronics. “The ability to lock all data once a product is released to production is key, and the automated routing of BOM changes reduces the time to implement a change and minimizes the potential of a misbuild. This enhanced control and improved communication are especially important during periods of economic slowdown when our customers are even more concerned with avoiding waste, redundancy, and costly errors.”

Among the many growing companies who selected Arena PLM during Q208 to streamline their product development processes are Bell Micro, Blue Vector Systems, CoAdna Photonics, Cue Acoustics, Trilliant Networks, Meshnetics, and Navman Wireless. These companies all avoided the high costs, complexities and limitations associated with traditional client/server PLM applications.

Other significant highlights of Q2 2008:

- Arena Solutions made several new appointments to the management team this quarter to ensure the company continues to expand quickly while optimizing Arena PLM to best solve small and mid-sized manufacturers’ key challenges.
- Arena launched the new Summer ’08 release of Arena PLM, filled with improvements in every area of the product and specific emphasis on change management and visibility. Summer ’08 solidified Arena PLM as the epicenter of the product development environment and boosted customers’ ability to leverage the “single version of the truth” managed in the system.

- START-IT honored Arena Solutions for its PLM leadership with a position on the magazine's list of Most Influential Manufacturing Technology Providers. Later in Q208, START-IT again honored the company, naming it one of the industry's Hottest Companies of 2008. This marks the company's sixth straight win for its innovative, on-demand PLM technology that helps manufacturers succeed.
- Arena formed and hosted the inaugural event of the PLM Network to connect PLM software users in a single community and open lines of communication among those who are at the forefront of applying this technology. The forum offers PLM users—no matter which PLM software they use—the opportunity to learn best practices, consult experts, discuss unique uses of the software, and share insights with others who share their interests and job challenges.
- Arena surpassed its 99.5 percent service level agreement for the ninth consecutive quarter, with 100 percent scheduled uptime in Q2 2008 and a continued commitment to building and delivering the most secure, reliable PLM solution available.

"I recently read a statistic from the Aberdeen Group, which said a company is 26% more likely to hit product launch dates, and 17% more likely to meet product revenue targets when it integrates PLM into its enterprise ecosystem," said Craig Livingston, chief executive officer at Arena Solutions. "Hitting key dates and targets is even more critical in challenging economic times. We're thrilled that so many companies recognize the many ways Arena PLM can help them achieve those goals and became new customers during the quarter."

Click here to return to Contents

Avatech Solutions to Report Fiscal 2008 Fourth Quarter and Year-End Results on Monday, September 29, 2008

September 22, 2008

Avatech Solutions, Inc., the nationwide technology experts for design, engineering and facilities management, announced it will release its financial results for the quarter and fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, before the market opens on Monday, September 29, 2008. The Company has scheduled a conference call for 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the same day.

The dial-in numbers for the conference call are 888.680.0865 (domestic) or 617.213.4853 (international), and enter the passcode (96245152). A replay of the call will also be available through October 6, 2008, and can be accessed by dialing 888-286-8010 (domestic) or 617-801-6888, and dialing the passcode (35013558).

A live webcast of the conference call will be available to all investors in the Investor Relations section of the Company's website, www.avatech.com. For those who cannot listen to the live broadcast, an audio replay of the call will also be available on the Company's site for a limited time.

Click here to return to Contents

Dassault Systèmes to File Form 25 with SEC Pursuant to Previously Disclosed NASDAQ Voluntary Delisting Plans

25 September 2008

Dassault Systèmes (DS) announced its intention to file a Form 25 with the SEC on October 6, 2008.

As announced on July 31, 2008, the Board of Directors of Dassault Systèmes, at its meeting on July 29, 2008, approved the voluntary delisting of its American Depositary Shares (ADS) from NASDAQ and its voluntary deregistration with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

As a result, Dassault Systèmes intends to file a Form 25 with the SEC on October 6, 2008, to effect the delisting. The delisting will be effective ten days after this filing. Dassault Systèmes intends to file a Form 15F with the SEC to deregister and terminate its reporting obligations under the Exchange Act as soon as practicable following the effectiveness of the delisting from NASDAQ. The deregistration will become effective 90 days after the filing of the Form 15F. As a reminder, most of Dassault Systèmes' international and domestic investors currently trade Dassault Systèmes' shares on Euronext Paris.

Dassault Systèmes intends to maintain its American Depository Receipt (ADR) program, which will enable investors to retain their ADRs and facilitate trading on the U.S. Over-The-Counter (OTC) market.

Dassault Systèmes will continue to publish its quarterly, half-year and annual results in IFRS in French and in English, as well as other information for investors on its website (http://www.3ds.com) pursuant to applicable rules regarding financial communication. For convenience, DS will publish non-audited financial results in US GAAP for the third and fourth quarters of 2008.

Following the delisting of Dassault Systèmes' ADS and deregistration, Dassault Systèmes' shares will remain listed on Euronext Paris.

Click here to return to Contents

Microsoft Announces Quarterly Earnings Release Date

September 19, 2008

Microsoft Corp. will release fiscal year 2009 first-quarter financial results after the close of the market on Thursday, October 23, 2008. A live webcast of the earnings conference call will be made available at 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time on the Microsoft Investor Relations Web site at http://www.microsoft.com/msft.

Click here to return to Contents

Microsoft Announces Share Repurchase Program and Increases Quarterly Dividend

September 22, 2008

Microsoft Corp. today announced that its board of directors approved a new share repurchase program authorizing up to an additional $40 billion in share repurchases with an expiration of September 30, 2013.

The board of directors also declared a quarterly dividend of $0.13 per share, reflecting a two cent or 18 percent increase over the previous quarter's dividend. The dividend is payable December 11, 2008 to shareholders of record on November 20, 2008. The ex-dividend date will be November 18, 2008.

In addition, the company stated that it has completed its previous $40 billion stock repurchase program. Microsoft has returned over $115 billion to shareholders through a combination of share repurchases and dividends over the last five years.

"These announcements illustrate our confidence in the long-term growth of the company and our commitment to returning capital to our shareholders," said Chris Liddell, chief financial officer of

Microsoft.

Microsoft also announced that its board of directors has authorized debt financings from time to time of up to $6 billion. Pursuant to the authorization, the company has established a $2 billion commercial paper program. Microsoft intends to use the net proceeds from any debt financings for general corporate purposes, which may include funding for working capital and repurchases of stock.

The company received corporate credit ratings of AAA and Aaa by Standard & Poor's Rating Services and Moody's Investors Service Inc., respectively. The commercial paper is rated A-1+ by Standard & Poor's and P-1 by Moody's, the highest ratings available from both agencies.

"The company's strong credit quality coupled with investors' current appetite for high quality paper provides a unique opportunity for the company to establish its first-ever commercial paper program and enhance its capital structure," said George Zinn, treasurer of Microsoft.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ:MSFT) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

This press release does not constitute an offer of any securities for sale. The commercial paper notes to be issued by Microsoft have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, and may not be offered or sold except in reliance upon an exemption under the Securities Act.

Click here to return to Contents

SofTech Announces Annual Financial Results for FY 2008

September 24, 2008

SofTech, Inc., a proven provider of product lifecycle management (PLM) solutions, today announced Fiscal Year 2008 results. Revenue for FY 2008 was $10.1 million as compared to $11.0 million for the same period in FY 2007. The Company's results of operations improved substantially, with the Company's net loss decreasing by approximately $900,000 from ($1.2 million) ($.10 per share) in FY 2007 to approximately ($300,000) ($.03 per share) in FY 2008.

Net Cash flows from operating activities also improved considerably during FY 2008, increasing from approximately $300,000 (FY 2007) to approximately $1 million (FY 2008), over a 200% increase. While the Company has incurred operating losses during each of the six fiscal years ended May 31, 2006, the Company had income from operations during the last two fiscal years and generated positive net cash flow from operating activities in five out of the last six years. The year the Company failed to generate positive cash flow, it was break even. The Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2008 and 2007 is provided on the attached Financial Summary.

Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA"), a non-GAAP financial measure, also improved substantially during FY 2008, increasing from $1.7 million (FY 2007) to $2.4 million (FY 2008), a 42% increase. A reconciliation of EBITDA to Net Loss is provided on the attached Financial Summary.

The Company's revenue is derived almost entirely from technology acquisitions completed between 1997 and 2002 and the Company's operations are not capital intensive. As of May 31, 2008, approximately 63% of the Company's assets represent intangible assets related to these historical acquisitions. The Company does not anticipate making further acquisitions in the foreseeable future. For FY 2008, amortization expense related to these intangible assets was approximately 13% of total

expenses and total revenue. Further, the periods over which these intangible costs are expensed are highly judgmental.

The Company believes that EBITDA is useful supplemental information for investors when considered along with net income and other income statement data. The Company believes that EBITDA is useful because it provides investors with information concerning the potential longer term profitability of the Company's technology assets (subsequent to full amortization of costs), as amortization of acquisition costs has been added back to net income in arriving at EBITDA. Further, management believes that EBITDA provides a useful financial metric by which the Company can be compared with other companies that have different capital structures (interest (a cost of capital) has been added back to net income in arriving at EBITDA). It is also management's belief that this non-GAAP measure of performance continues to be used in the investment community as a financial metric for business valuation purposes.

However, the Company believes that EBITDA is not a substitute for cash flow from operating activities, which is disclosed above and in the Company's financial statements. Investors should carefully review the financial statements of the Company in their entirety in order to obtain a complete understanding of the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

Click here to return to Contents

Implementation Investments

Agilent Technologies' GoldenGate Simulator Chosen by Toshiba for RFIC Design, Evaluation

25 September 2008

Agilent Technologies Inc. announced that Toshiba Semiconductor Co. has selected Agilent's GoldenGate EDA software for its RFIC design and evaluation.

Accurate post-layout simulation and evaluation of an entire transceiver, including parasitics, is very difficult to perform with today's widely used time-domain simulation tools. Early evaluation is increasingly important, however, because when problems are detected after making a prototype, design teams waste precious time and money on design and prototype re-spins. To address this issue, Toshiba Semiconductor needed new EDA software that is fast enough for its design cycles. It chose Agilent's GoldenGate.

"It is very difficult to simulate large-scale circuits, such as direct conversion modulator/demodulators with local oscillators, using the SPICE time-domain simulator," said Tamotsu Hiwatashi, group manager of the planning department, System LSI Division of Toshiba Semiconductor. "We needed a frequency-domain simulator. We chose GoldenGate because in addition to its superior convergence, it works faster than other frequency-domain simulation tools."

Agilent's GoldenGate software is an advanced simulation and analysis solution for integrated RF circuit design. Its unique simulation algorithms are optimized for the challenging demands of today's complex RF circuit design, enabling full characterization of complete transceivers prior to tape-out. To ensure device manufacturability and reduce design spins, GoldenGate takes advantage of both frequency-domain and time-domain simulation capabilities to perform necessary analyses on today's RF devices.

"We are pleased Toshiba Semiconductor has chosen GoldenGate for its RFIC design and evaluation," said Marc Petersen, product marketing manager with Agilent's EEsof EDA division. "By importing

modulated signals from Agilent ADS Ptolemy, GoldenGate can reduce the time required to simulate circuits based on today's communication standards. We will continue to work closely with Toshiba's design engineers to help them optimize their design environment with Agilent EDA software."

For more information about Toshiba, visit http://www.toshiba.com.

For more information about GoldenGate, visit http://www.agilent.com/find/eesof-goldengate.

Click here to return to Contents

Avatech Solutions Consulting Group Lands $900,000 in Services Projects

September 25, 2008

Avatech Solutions, Inc., the nationwide technology services experts for design, engineering, and facilities management, announced today three new customer agreements secured by its Manufacturing Consulting Services Group that will provide more than $900,000 in consulting-related business. The customers investing in Avatech's expertise are industry-leading U.S. manufacturing companies from the electrical controls, industrial machinery, and recreational equipment sectors.

As part of these projects, Avatech experts are looking beyond technology to assist these clients in re-engineering and innovating their business processes. The result will be a transformed build-to-order process that maximizes efficiency and minimizes response time. Avatech is creating clear competitive advantages for these companies and enabling their vision of the total customer experience.

"Our team of strategists, software developers, and project managers understands the design and manufacturing process inside out—proven with more than a hundred manufacturing customer successes," says Scott Hale, vice president, Manufacturing Consulting Services Group, Avatech Solutions. "We look well beyond technology and dive deep into business processes to achieve dramatic gains that rocket our customers forward."

Avatech experts know the entire manufacturing process and how business processes can be streamlined and automated across the organization. These new agreements will provide business development and sales improvements. Avatech has also assisted companies in streamlining and automating their shop floor, design engineering, purchasing, and customer service processes.

"These wins confirm the demand for our services expertise," says George Davis, president and CEO, Avatech Solutions. "Avatech is strategically positioned as a top provider in this space. In this challenging economic climate, shrewd industry leaders are investing to extend their competitive advantage. These recent successes move Avatech toward our goals to leverage our great talent and diversify our revenue streams."

Click here to return to Contents

BAE Systems Company Selects Infor for Integrated ERP and Product Lifecycle Management

September 23, 2008

Infor today announced that the South Africa business of BAE Systems, Land Systems OMC, a leading manufacturer of mine protected and armoured vehicles, has selected an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution to improve product design and production efficiency. Infor ERP LN and Infor PLM 8 will help to provide more accurate product

configuration, reducing the costly need to retrofit products and resulting in better service and faster delivery times for customers.

Following a review of the market, Land Systems OMC selected Infor ERP LN and PLM 8. Infor was chosen for its deep understanding of the manufacturing and defence industries and its ability to meet Land Systems OMC's specific needs for an integrated solution that encompassed conceptualisation, design, development, manufacture, production, re-manufacture and global in-service support. The quality control, product configuration and service management features of Infor's solution were also important selection factors.

"Infor's people showed a depth of knowledge and experience, which was a key factor in our selection," comments Gert Pretorius, engineering and business improvements director, BAE Systems Land Systems OMC.

"Our operations are complex due to the development of new models and custom projects in the same production environment as our existing product range. We must control many engineering and configuration changes whilst maintaining stringent levels of reporting to satisfy requirements for progress payments from our international customers. These factors place huge demands on our systems for accurate production planning, which requires integration between the shop floor and back office."

Softworx, an Infor partner in South Africa, will provide additional professional services support for the project.

For more information, visit Infor ERP LN and Infor PLM 8.

Click here to return to Contents

Cambridge Analog Technologies Deploys Cadence Virtuoso IC 6.1.3 for Faster Tapeout of Low-Power Mixed-Signal Chip

22 September 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced that Cambridge Analog Technologies, Inc. (CAT) has successfully taped out low-power ADCs and digital PLLs using Cadence® Virtuoso® IC 6.1.3, the latest version of the Cadence custom IC platform. CAT, a developer of ultra-low-power high-performance analog integrated circuits, is using Cadence Virtuoso technology to design and verify its leading-edge ADCs and PLLs.

CAT found through its latest tapeout that **Cadence® Virtuoso® IC 6.1.3** technology provides significantly greater efficiency throughout the design cycle. Enhancements to the Analog Design Environment boosted the designers' productivity and effectiveness by up to two times. Deploying the XL and GXL versions of the Virtuoso platform provided flexible access to several solutions that, depending on the type of circuit, increased efficiency from 1.5 to 3 times. And the Virtuoso Spectre® Circuit Simulator, with its recently introduced "turbo" capability, increased simulation speed up to 8 times.

"The Virtuoso IC 6.1.3 technology platform provides us with numerous advantages, including a tighter integrated flow from conceptualization to tapeout," said Kush Gulati, president, CEO and co-founder of Cambridge Analog Technologies, Inc. "The ease of use that comes about through the use of this technology allows us to proceed more rapidly through our design phase. Enhancements such as the dockable assistant's flow, tabbing, constraints-driven flow, user interface integration—as well as several other new features for performing various analog design tasks—increased our productivity to meet our

aggressive design schedules."

CAT's ADCs are used for high-resolution displays, imaging and high-speed wired and wireless communication. The company's compact PLLs are utilized for high-speed interfaces, general purpose digital clocking, high speed sampling and mixing in communication transceivers.

"The technology CAT develops is important for many key consumer markets, where time to market is everything. As the leader in custom design EDA, our goal is simple—shrink the overall design cycle time," said Sandeep Mehndiratta, group director for the custom IC platform at Cadence. "Our latest versions of Virtuoso and Spectre were designed with productivity in mind, and we are pleased that CAT is able to experience tangible benefits from the changes."

Click here to return to Contents

CH2M Hill Licenses Enterprise Informatics' eB® for Nuclear Corrective Action

17 September 2008

Enterprise Informatics announced that the CH2M Hill Nuclear Business Group has expanded its use of eB Nuclear by licensing eB Nuclear Corrective Action – a integrated suite of tools that automates the processes and procedures for performance improvement defined by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Guidelines for Performance Improvement at Nuclear Power Stations©.

CH2M HILL's Nuclear Business Group manages nuclear facilities and provides infrastructure management services for commercial and government facilities. The company offers a wide range of services to Nuclear plants including: plant maintenance and operations, quality assurance programs, nuclear materials management and regulatory compliance. For more information on CH2M HILL's Nuclear practice visit http://www.ch2m.com/corporate/markets/nuclear.

eB Corrective Action automates and facilitates identifying and resolving Conditions Adverse to Quality (CAQ) issues and incidents through user-friendly condition reports, reviews and action tracking. Automated workflows, based on industry best practices, streamline the Performance Improvement process, lowering risk of non-compliance while improving the efficiency of plant operations.

eB Nuclear Corrective Action is a cornerstone application of the eB Nuclear solution which offers a targeted suite of applications for Design Engineering, Information Management, Compliance and Performance Improvement.

"CH2M Hill's Nuclear Business Unit licensed eB Nuclear last year to address their Information Management needs for their clients and this year expanded the use of eB Nuclear to streamline Corrective Action as defined by INPO," said Glenn Cox, Vice President, Nuclear Business Unit, Enterprise Informatics.

A comprehensive overview and live demonstration of eB Performance Improvement is available in a free, 1 hour on-demand webinar. For information about eB Nuclear, visit http://www.enterpriseinformatics.com/nuclear.shtml.

Click here to return to Contents

Jyoti Toolings – Well Placed for Further Rapid Growth with MyWorkPLAN

20 September 2008

Pune based Jyoti Toolings is a leading Indian toolroom with around 240 employees manufacturing a complete range of sheet metal dies for interior and exterior panels, and a complete set of fixtures for the automotive industry in India and abroad. Jyoti also has an aerospace division where long aerospace wing parts are manufactured. Serving many important customers such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asia Motor Works, Toyota ,Nissan ,Hindustan Aeronautics and Bharat Forge, the company needs to ensure its costs and prices stay down, its quality continuously improves and its service is optimally delivered at all times.

Mr Nityanand, Jyoti Toolings' CEO explains "we needed a state of the art job management system, tailored to our particular activity which would, on the one hand, reduce our running costs and, on the other hand, make us even more responsive to customers' requests for quotations and their delivery deadlines." After an analysis of available solutions on the market, the MyWorkPLAN system was selected and installed in 2007.

Jyoti Toolings generates around 800 quotations per year and produces around 200 tools, so in the past there was significant scope for error. By using MyWorkPLAN's Estimator module, Jyoti's staff can retrieve similar past quotes and jobs that they can quickly copy and edit. For even greater quoting accuracy, data from the part's CAD file can even be analysed and included in the quotation data. This has enabled Jyoti to quote competitively and precisely, winning more business and making more profit on each job.

Using the software's Scheduler module, Jyoti checks the feasibility of requested delivery dates by running a planning simulation. Bottlenecks are prevented as the company can define the appropriate time slot for production based on available resources. This has enabled Jyoti to meet virtually all agreed delivery deadlines, further enhancing its service reputation and helping it to achieve its target of 100% customer satisfaction.

As a job moves through the manufacturing process, complete technical and financial data is available to the company in real time. The MyWorkPLAN system also provides Jyoti with a powerful MS Excel® report showing resource utilisation. Mr Nityanand said, "One of the key benefits of MyWorkPLAN is that it enables us to monitor the utilisation rate of our resources and machines. We can now compare the theoretical number of capacity hours versus the real time worked by each machine. We can then analyse whether the difference is due to lack of power, lack of air, breakdowns, or no load, and take action to increase the utilisation rates. A small improvement in machine utilisation rates already justifies our investment in MyWorkPLAN."

Jyoti Toolings has always paid close attention to quality management and is proud of its ISO 9000 2001 certification, achieved in 2006. MyWorkPLAN's Infomanager module that collates all the files relating to each project, including CAD data, emails, delivery and quality documentation underpins their already tight quality processes.

The company appreciates many of the software's clever tools and features, which makes performing their daily activity much easier and more efficient. Mr Nityanand confirms, "Everything about the MyWorkPLAN software has been well thought through – we are particularly satisfied with the software's powerful user rights management, which allows us to define which modules or screens each user can read, modify or delete."

Jyoti also has an IT company specializing in implementing the SAP Business One solution that covers all the accounting needs of SMEs, and which can be integrated with MyWorkPLAN manufacturing modules. Jyoti knows that there is no single solution available on the Indian market which is both strong

in financials and strong in manufacturing. The combination of MyWorkPLAN and SAP Business One clearly provides the most powerful and integrated solution for SMEs

Turnover at Jyoti Toolings has grown at a phenomenal rate over the past few years and the company has not hesitated to reinvest in machinery, management and software systems to improve its competitiveness. With increasing numbers of international customers looking to source their requirements in India, Jyoti Toolings is well positioned for further rapid growth.

Click here to return to Contents

Lumberg Group Optimizes Concurrent Engineering with PTC® CoCreate®

September 22, 2008

PTC, The Product Development Company®, today announced that German-based Lumberg Group, has optimized its product development process with CoCreate, PTC's explicit modeling and data management software that provides companies with a lightweight and flexible approach to designing products. Lumberg uses CoCreate Modeling™ and CoCreate Model Manager™ for parallel development of its customized products and manufacturing technology. Lumberg is supported by PTC partner ASCAD for all CAD/PDM engineering services.

Lumberg Group operates numerous development and manufacturing locations in Europe, America and Asia, as well as a worldwide sales network for its individual and flexible customer solutions. Connector systems and components comprise the core of its wide array of products for the automotive, photovoltaic, telecommunication and appliance industries.

To meet the extremely short development cycles typical in these industries today, Lumberg required a development solution that supported parallel design of its products and manufacturing technology. As soon as the first new product concept is realized in 3D, development of the production technology begins. Using CoCreate provides the design team with flexibility to respond to unforeseen changes up until the last minute of the design process.

"The flexible explicit modeling approach in PTC CoCreate Modeling and the product data management capabilities of CoCreate Model Manager allow us to exploit the benefits of concurrent engineering," said Stefan Joergens, head of R&D at Lumberg. "The PTC CoCreate product family is critical to our success because we have to meet very short development cycles for our customized projects. With our modification-intense and time-critical unique projects, this software offers design flexibility that can't be beat."

"We are pleased that the Lumberg Group uses the advantages of the explicit modeling approach and data management in PTC CoCreate to optimize its time-critical processes for concurrent engineering," said Martin Nuemueller, director, product management, PTC. "The Lumberg Group's success further supports the importance of explicit modeling for customized, fast-paced product development."

Click here to return to Contents

OKI Network LSI Reduces Test Time 90% by Combining the Open Verification Methodology (OVM) and Cadence Incisive Technologies

24 September 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced that OKI Network LSI Co., Ltd., is reporting significant

benefits from its use of the **Open Verification Methodology (OVM)** with Cadence Incisive functional verification technology. Co-developed by Cadence and released last year, the OVM is the first scalable, open, multi-vendor verification methodology for SystemVerilog in the industry.

OKI Network LSI reported numerous benefits from using the OVM, chief among them the ability to use sequences for controlling test scenarios and testbench development. Combining the Incisive coverage-ranking capability with the OVM, OKI Network LSI was able to optimize the test scenarios for simulation, which provided a 90 percent reduction in regression test time. With the OVM, OKI Network LSI believes it can build a highly reusable testbench that would deliver a 50 percent overall project time savings.

OKI Network LSI provides third-party verification services for huge SoCs that contain advanced on-chip buses such as AXI and OCP, and the company believes that advanced verification technology such as the OVM is essential.

"Our clients need a verification solution that can scale for sophisticated System on Chip (SoC) applications," said Takahiro Kobori, senior general manager, LSI Design and Development Division. "The scalable, open, interoperable nature of the OVM makes it ideal for our clients and we found the transition to it has been quite smooth. In particular, the configuration was easy, and the built-in architecture for verification components enabled us to quickly create highly reusable verification IP."

"OKI Network LSI is one of many companies recognizing the benefits of the Open Verification Methodology," said Michal Siwinski, marketing group director for Advanced Verification at Cadence. "The company has discovered that transitioning to the OVM can be a very smooth process that pays dividends quickly."

Click here to return to Contents

SAP Expands Public Sector Reach and Gains Ground With State of Louisiana

September 22, 2008

SAP AG today announced that the state of Louisiana has selected SAP to run all of its financial and procurement business processes. The deal marks a strategic win over competitors Oracle and CGI, while building on SAP's momentum in U.S. public sector. The announcement was made at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) 2008 Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The theme of this year's conference is "A Focus on the Enterprise: Driving Efficiency and Innovation."

The state of Louisiana retains 50,000 employees and oversees $8 billion in procurement each year. The SAP software will be deployed throughout the entire state, with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) as a key project participant. The compelling event driving Louisiana's search was LADOTD's potential risk for accurately matching federal highway funds with its existing IT system. The state of Louisiana therefore conducted a thorough search to find a solution with the depth and breadth necessary to meet and exceed its challenges. The state's intensive search ended with the SAP® ERP Financials solution, the SAP® Procurement for Public Sector package and the SAP® Service and Asset Management solution.

"Based on the robustness of its comprehensive product offering while providing the lowest total cost of ownership, SAP is a key solution provider that can adapt to our constantly changing needs," said Edward Driesse, chief information officer for the state of Louisiana. "Not only does SAP provide a 360-

degree view of state finances and operations, it offers tight integration with our SAP ERP Human Capital Management functionality as well."

"Efficiency and innovation are increasingly important for state governments in order to make informed and well-founded decisions," said Patrick Bakey, president, SAP Public Services, Inc. "We are honored that the state of Louisiana has selected SAP as a partner for this purpose."

The implementation of the software has already started; the project is currently in the blueprint phase.

Click here to return to Contents

Seagrave Deploys Mentor Graphics VeSys Software to Help Design, Manufacture and Service Fire Trucks for FDNY

25 September 2008

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced that Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC, manufacturers of heavy duty emergency fire and rescue vehicles, has used the Mentor VeSys® Electrical Series software to design, simulate and service the electrical wiring systems on its M2-FDNY model fire truck. Seagrave will deliver more than 70 of these trucks to FDNY over the next three years. The strong service documentation functionality of the VeSys software has helped Seagrave meet stringent FDNY specifications for electrical service manual documentation and after-sales service.

“Accuracy of service documentation is critical to this contract. VeSys not only helps us efficiently design and manufacture these trucks but the service functionality allows us to provide accurate service documents in full color, which is crucial,” said James Wilkinson, electrical engineering manager for Seagrave. “Typically there are around two miles of wiring in a fire truck, making it a huge design and engineering task. VeSys makes the design, engineering and servicing of these wiring systems easier and quicker while further improving quality.”

As a single source manufacturer, Seagrave integrates design, construction and assembly under one roof. The VeSys software helps Seagrave eliminate many hours of traditional engineering and prototyping activities to deliver its products to market faster.

“Seagrave’s application is an excellent example of design automation software bringing tangible business benefits to a company making products of value to the community,” said Nick Smith, product marketing director, Mentor Graphics Integrated Electrical Systems Division. “This project is an excellent example of how VeSys can reduce time to market and help to provide quality after sales service.”

Click here to return to Contents

Synopsys Announces the Tapeout of NEC Electronics' Latest EMMA System LSI Using IC Compiler

23 September 2008

Synopsys, Inc. announced that NEC Electronics Corporation (TSE: 6723), a leading provider of semiconductor products encompassing advanced technical solutions for the broadband and communications markets, successfully taped out their latest Enhanced Multimedia Architecture (EMMA) chip set using Synopsys' IC Compiler design planning and place-and-route product. NEC Electronics, working with the Synopsys Professional Services organization, was able to tape out the large 7-million-instances flat EMMA design under extreme time constraints. This latest success builds

upon three years of collaboration between NEC Electronics and Synopsys Professional Services in taping out NEC Electronics' EMMA series of System LSI for digital audio/video products.

"The EMMA series of chips from NEC Electronics is a core technology for the digital A/V product line," said Masao Hirasawa, General Manager, Digital Consumer LSI Division at NEC Electronics. "EMMA is used by many leading digital consumer companies, so meeting time-to-market targets is critical. IC Compiler along with Synopsys Professional Services enables a predictable flow that requires less iteration for a successful tapeout. That is why we have chosen IC Compiler for this important NEC Electronics project."

IC Compiler's comprehensive place and route capabilities are designed to enable customers like NEC Electronics to leverage predictable results with less iteration to meet aggressive delivery schedules. The 90 nanometer EMMA design consists of more than 7 million instances with several hundred macros running at multiple speeds. The size of the flat design combined with the time constraints put a high demand on NEC Electronics and Synopsys Professional Services to deliver a solution to customers with highest quality of results.

"IC Compiler continues to meet the demands of our customers as design challenges continue to increase," said Dr. Chi-Foon Chan, President and Chief Operating Officer, Synopsys. "The EMMA chip series from NEC Electronics employs leading-edge technologies that require leading-edge place-and-route solutions to deliver predictable, high quality of results."

Click here to return to Contents

Product News

Alibre Design 11.0 Now Shipping

September 22, 2008

Alibre, Inc. today announced the availability of the next major release of its flagship 3D CAD software, Alibre DesignTM 11.0 (V11). Following the largest and most successful Beta testing program in the company's history, V11 reinforces Alibre's position as the value leader in the professional 3D CAD market. In addition to migrating the entire code base to the .NET platform, V11 effectively doubles the size of assemblies that can be handled, with often-used assembly operations being as much as ten times faster, and includes significant 2D drawing speed enhancements and feature improvements. New with V11 is the tightly integrated Alibre VaultTM by M-Files®, a comprehensive, easy-to-use product data management (PDM) system with exceptionally strong Alibre Design and Windows integration.

"We are extremely excited about the V11 release," says Paul Grayson, Alibre Chairman and CEO. "Hundreds of customers participated in our pre-release Beta program, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, many of them telling us it was ready to ship in its pre-release state. As always, we have focused our efforts on the things that our customers want: speed and core functionality, and V11 really delivers. We are particularly pleased with the new Alibre VaultTM by M-Files®, which brings world-class PDM to the Alibre Design community."

Assembly Performance and Productivity

New for V11, a powerful new "drag-n-drop" constraint mode with instant visual feedback and real-time editing makes constraining parts in assemblies much faster, and eliminates guesswork. By dragging one part near another, V11 previews the applicable constraints on screen, allowing quick adjustments like

flip or rotate, before committing to the chosen constraints. Huge speed improvements for nearly all common assembly tasks are also part of V11. Over 30 common tasks, such as editing parts within the assembly or creating section views, are now at least twice as fast, providing a substantially more productive assembly modeling environment.

World-class Data Management

A comprehensive and easy-to-use PDM system, the new Alibre VaultTM by M-Files® offers completely integrated data and process management for all files and workflows. The Alibre Vault smoothly integrates within Alibre Design and Windows Explorer, making it a familiar interface for any user, and document management is simplified by an easy-to-learn "index card" interface that supports all file types. Extensive security and collaboration options keep files safe and accessible, while managing workflows like approval loops, engineering change orders (ECO), and other business processes. Additionally, the many customizable search options save countless hours from being spent trying to find files.

2D Drawing Productivity

Even in a 3D world, 2D drawings are oftentimes mission-critical, frequently being the single required output for a job, and V11 adds significantly to the already strong 2D drawing creation capabilities of Alibre Design. With new user-requested features like auto-fill title blocks, industry-standard 2D external thread representations, selective sectioning of parts in assembly section views, and advanced automated dimension alignment, 2D productivity is greatly enhanced. And it's not just about features, it's about speed too. Fast Views, introduced in Alibre Design 10.0, are now even faster: V11 drawing views are generated on average four times faster, reducing wait times to mere seconds.

Improved User Experience

Alibre Design is already well known for exceptional ease-of-use and a short learning curve, and V11 adds to that reputation with a number of user interface enhancements that make user interaction with the software even more efficient. With an innovative new enhanced view rotation mode, the location of the mouse on the screen becomes the center of view rotation, greatly reducing the number of zoom, pan, and rotate operations to get to the desired view. Dragging constrained parts in an assembly behaves more naturally in V11, with parts now moving and rotating simultaneously while obeying all applied constraints, helping designers to understand the movement of their assembly very early in the design process. The user interface in V11is now much more customizable, with user-specified sizes, colors, and weights of many items, including endpoint and midpoint nodes, inferred sketch projection lines and others, reducing eye strain and enabling users to make V11 look the way they want.

Availability and Pricing

Alibre Design is available worldwide in 15 languages. To learn more, to download a free trial, or to find a reseller near you, please visit www.alibre.com.

About Alibre

Alibre, Inc., the Personal CAD/CAMTM Company, develops and markets Alibre DesignTM, the fastest growing 3D parametric solid modeling software for mechanical design and manufacturing. In addition, Alibre CAM™ extends Alibre Design to offer integrated parametric 2½- to 5-axis CNC machining. One-fifth the cost of comparable software, Alibre Design and Alibre CAM are easy to use with rich functionality and world-class support and training, making 3D CAD/CAM accessible to every engineer, machinist or inventor, similar to office software like Word or Excel. Alibre also offers Alibre Design

Xpress and Alibre CAM Xpress, the industry's only true 3D parametric modeler and integrated CAM system available free of charge. Alibre products are available in fifteen languages and distributed worldwide. Founded in 1997, Alibre Inc. is privately funded and based in Richardson, Texas. For more information on Alibre, or for a free trial of Alibre Design, please visit www.alibre.com

Click here to return to Contents

Build Your Own 3D World on Virtual Earth with the Newest Version of Virtual Earth-3DVIA

September 22, 2008

Dassault Systèmes announced the latest version of Microsoft Virtual Earth-3DVIA. Combining Microsoft's integrated mapping, imaging, search and data visualization platform with 3DVIA's powerful 3D modeling and realistic visualization technology, the new Virtual Earth-3DVIA now allows anyone to easily and intuitively create their own 3D world on Virtual Earth in a few clicks. This latest version will enable users to create and remix complete 3D scenes or "mashups" using content posted to the 3DVIA.com 3D content library. 3DVIA.com is a free content creation community with a growing list of registered users sharing their 3D models online.

Virtual Earth-3DVIA is designed for both professionals and consumers to create realistic 3D scenes, such as houses, buildings or even city locations, and then share them online through Microsoft Virtual Earth. With the addition of the new 3D remix functionality (Editors: please see 3DVIA Shape 2.0 release issued over BusinessWire on September 15, 2008), users do not have to be experienced 3D modelers in order to build their own homes or towns on Microsoft's online geographic location mapping technology. Instead, users can quickly and easily search the 3DVIA.com library and import quality 3D models directly into their Virtual Earth projects.

"For anyone interested in a fun way to create and expand their own geographical areas on Microsoft's online Virtual Earth offering, we now have a simple tool with virtually no learning curve," said Lynne Wilson, senior vice president and general manager, 3DVIA, Dassault Systèmes. "By making it easier than ever for any consumer to remix and mashup models, we're bringing 3D to everyone interested in embracing its power."

In addition to the 3D remix functionality, a number of additional features were added based on extensive usability testing. They include:

- Interactive tutorials with videos to help users build a house in five minutes or less; and
- Significantly improved user interface and navigation.

"Through our continued collaboration with Dassault Systèmes, we are now able to offer an even easier way for every Virtual Earth user to easily and intuitively create a realistic 3D version of their home, office or neighborhood," explained Stephen Lawler, general manager of Virtual Earth at Microsoft. "We're pleased with the number of installs and engagement with the current version to date, and we expect that this new version will draw in even more enthusiastic users looking to bring their ideas to life in 3D."

For more information and to download the application, go to http://maps.live.com/Help/en-us/VE3DVIADownload.htm.

About Virtual Earth

The Virtual Earth platform is Microsoft's next-generation integrated set of powerful online mapping and

search services that offer a variety of capabilities, including unique bird's-eye view, three-dimensional imagery, and aerial and satellite imagery. The Virtual Earth platform also powers a variety of consumer, enterprise and government applications that enable people to discover and explore a specific location. Virtual Earth powers Live Search Maps, Microsoft's online local search and mapping Web site. More information about the Virtual Earth platform is available at http://www.microsoft.com/virtualearth/default.mspx.

About 3DVIA

3DVIA is Dassault Systèmes' brand for lifelike 3D product experiences. 3DVIA extends 3D to new users, businesses and consumers in order to create new communities with 3D as the common language. With its open web services-based architecture, it enables high-performance distribution of 3D content. 3DVIA also delivers authoring products that revolutionize 3D product publishing and the Virtools platform for developing interactive, real-time applications. For more information about 3DVIA, go to: http://www.3dvia.com.

Click here to return to Contents

Cadence Virtuoso Platform Enables Custom IC Designers to Achieve Breakthrough Results

22 September 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced the availability of the latest update (IC 6.1.3) to its next-generation Cadence® Virtuoso® custom IC design platform. Cadence continues to provide a complete solution enabling customers to design custom integrated circuits reliably and with a high level of productivity. This latest release incorporates new technology as well as significant performance improvements in existing technology, offering advanced solutions for the custom design of chips proven in production by dozens of customers.

A new design-centering flow enables customers to measure and refine their circuits, and increase their confidence that those circuits meet predicted yield targets. This flow is further enhanced by a unique integration of the Virtuoso Multi-Mode Simulation engines with the Virtuoso Analog Design Environment XL, providing customers with up to three times the interoperability performance gain.

"We continually improve our leading-edge technology to ensure it remains the ideal software for complex custom and mixed-signal design," said Srinivas Raman, corporate vice president of research and development at Cadence Design Systems. "We added significant performance-enhancing capabilities to the Virtuoso platform's IC 6.1.3 release that enable customers to boost productivity while delivering their complex products on schedule and with high reliability."

New physical design technology in version 6.1.3 includes express parameterized cells, which deliver up to a 10 times performance improvement while maintaining interoperability. New routing capabilities native to the Virtuoso platform's cockpit address the challenges of sub-90-nanometer chip routing and the usability improvements have been demonstrated by customers to cut layout creation time by 30 percent.

Cadence Virtuoso Multi-Mode Simulation solution was recently updated with "turbo" technology in SPICE, RF and mixed-signal (AMS), delivering up to a 10 times performance gain. These results were validated by a number of customers who have endorsed its ease of adoption and performance gains.

"Cadence offers a complete solution for custom IC design with tightly integrated flows built on many years of expertise in the highly complex area of analog and mixed-signal designs," said Sandeep

Mehndiratta, marketing group director for the Virtuoso platform at Cadence. “The Virtuoso platform’s IC 6.1.3 release of our next-generation custom IC design solution has been proven in production usage by multiple customers, including Cambridge Analog Technologies, announced separately today. Coupled with the continuing advances reflected in our product road map, this release will help ensure Cadence remains the premier provider of custom IC design solutions.”

With more than 30 partners connected to the Virtuoso technology via the Cadence Connections® program, the Virtuoso technology is at the center of an extensive design ecosystem which is necessary to build today’s multi-faceted designs. Additional alliances with the world’s leading foundries have led to the creation of more than 20 process design kits which are available for download today and have been optimized for the Cadence Virtuoso platform.

Click here to return to Contents

Cadence Works with SMIC to Deliver Virtuoso IC 6.1-Enabled Mixed-Signal Reference Flow and Process Design Kit

22 September 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced it has worked with SMIC, one of the world’s leading foundries, to develop a mixed-signal reference flow and process design kit (PDK) compliant with the latest version of the Cadence® Virtuoso® custom design platform. The reference flow and PDK, available now, was developed for mutual customers working on mixed-signal chips designed for SMIC’s 130-nanometer process.

"Our collaboration with Cadence helps to drive our goal of continuing to enable the Chinese semiconductor market," said David Lin, senior director of SMIC Design Services Department. "As a leader in mixed-signal design solutions, Cadence has provided its unique technology and expertise to create this reference flow. This solution will help to facilitate analog mixed-signal design for the growing consumer, networking and wireless markets."

The mixed-signal reference flow is based on SMIC's 130-nanometer mixed-mode, radio-frequency PDK and the Cadence Virtuoso and design for manufacturing technologies. It provides design teams a reference design environment, baseline flow and an example design demonstrating how designers can successfully use SMIC process technology and the Cadence Virtuoso IC 6.1 platform. The optimized and predictable schematic-to-GDSII flow provides design teams an excellent guide for creating SoCs or developing a flow of their own.

"The need for qualified 130-nanometer PDKs for RF/mixed-signal designs is very clear," said Sandeep Mehndiratta, group director for the custom IC platform at Cadence. "SMIC's flow and PDK offering supporting our Virtuoso IC 6.1 technology creates a powerful combination to help our mutual customers tackle today's mixed-signal design challenges."

Click here to return to Contents

Dassault Systèmes and CENIT Launch Advanced Naval Architecture Solution for Integrated Boat Design

September 24, 2008

Dassault Systèmes (DS) and CENIT AG, a DS CAA partner and Value Added Reseller, today announced the launch of CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT, an add-on product of the CENIT MARINE

product family, which integrates weight evolution management, hydrostatic and stability analysis in the CATIA solutions for Yacht and ships.

The new CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT and Dassault Systèmes' CATIA provide a breakthrough end-to-end solution that streamlines the boat design and engineering process to fully enable the naval architecture design spiral.

"CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT enables integrated boat design in CATIA, allowing shipyards, marine engineering companies and naval architects to cut down development times dramatically, reduce costs and efficiently optimize such areas of ship development as weight management, hydrostatics and stability", says François Mathieu, Yacht Market Development Leader, Dassault Systèmes.

Naval architects traditionally use disconnected solutions for weight definition, shape modelling, structure and layout drawings, and hydrostatic and stability calculations based on 2D offsets methodology. Combined with CATIA, CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT now offers a powerful innovation platform that integrates the complete process from shapes design to stability and structure calculations for the development of increasingly audacious boat designs. Using MAAT Hydro+ volume-based computation engine, CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT facilitates advanced hydrostatic and stability calculations with real time simulations as well as automatic report generation in compliance with classification societies' requirements.

"Our new software NAVAL ARCHITECT is an important addition to our wide range of software solutions and thus a significant component for an important industry", stresses Kurt Bengel, Member of the Board at CENIT. "With the new software, ship builders can now also benefit from the advantages of an integrated solution."

Some of the most famous yacht designers, naval architects, small/large yacht shipyards and suppliers across the globe are using Dassault Systèmes solutions based on CATIA. Dassault Systèmes provides yacht professionals from small and large yacht builders to naval architects and subcontractors with packages dedicated to their specific line of business. These solutions address the associated processes with the right styling, hull design integrating hydrostatic calculations, structure, and composite design products, industry methodologies and best practices. CENIT NAVAL ARCHITECT offers a wide variety of CATIA integrated functionalities for the ship and yacht building specific development processes.

Dassault Systèmes and CENIT will be present at the Monaco Yacht Show September 24-27, 2008 at booth QP62.

Click here to return to Contents

Dassault Systèmes Announces Version 5 Release 19 of its Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Portfolio

September 23, 2008

Dassault Systèmes (DS) announced the availability of its PLM portfolio Version 5 Release 19, comprised of the CATIA, DELMIA, SIMULIA, ENOVIA and 3DVIA brands. V5R19 offers increased engineering excellence, expanding PLM deeper into production cycles, accelerating PLM adoption for mid-size companies, broadening IP lifecycle management and further integrating within the enterprise ecosystem.

"This release shows our continuous commitment to further developing V5. It includes massive

technology enhancements across the full spectrum of our solutions," says Dominique Florack, senior executive vice president, Products - R&D, Dassault Systèmes. "V5R19 also significantly extends V5's reach. For example, the extension of DELMIA into the production domain through our partnership with Rockwell Automation provides a unique integration between virtual product design and controls engineering. V5R19 represents a new step towards connecting traditional V5 IP creators with PLM 2.0 communities."

Alfred Katzenbach, director of engineering-IT for Mercedes Benz and member of the ProStep iVIP Association1 board: "CATIA V5 R19 offers all German OEMs and Suppliers the opportunity to align on the same CATIA V5 release. This simplifies the way of collaboration and data exchange. New functionalities for the 3D Master processes allow a future-oriented paperless design process especially in Powertrain."

V5R19 drives higher Engineering excellence

- **In-context CATIA Composite Design:** For optimizing the definition of large composites parts in context of mating sub-structures such as spars, ribs, and stringers, as well as the definition of plies in small parts or re-engineered metal parts.
- **Shorten Industrialization phase with CATIA:**
    - **New automatic filleting on surfaces:** For preparing the manufacturing of plastic and molded parts in one operation.
    - **Wall thickness analysis:** For reviewing the manufacturability of casting, forging and injection molding processes.
- **Label Painting for plastic part design:** For easy label creation and placement critical to the high tech and consumer goods industries.
- **New simulation capabilities:** For improved meshing of thin sections and new frictional contact feature with CATIA Analysis.
- **Better deployment of integrated design/analysis solutions:** For advanced Abaqus non linear analysis made available directly in CATIA.
- **CATIA Terrain Modeling:** For modeling construction in-situ, earthwork engineering, planning and foundation engineering.

V5R19 extends PLM further into Production

- **Shop Floor Work Instruction Composer:** Combines the Manufacturing hub and 3DVIA Composer for the creation and maintenance of shop floor work instructions. With these configuration managed work instructions being sent to the shop floor, workers always have the most up-to-date information.
- **Virtual Control Programming in partnership with Rockwell Automation:** Unique integration between mechanical design and production controls engineering. Realized at the object level, this bi-directional integration allows mechanical and control engineers to be synchronized at all times accelerating production design and thus enabling earlier production starts. The joint solution integrates Rockwell software RSLogix 5000 control programming and configuration software with DELMIA Automation PLM software from Dassault Systèmes.
- **Extended Line balancing:** Provides advanced balancing support for multiple product and process variants.

V5R19 accelerates PLM adoption for mid size companies

- **DELMIA PLM Express General Assembly Planning and Simulation:** Companies of all size can quickly create and validate general assembly process plans and generate shop floor work instructions. With V5R19 DELMIA PLM Express offers rapidly deployable solutions for Resource planning, Robotics, Ergonomics, Assembly planning and controls.
- **ENOVIA SmarTeam:** Provides BOM navigation and collaboration with 3DLive, improved web performance, greater supply chain and Multi-CAD collaboration, as well as simplified deployment, packaging and usability of Express solutions.

V5R19 broadens IP lifecycle management

- **Flexible Component Modification Rights:** For higher productivity and easier concurrent engineering, optimizing 3D collaborative design and allowing fast design iterations.
- **Enhanced contextual capture and save within VPM Navigator:** Providing immersive experience for CATIA designers.
- **Immersive Document and Configuration Management:** More intuitive search and navigation, enhancing the management of non-CATIA documents, and offering advanced configuration options within the engineering desktop.
- **Extended enterprise collaboration:** Improved data sharing within the extended enterprise with enhancements to workpackage usability and partial replication. Faster interference detection and resolution: Provides new ways for multi discipline collaboration to find, retrieve, and manage interference contexts in VPM Navigator while adding 64-bit support to the Clash Server.

V5R19 further integrates within the enterprise ecosystem

- **Long-term Archiving:** Long-term archiving strategies are further protected with the latest PROStep/PDES.inc recommended practices for the control of STEP transfers.
- **SOA Openness:** Through strategic industry and software development partnerships, V5R19 users benefit from a wide array of add-on applications providing a breadth and depth of process coverage and freedom of choice.

The Dassault Systèmes 2008 V6 and V5R19 announcements show its strong commitment to deliver cutting-edge PLM solutions to all customers. V5R19 is immediately available through DS and its VAR sales network. It also can be ordered through IBM and will ship to customers from September 29th, 2008.

For detailed V5R19 brand information, visit: http://www.3ds.com/products/v5r19/

Click here to return to Contents

From Cradle to Grave: IBM Consulting Offering Helps Clients Make Products "Greener"—Cars, Electronics, Consumer Products, Etc.

September 24, 2008

A new IBM consulting offering can help clients make their products more eco-friendly from development and manufacturing through delivery and use to end-of-life reclamation and recycling.

Ranging across products as diverse as cars, tractors, televisions, electric shavers, even food and clothing,

the IBM Environmental Product Lifecycle Management offering assists clients in analyzing every phase of a product's existence and designing it to be environmentally friendly from the beginning. This includes considering the materials used to make and package it, the energy needed to produce it, transport and use it, and designing it to be refurbished or recycled when it's no longer useable.

"The days of using inordinate amounts of energy, toxic chemicals and wasteful packaging to create throwaway products that just get tossed in the landfill are coming to an end," said Mark Wilterding, IBM's global leader for product lifecycle management consulting. "Governments, environmental advocacy groups, and most of all consumers are demanding that companies do better, and designing a product from the start to be eco-friendly throughout its lifetime is the most effective way to do that."

Increasing government regulations require that companies think about the overall ecological impact of their products or face rising penalties, while more and more customers are expressing a preference for "greener" products. Both expect companies to plan for energy efficiency and proper disposal of products at end of life. In addition, the rising costs of energy and materials associated with making, packaging and selling any product can have a significant impact on a company's bottom line.

Companies that take a comprehensive approach to designing environmentally friendly products can not only avoid penalties and increase efficiency while lowering costs, but also have the opportunity to increase market share and revenue. Oftentimes, such "green" products are extensions of a brand or even support new product innovation.

IBM has extensive experience with many of these design-to-disposal capabilities within its own operations. The company created its product stewardship program in 1991, covering design for recycling, use of recycled plastics, product energy efficiency, and use of environmentally friendly materials and processes. The company has offered take-back programs for some products since 1989, and IBM processes more than 49,000 metric tons of products and product waste annually, with less than 1 percent of it going to landfills.

IBM's Environmental PLM offering is relevant to product and service offerings across all industries, but in particular to clients in sectors such as automotive, heavy equipment, electronics, and consumer products ranging from food to apparel.

The offering provides an overall analysis of a product's lifecycle, taking into account current environmental concerns, regulations and business issues, and industry best practices. Based on that analysis, IBM can help the client understand any gaps in its current practices, develop realistic targets for reducing the environmental impact of its products and establish a strategic plan of initiatives to meet those targets.

From that plan, IBM can help the client build new design-for-environment capabilities, integrating them into existing processes to improve the environmental competitiveness of its operations and products.

Through this offering, IBM can help clients develop the following processes:

- Design for compliance—ensuring products meet new regulatory requirements for energy usage, material safety, etc.;
- Design for end-of-life management—designing a product so that it is easy to refurbish and reuse or disassemble and recycle;
- Lifecycle assessment and carbon footprint reduction —reducing the environmental impact of producing the product, shipping it, use by the consumer, and reclamation and recycling, by

evaluating carbon trade-offs through the manufacturing, distribution and transportation processes;

- Material selection—choosing materials that are renewable, recyclable and non-toxic;
- Packaging design—designing packaging to minimize waste and make it lighter and easier to recycle;
- Project delivery acceleration —reducing the time it takes to get eco-friendly products from the drawing board to market.

An IBM global survey on corporate social responsibility with more than 250 c-suite executives showed that most see CSR activities as an opportunity to gain competitive advantage and grow revenue. Additionally IBM's biennial global survey of more than 1,100 CEOs showed that the majority of them plan to increase their investments in CSR by 25 percent over the next three years.

Environmental PLM joins a growing list of consulting offerings from IBM designed to help clients address CSR issues throughout their operations, including the Carbon Trade-off Modeler, the CSR Assessment and Benchmarking offerings, and Green Sigma™.

Click here to return to Contents

Intergraph® and The Napa Group to Collaborate on Shipbuilding and Offshore Applications

23 September 2008

Intergraph® and the Napa Group, two of the world's leading marine software firms, will collaborate to improve the interfacing to integrate each other's shipbuilding and offshore structure software solutions as well as create new capabilities.

A mutual arrangement allows the companies to use existing features inherent in their software offerings. Intergraph's SmartMarine™ Enterprise suite, including its next-generation, data-centric, rules-driven SmartMarine 3D modeling and visualization solution, complements Napa's high-end software systems for stability calculations, hull fairing and basic design operations. In addition, the two marine industry leaders will jointly develop new capabilities to accelerate the design, building and operation of ship and offshore structures.

"We have several major clients today who use both NAPA and SmartMarine Enterprise software solutions," said Ilmo Kuutti, vice president, Napa Ltd. "We see the modern technology inherent in SmartMarine being adopted for ship and offshore structures. An interface between Napa's solutions and SmartMarine 3D will further enhance the technical capabilities and result in improved design, performance, and delivery of these structures."

Gerhard Sallinger, president, Intergraph Process, Power and Marine said, "This is a strategic arrangement for Intergraph and furthers our goal of rapid worldwide adoption of SmartMarine Enterprise in shipyards and offshore, as well as working with industry-leading partners to enhance productivity. This agreement will help accelerate that pace and provide additional value for our customers."

As the starting point for any design and analysis done in NAPA, the hull surface forms the basis for the compartment and structural models. NAPA supports several methodologies for hull design, including real 3D surface modeling, transformation, parametric definitions and more. Also, the recently developed offshore structure-specific NAPA Manager application streamlines the process of evaluating the compliance with statutory rules for offshore platforms.

SmartMarine Enterprise streamlines marine outfitting and structure design processes and provides all the functionality needed to design and build many different types of marine facilities and equipment, including offshore platforms, naval and commercial ships, and floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels.

SmartMarine software is used by leading shipbuilders and offshore platform companies including COSCO Shipyard Group of China, Grenland Group of Norway, Keppel FELS of Singapore, Odense Steel Shipyard of Denmark, Samsung Heavy Industries in Korea and Tsuneishi Shipbuilding Co. of Japan. Notable vessels built using Intergraph marine software include the world's first Arctic icebreaker tanker, the world's largest containership and the Cunard liner Queen Mary 2. In addition, Intergraph solutions have also been used for ships for the Australian, Danish, Norwegian, Spanish and U.S. navies as well as for French, Indian and Spanish submarines.

About The Napa Group

The Napa Group is one of the world's leading software houses in the marine industry, supplying software systems for ship and offshore platform design and operation. The head office is located in Helsinki, Finland. The Napa personnel consists of 115 professionals in the fields of naval architecture, shipping and information technology. The NAPA system is used by almost 300 of the world's leading shipyards, designers, classification societies and authorities. The Onboard-NAPA and NAPA SPS software for ship operation, in turn, ensure safe and efficient operation for hundreds of ships operating the world over. http://www.napa.fi

Click here to return to Contents

LEDAS Increases the Productivity of LGS 2D Variational Geometric Solver

September 23, 2008

LEDAS Ltd., an independent software provider of computational components for PLM and ERP, releases the next version of its 2D geometric solver.

The main goal of the current release is to improve of solver quality, i.e. such characteristics as success rate, performance and naturality of obtained solutions, rather than add a new functionality. Internal solver architecture is significantly improved to achieve this objective. New powerful decomposition techniques were presented, which improves performance up to 2.5 times over the previous version. A natural behavior technology is implemented using those techniques.

LGS 2.1 introduces a new feature linking help parameters of curve constraints to variables in the same way as the parameter of dimensional constraints. Those parameters can now be used in engineering equations defined by the user. As an example, several objects can be tangent to a curve at the same point (that is not guaranteed when using coincident constraints).

Important news is that 2.1 version LGS solver is available in both 32-bit and 64-bit versions for Windows and Linux platforms. With the new LGS version CAD/CAM/CAE software developers and their customers can exploit all benefits of 64-bit technology.

About LGS 2D

The LGS 2D geometric solver is a computational module, engineered to support two-dimensional parametric design in CAD and computer graphics systems, as well as many other applications that require parametric connections or constraints to be set between geometrical objects.

LGS 2D supports creation and modification of the geometric models by means of (explicit or implicit) constraints. Typical geometric objects are points, lines, circles, or arbitrary curves. Objects can be fixed in an absolute coordinate system or with respect to each other (the latter feature is provided by the so-called rigid sets of objects). Set of geometric constraints includes logical constraints between geometric entities (like coincidence, parallelism, tangency, etc.), dimensional constraints (that specify the required values for given distances, angles or radii). LGS 2D moves and rotates objects to positions where all constraints are satisfied trying to perform minimal possible transformations of initial configuration.

LGS 2D is a cross-platform software. It is a set of libraries that runs under all Windows, Linux, *BSD, AIX and other OS. Written in C++, LGS has a C-based API that allows integrating it into a broad range of software applications (even not written in C/C++). LGS 2D can be used as a self-supporting component, or jointly with 3D version. As a successor of 2D version, LGS 3D solver significantly expands application possibilities to apply computational engine. It supports creation and modification of the 3D geometric models. Both 2D and 3D versions have similar APIs, the set of three-dimensional objects and constraints intersect with the analogous set in two dimensional case, therefore, providing a complete parametric solution for all aspects of CAD/CAM system functionality — from 2D sketching to 3D modeling.

Click here to return to Contents

McLaren Software Announces Enterprise Engineer for Drawings

24 September 2008

McLaren Software announced the availability of Enterprise Engineer for Drawings.

Enterprise Engineer for Drawings provides a complete enterprise scale drawing management application that allows drawings to be created, published, and modified under the control of auditable business processes. This improves user efficiency, reduces re-work, improves confidence in the information and eases compliance by delivering an inspection ready vault of approved information.

Through integration with Autodesk AutoCAD™ and Bentley Systems MicroStation™, a familiar interface is provided for the end user to access the most commonly used functionality such as reference files, hybrid drawings, title block integration and linking to other associated documentation. Enterprise scalability is ensured by leveraging ECM infrastructure from EMC, IBM and Microsoft.

McLarens proprietary work pack technology enables multiple drawings and associated documentation to be created, reviewed and approved in logical sets and is supported by electronic signatures providing a comprehensive audit trail. Reviewers can view and electronically redline drawings and documentation, eliminating the need for paper copies. The progress of work-pack assignments can be tracked through comprehensive reporting and provide visibility of project milestones.

Paul Muir CEO of McLaren Software added “Enterprise Engineer for Drawings has been developed in response to customer demand to gain control of the engineering drawing processes on an enterprise scale. Enterprise Engineer for Drawings ensures the consistent application of business rules through familiar end user applications enabling rapid user adoption with minimal training.

Enterprise Engineer for Drawings represents a new entry point to our suite of applications. Customers can extend the benefits across all types of project and asset operational documents by implementing additional product modules.

Click here to return to Contents

Mentor Graphics Announces Precision Synthesis Support for New Xilinx Virtex-5 TXT Field Programmable Gate Arrays

23 September 2008

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced that its suite of advanced synthesis products support Virtex®-5 TXT field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), the newest platform from Xilinx® optimized for ultra high-bandwidth applications. The Mentor Graphics Precision® RTL and Precision RTL Plus products offer immediate availability of state-of-the-art synthesis support for designs targeting the Virtex-5 TXT FPGA platform.

"Xilinx and Mentor Graphics worked together to achieve outstanding quality of results for the Virtex-5 TXT platform," stated Tom Feist, senior marketing director for the Xilinx ISE Design Suite. "Several mutual customers use Precision's easy-to-use push-button physical synthesis solution for achieving timing closure, and this capability complements our physical optimizations to help our customer meet tight timing constraints in their designs."

The new Virtex-5 TXT FPGA platform delivers more 6.5 Gbps GTX transceivers than any other FPGA to enable the development of 40G and 100G systems targeting networking, telecom, audio/video broadcast and medical imaging. By providing a single, programmable chip solution for applications such as 100Gigabit Ethernet MAC to Interlaken bridging, the Virtex-5 TXT FPGA platform addresses the needs of the fledgling 100Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) market by enabling equipment manufacturers to keep pace with the explosive growth in bandwidth requirements while minimizing power, board and component costs.

"Precision Synthesis provides a proven FPGA design synthesis environment that is well integrated with ISE Design Suite delivering a high quality of results to our mutual customers targeting the TXT FPGA platform," said Daniel Platzker, product line director, Mentor Graphics Design and Synthesis Division.

The Precision Synthesis product line forms the centerpiece of Mentor Graphics FPGA flow. The Precision RTL Plus product offers breakthrough capabilities such as physical synthesis which provides quality of results, automatic incremental synthesis to reduce the impact of late design cycle changes, and patent-pending functionality which enables the efficient utilization of architectural blocks.

With the most comprehensive mixed-language support including SystemVerilog, advanced support for application specific integrated circuit (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, the Precision Synthesis product is suited to handle today's high-end FPGAs. In addition, the Precision Synthesis products 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.

Click here to return to Contents

Oracle Delivers New Capabilities in Oracle's Agile Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Furthering its Leadership in Enterprise PLM

September 22, 2008

News Facts

- Oracle today announced a new pre-built, open standard-based integration for new product introduction (NPI) from Oracle's Agile Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) to the Oracle® E-Business Suite.
- Oracle also unveiled Oracle's Agile PLM Business Intelligence 3.0 to provide better decision-making during NPI.
- Oracle's Agile PLM has achieved a four star CMII Rating by the Institute of Configuration Management (ICM), which required independent certification and validation by CMII graduates. This recognition confirms Agile PLM's superior capabilities in managing engineering and manufacturing configurations.
- Expanding the global reach of Agile PLM to midsize manufacturers, Domain Systems, J-Squared Technologies, Inc. and Sierra Atlantic deliver industry-specific, pre-configured Oracle Accelerate solutions.
- Oracle's strategy is to deliver complete, integrated and end-to-end product suites on an open, standards-based middleware and database architecture. Oracle's approach helps customers to simplify computing environments, lower cost and risk, and provides greater choice and flexibility.

Latest Integration Enables Business Agility

- Oracle's Agile PLM Integration Pack for the Oracle E-Business Suite, Design to Release leverages Oracle Application Integration Architecture (AIA) to provide a pre-built, open standards-based, service oriented architecture (SOA) that is completely extendable to customers' current enterprise architecture.
- This pre-built integration for the design to release process from Agile Product Collaboration to Oracle Manufacturing and Oracle's enterprise resource planning applications enables customers to improve overall design for manufacturability, product quality and cost while minimizing supply chain disruptions.
- Leveraging AIA, this integration is the first release of an ongoing roadmap to create a highly configurable, extensible and sustainable platform that will support next generation enterprise PLM process integrations to Oracle Applications – as well as SAP's offerings and other third-party solutions.

Timely, Informed Product Decisions Drive Profitability

- Oracle's Agile PLM Business Intelligence 3.0 equips customers with more insight to improve decision-making and achieve greater value from their existing Agile investments.
- The latest release includes multi-dimensional analytics that provide decision support for Agile Product Quality Management to help continuously improve performance management across global quality operations and processes.
- Agile PLM Business Intelligence 3.0 has also been designed to enable integration with Oracle Business Intelligence applications including the Oracle E-Business Suite, Oracle's Siebel and PeopleSoft as well as third-party applications such as SAP.
- Pre-built role-based dashboards, functional dashboards and reports provide:
    - Timely visibility and comparative analysis on key metrics and trends across product quality management processes.

- Focused view of resource utilization and management insights to drive value across customers, suppliers and products.
- Drill-downs and analysis to proactively identify and investigate potential product quality risks.

Compliance Certification Demonstrates Product Leadership

- Oracle's Agile PLM achieved a four star CMII certification rating from the Institute of Configuration Management (ICM), the leading provider of research, education, training, and certification in the field of configuration management.
- ICM's extensive software certification process included a comprehensive solution evaluation and direct feedback from CMII certified personnel as well as insight from Agile PLM customers across hi-tech, industrial and A&D segments.
- This certification validates Oracle's Agile PLM strengths in configuration management of product design engineering and manufacturing information. Agile PLM has shown leadership in managing all aspects of enterprise PLM from deep engineering design and CAD information to the quality, cost and project portfolio management.

Industry-Specific PLM for Midsize Manufacturers

- Midsize manufacturers today require industry-specific PLM solutions that offer a lower total cost of ownership and provide best practices to enable innovation.
- Working with Certified Partners in the Oracle PartnerNetwork, Oracle Accelerate provides midsize organizations with pre-packaged, best practices application bundles that pair Oracle's enterprise software with partners' knowledge of specific industries allowing for rapid, fixed cost implementations.
- Leveraging Agile PLM, Domain Systems, J-Squared Technologies, Inc. and Sierra Atlantic have built industry-specific Oracle Accelerate solutions for midsize manufacturers around the world.

Oracle Customer Services

Customer Services provides complete coverage of Agile PLM Integration Pack for the Oracle E-Business Suite, Design to Release and Oracle's Agile PLM Business Intelligence 3.0 with the world's leading portfolio of IT lifecycle-based service and support offerings. Oracle Customer Services is focused on helping customers maximize their success with Oracle solutions while lowering the total cost of ownership through continued advances in providing personalized, proactive support and knowledge management capabilities.

Supporting Quotes

"Similar to large enterprises, midsize manufacturers face product design and delivery challenges but they are also hindered by limited resources and tight budgets," said Randy Pettit, President, Domain Systems. "With Oracle Accelerate, we are able to quickly implement enterprise-level PLM capabilities that are industry-specific, quick-to-deploy and easy-to-maintain. This enables customers to focus on driving innovation, increasing profitability and getting products to market faster."

"After a meticulous software certification process that relied on direct input from CMII certified practitioners and Agile PLM customers including Harris, Brocade and Echostar, we have validated Oracle's Agile PLM with a four star rating for CMII processes," said Vincent Guess, President of the

Institute of Configuration Management. “This is an important achievement that demonstrates the value that Agile PLM brings to customers, providing comprehensive configuration and change management capabilities across the product lifecycle.”

General Availability

Agile Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Integration Pack for the Oracle E-Business Suite, Design to Release and Oracle’s Agile PLM Business Intelligence 3.0 are currently available.

Click here to return to Contents

Siemens PLM Software Delivers Expanded Functionality with Latest Release of No-Charge JT2GO Viewer

September 22, 2008

Siemens PLM Software, a business unit of the Siemens Industry Automation Division and a leading global provider of product lifecycle management (PLM) software and services, today announced the latest release of its no-charge 3D visualization solution, JT2Go. New robust functionality in JT2Go now enables users to more effectively work with digital models created in the JT format, the PLM industry’s most widely used lightweight 3D data format for product visualization, collaboration and CAD interoperability. Today’s announcement, combined with the increasingly widespread usage of JT, will result in enhanced collaboration and cost savings for manufacturers and suppliers worldwide.

“The new expanded JT2Go version will extend our usage of JT for an efficient collaboration with our suppliers worldwide and optimize the digital engineering visualization solutions in the automotive industry,” said Alfred Katzenbach, head of Information Technology of Daimler’s Research and Development and board member of the ProSTEP iViP association. “It is a further step to establish and support the JT format as an international standard in the field of digital engineering visualization.”

The new release of JT2Go contains several additional features that were previously only available through a purchased license of the visualization component of Siemens PLM Software’s Teamcenter® digital lifecycle management software. These features provide a variety of significant benefits to the end user.

- Viewing Product Manufacturing Information (PMI) directly off the digital model, such as dimensions, tolerances and other manufacturing data, improves communication to the shop floor and enhances quality assurance.
- New sophisticated measurement tools make accurate dimensional information readily available to the end user.
- The ability to cross section JT models provides users with a better understanding of design details.

“The JT data format is the common 3D language of PLM, with broad adoption across the industry that is fueled by the JT Open Program whose members continue to expand the value of JT throughout their extended enterprises,” said Bruce Feldt, vice president of Open Tools, Siemens PLM Software. “The significantly increased functionality added to our no-cost JT2Go viewer, facilitates continued growth and value expansion of JT while reinforcing Siemens PLM Software’s open business model.”

JT2Go was introduced in November 2004 to enable anyone associated with a product’s lifecycle – such as manufacturers, suppliers, business partners and customers – to easily view 3D product models in real time and from any location, at no cost. JT2Go can be downloaded at www.jt2go.com.

About JT and JT Open

The JT data format serves as a common 3D language for enabling multi-CAD product visualization and information sharing between PLM software applications. The robust functionality and lightweight nature of JT makes it possible to view and share product data, manufacturing information and interactive images worldwide, in real-time and throughout all phases of the product lifecycle. With more than five million applications enabled by JT in use worldwide, JT is the de facto standard for 3D visualization, collaboration and interoperability within a variety of key industries including automotive and aerospace. The JT Open Program is a community of global leaders that view PLM as a competitive advantage and advocate JT as the industry standard 3D visualization format.

Click here to return to Contents

Synopsys Adds Incremental Signoff-Quality Design Rule Checking to IC Compiler

24 September 2008

Synopsys, Inc. announced the addition of incremental signoff-quality Design Rule Checking (DRC) and metal fill capability to IC Compiler. IC Compiler has accelerated hundreds of tapeouts across a broad range of technologies from 130-nm to 45-nm by providing correct-by-construction, DRC-clean layouts. As an added assurance, Synopsys is now rolling out new technology to guard against corner-case DRC violations that can remain unnoticed until the final stages of physical verification, critically impacting the tapeout schedule. The new push-button capability in IC Compiler is powered by Hercules DRC/LVS and enables place-and-route engineers to easily run physical verification after each block, ensuring that the final signoff verification will succeed in a single pass. Incremental capability allows users to run localized checks to verify layout modifications, reducing the turnaround time to minutes versus hours for full-chip verification.

"As we move into 65-nm and below, the number of foundry DRC checks during physical verification is growing significantly," said Keith Riley, vice president of Engineering at Intellon Corporation. "Being able to conduct DRC checking on routing layers incrementally using the foundry runset directly within IC Compiler allows us to verify quickly any possible layout modifications, such as manual Engineering Change Orders (ECOs). In early trials of the incremental capability, we have seen significant time savings in our design flow."

Intellon Corporation is a leading provider of HomePlug-compatible integrated circuits (ICs) for home networking, networked entertainment, Ethernet-over-Coax (EoC) and smart grid applications. Intellon will integrate IC Compiler's signoff quality DRC checking into its production environment because of its ease-of-use and fast turnaround time. Traditionally, physical DRC checking has been a separate post-design step and not part of the physical implementation flow. In the case of a layout modification, designers need to go back, update the design database, validate the fixes against timing and other design goals, and then run full-chip DRC each time. By integrating DRC checking and metal fill into IC Compiler, Synopsys is enabling users to perform signoff-quality checks incrementally by calling Hercules from inside the implementation environment, where the impact of any changes on timing can be estimated.

"By adding incremental physical verification capabilities to IC Compiler, we are enabling users to save hours by eliminating unnecessary iterations during the final stages of the tapeout," said Antun Domic, senior vice president and general manager, Synopsys Implementation Group. "Running physical verification checks from within IC Compiler during the design process helps ensure that once

implementation is done, final signoff will succeed in a single pass."

Incremental signoff DRC and metal fill are targeted for general production in the September, 2008 release of IC Compiler.

About IC Compiler

Synopsys' IC Compiler provides hand-craft-quality macro placement, intelligent power network support, and MinChip technology for automatic die-size reduction, all on a single timer foundation that enables faster time to closure with higher quality of results (QoR). For complex designs, a concurrent flow that seamlessly blends planning and implementation tasks and offers an integrated environment with a single timer and high correlation with sign-off is critical. Concurrent planning and implementation replaces the traditional "plan-then-implement" methodology, resulting in faster time to tapeout and reduced design cost.

Click here to return to Contents

Synopsys and Microsoft Work Together to Improve Electronic Design Productivity

24 September 2008

Synopsys, Inc. announced that it has qualified its Saber® and System Studio products for high performance computing (HPC) on the Microsoft Windows HPC Server 2008 and is partnering with Microsoft in its HPC Global launch. Synopsys' design and verification tools leverage the power of the Windows HPC Server 2008-based environment to accelerate advanced electronic design. The enhanced compute capabilities provide Synopsys customers the flexibility of a Windows-based platform and the scalability of running numerous compute-intensive jobs in a single environment. The resulting productivity, performance and reliability enhancements allow electronic design companies to accelerate development and time to market in such industries as wireless, consumer electronics, automotive and aerospace.

"Supporting high performance computing not only enhances the productivity of our customers, it also gives the design community the freedom of a Windows-based platform," said Karen Bartleson, senior director of Interoperability at Synopsys. "Time to results and reliability are paramount to our customers in the automotive, aerospace and wireless industries. Being able to process thousands of simulations in parallel, and thus accelerate our customers' time to market, will greatly increase their competitiveness."

Saber, Synopsys' automotive electronic design and analysis software, advances Robust Design and Design for Six Sigma (DFSS) methodologies, thereby helping automotive and aerospace supply chains meet stringent reliability and safety requirements in harsh environments. Saber uses advanced simulation and analyses such as Monte Carlo, Vary, Stress, and Sensitivity to evaluate system interactions across a broad range of environmental and operational conditions and temperatures. To validate system behavior, thousands of analysis runs are performed to accurately model real-world conditions in a virtual environment.

System Studio, Synopsys' model-based algorithm design and analysis offering, provides a dataflow simulation engine with the highest performance for exploring, verifying and optimizing digital signal processing algorithms. System Studio is used for complex wireless and multimedia algorithm developments, for which customers run thousands of regressions a day. Distributing simulations to Windows HPC Server 2008-based compute clusters allows digital signal processing developers to further improve performance and design productivity by taking full advantage of a stable, extensible

environment on high-performance CPUs.

"Microsoft and its partners continue to take HPC mainstream -- opening the door for engineers to use HPC at the division, workgroup and desktop levels," said Vince Mendillo, director of HPC marketing at Microsoft Corp. "Our customers demand a high performance computing solution that cost-effectively allows them to solve difficult problems in less time. We're very excited to deliver Synopsys' design and verification solutions to our EDA customers."

Click here to return to Contents

Synopsys Enters Mixed-Signal Implementation Market with Galaxy Custom Designer

September 22, 2008

Synopsys, Inc. unveiled its Galaxy Custom Designer™ solution, the industry's first modern-era mixed-signal implementation solution. Architected for productivity, Galaxy Custom Designer leverages Synopsys' Galaxy™ Design Platform to provide a unified solution for custom and digital designs, thereby enhancing designer efficiency. Galaxy Custom Designer delivers a familiar user interface while integrating a common use model for simulation, analysis, parasitic extraction and physical verification. It is the first-ever implementation solution built natively on the OpenAccess database for legacy designs as well as a new componentized infrastructure offering unprecedented openness and interoperability with process design kits (PDKs) from leading foundries.

"Our customers have long requested a modern alternative to the custom design solutions currently on the market," said Aart de Geus, chairman and CEO of Synopsys. "By starting with a state-of-the-art, open architecture and tightly coupling it to the Galaxy Design Platform as well as our analog/mixed-signal verification and IP solutions, Synopsys aims to do for custom design what we have done for digital implementation."

"Galaxy Custom Designer has an open architecture that natively supports interoperable PDKs which are an integral part of our Open Innovation Platform™, helping designers innovate in analog and full-custom design," said Fu-Chieh Hsu, vice president of Design & Technology Platform at TSMC. "We are collaborating with Synopsys to develop the industry's first interoperable PDK in 65 nanometer, a single PDK that supports multiple environments, including the latest innovations such as Custom Designer. We continue to work with Synopsys and the Interoperable PDK Library (IPL) Alliance to accelerate the deployment and adoption of interoperable PDK across the industry."

In addition to facilitating innovation with the open architecture, Galaxy Custom Designer dramatically enhances productivity by seamlessly bridging the gap between the historically disparate worlds of digital and custom design. Galaxy Custom Designer enables complete data transparency with Synopsys' IC Compiler physical implementation solution, allowing the exchange of vital information during floorplanning, placement, routing and final chip editing to reduce time-consuming design iterations.

"Our customers expect timely delivery and the utmost reliability from our advanced authentication security products," said Jeff Berkman, chief technology officer at Priva Technologies. "The smooth conversion of our mixed-signal security IP to Custom Designer, its inherent ease-of-use, and its intuitive interface enabled us to significantly reduce design iteration time and thus increase quality. We expect using Custom Designer for our future designs to greatly enhance our design productivity."

"The introduction of Custom Designer as part of the Galaxy Design Platform provides a complete cell-based and custom design capability that we are currently deploying on our next-generation HDRC®

sensor array design," said Wolfram Klingler, senior manager, IC Design Tools at IMS Chips. "Custom Designer was easy to adopt, and offers significant productivity improvements over other solutions."

Built from the ground up, Galaxy Custom Designer was architected for productivity. Key modules include a schematic editor featuring on-canvas editing and dynamic net highlighting. The simulation environment provides a common use model allowing access to Synopsys simulators, including HSPICE®, HSIM™ XA, NanoSim® XA and WaveView Analyzer. The layout editor features a real-time preview of P-Cell parameter changes. In addition, the results from Hercules™ DRC/LVS and Star-RCXT™ parasitic extraction are dynamically available within Galaxy Custom Designer.

Galaxy Custom Designer is available now.

Click here to return to Contents

VISTAGY and CGTech Partner to Offer Best-in-Class Composites Design-to-Manufacture Solution for Automated Fiber Placement

September 23, 2008

VISTAGY, Inc., a leading global provider of specialized engineering software, today announced a strategic partnership with CGTech, a recognized leader in Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) software for numerical control (CNC/NC) simulation, verification, optimization and analysis software technology for manufacturing. VISTAGY's FiberSIM® and CGTech's VERICUT Composite Programming and Simulation Suite (VCP) together provide a best-in-class solution for rapid design and manufacturing iterations to optimize the development of composite structures produced by automated fiber placement (AFP) machines.

This integration enables designers to take into account AFP manufacturing requirements early on and to seamlessly transfer composite design information from FiberSIM to VCP software for creating and validating CNC programs for automated fiber placement (AFP) machines. By enabling more iterations faster and better feedback later in the development process, firms will be better able to evaluate the tradeoffs between manufacturing complexity and cost. It will allow engineers to design specifically for the manufacturing process and allow them to take advantage of innovative uses of composite materials.

"There's a natural synergy between our products that creates a fast, powerful and flexible software environment for companies designing and manufacturing composite parts," said Bill Hasenjaeger, CGTech product marketing manager. "FiberSIM's ability to work with multiple commercial 3D CAD systems combined with VCP's ability to create CNC programs for multiple AFP systems gives customers the flexibility to choose the best solutions to meet their business requirements."

"Given the rapid growth in the use of composites in industries that develop highly complex structures, the partnership between VISTAGY and CGTech is a natural fit," said Olivier Guillermin, VISTAGY product and market strategy director. "By integrating our best-in-class software we are able to support a state-of-the art design-through-manufacturing solution that enables companies to produce optimum composites designs and manufacturing processes. I believe this timely partnership will further enable us to support the aerospace industry in the accelerated adoption of composites as the material of choice in the future."

Click here to return to Contents