

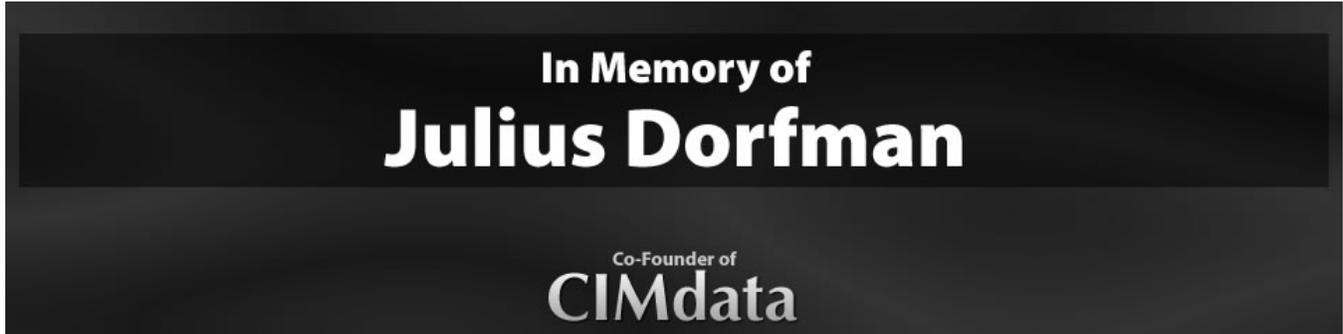
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Top Story



Julius Dorfman, Co-Founder of CIMdata, Has Passed Away

5 December 2008

With sadness, today we mark the passing of Julius Dorfman, co-founder and member of the CIMdata Board of Directors. He was 95. Mr. Dorfman served as Chairman of the Board for several years, and remained an active participant in setting the strategic direction of CIMdata to this day.

With a small investment and one business contract in 1983, Mr. Dorfman along with his friend, the late Robert Johnson, started a consulting organization to address the computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) industry. Over the past twenty-five years, that partnership has been transformed into CIMdata, the global leader in Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) consulting and research.

“Julius was one of the finest individuals that I’ve had the pleasure and privilege to know,” said Ed Miller, CIMdata’s President. “His enthusiasm, tireless commitment to excellence, and ability to look beyond the current state of things never ceased to be impressive and an inspiration to those around him. Julius was a true gentleman, who had a tremendous impact on our industry, and upon all of those fortunate to have interacted with him over the past many years.”

Prior to his involvement with CIMdata, Mr. Dorfman founded International Technology Marketing (ITM) in 1972 to provide consulting services, market research, and reports in Mechanical CAD, Electronic CAD, AEC, and workstations. ITM published a number of technology and market reports on these application areas over a period of more than ten years. The company operated successfully for more than fifteen years until its activities were absorbed into CIMdata.

Mr. Dorfman was with the Raytheon Company for 21 years in engineering, marketing, and management positions. He was a Life Member of IEEE, the Computer Society, ASQ, a member of CASA/SME, the Industrial Computer Society, and ISA. He held a BSEE degree from the City College of New York.

Since 1941, Mr. Dorfman had been active in engineering, marketing, and management in the electronics industry. He directed, co-authored, and published major studies on computer graphics, CAD, and CAE/CAD/CAM/CIM technologies and markets.

We are happy to forward any messages you may wish to send to Mr. Dorfman’s family. Please email them to info@CIMdata.com.

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Acquisitions

Autodesk to Acquire iLogic Technology from Logimetrix

2 December 2008

[Autodesk, Inc.](#) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the iLogic software and related technology from Canada-based Logimetrix, Inc. iLogic is Logimetrix's desktop rules-based design automation technology. Terms were not disclosed.

The agreement demonstrates Autodesk's commitment to providing a comprehensive Digital Prototyping solution to manufacturers of all sizes, giving them the ability to design, visualize and simulate their designs earlier in the process. The addition of the iLogic technology will strengthen the Autodesk solution for [Digital Prototyping](#) by bringing user friendly tools for rules-based design and automation to mainstream manufacturers.

iLogic technology enables designers and engineers to capture design intent and automate common design tasks by creating "smart parts" that can embed higher levels of design intelligence directly into an Autodesk Inventor digital prototype, all without the need for programming knowledge.

"The acquisition of iLogic technology will extend rules-based design and automation capabilities to the desktop, opening doors to new and enhanced workflows for users that are unrivaled in the manufacturing industry," said Robert "Buzz" Kross, senior vice president of Autodesk Manufacturing Solutions. "Individual engineers and workgroups will have the ability to more easily capture design intent directly into digital prototypes and create digital prototypes through automation without requiring any programming."

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ESI Group Announces the Acquisition of Vdot, a US Software Platform for Lean Process Management

1 December 2008

[ESI Group](#) announced the acquisition of Vdot, a software focused on development process management, from the US company Procelerate Technologies Inc.

For its development, Vdot has benefited from exceptional partnerships with organizations such as Boeing and the Lean Advancement Initiative at MIT, aimed at enhancing their development processes.

Vdot users include the main aerospace manufacturers such as Boeing, NASA, and AVIC (China), along with automotive firms like Ford, Chrysler and Nissan.

"Vdot was extremely impressive right from the start of our project. The immediate visibility into current project status made my job as Program Manager much easier. Vdot ensured my people were working on the right tasks, with the right data, at all times. Vdot gave me confidence knowing that the real-time project status was based on what was actually delivered. We found Vdot to be extremely easy to set up and very flexible while executing the project, no need to bring in consultants when we need to set-up the project or make modifications on the fly. The implementation of Vdot enabled us to finish our project on time and under budget" said Roger Herdy, Program Manager at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

The acquisition includes the entire development team, as well as its sales and marketing support team

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based in St Louis (Missouri, USA).

Through this deal ESI Group is adding an essential component to its VisualDSS product, which is a unique aid to decision-making in the field of Computer Aided Engineering (CAE). Vdot is a project monitoring and execution platform that makes it easier for teams to reliably follow the right plan, performing tasks with the right data. It allows rapid, reliable decision-making by all actors of the PLM in general and specifically throughout the digital simulation process, enhancing project automation and completion. ESI Group already uses this tool internally to optimise development processes in its own new projects.

Alain de Rouvray, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ESI Group, made the following comments: *"Our acquisition of Vdot is of major strategic interest. Vdot has proven its usefulness as part of projects to integrate digital simulation solutions for large industrial customers, particularly in the USA and China. Vdot is an enterprise process decision-making tool that can capture and automate best practices for our customers. As a result, Vdot naturally complements our range of digital simulation solutions, delivering virtual prototyping integration and synchronization within the PLM. Thus the combination Vdot / VisualDSS allows much faster and more reliable decision-making right from the start of the customer product lifecycle."*

Financial information and terms of the deal

The deal is effective from 15 October 2008. ESI Group has acquired the Vdot software activities, along with related intellectual property rights, staff, specific hardware, license contracts and distribution rights.

The deal involves an initial cash payment to Procelerate Technologies Inc, and an earn-out based on the performance of the Vdot business over the next five years. The deal is expected to be accretive to earnings from 2009.

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Synopsys to Acquire ProDesign's CHIPit Business Unit

1 December 2008

[Synopsys, Inc.](#) announced it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the CHIPit business unit of ProDesign, a provider of high-speed ASIC and System-on-Chip (SoC) verification systems. The acquisition of complementary talent, technology and products expands Synopsys' total addressable market by addressing the needs of customers who want to deploy more automated prototypes with additional co-verification features.

"This acquisition establishes Synopsys as a technology leader in end-to-end verification by enabling us to extend our strong presence with Confirma in the rapid prototyping market segment to adjacent hardware-assisted verification segments," said Gary Meyers, vice president and general manager, Synplicity Business Group, Synopsys. "By combining Synopsys' and CHIPit's strong teams and technologies, we can accelerate our ability to address every phase in the verification cycle, in particular for system validation and embedded software development."

ProDesign is a privately held company headquartered in Bruckmuhl, Germany. Its CHIPit line of ASIC prototyping tools provides verification and validation through the SoC and ASIC project life cycles. Based on the latest FPGA technologies and an integrated set of tools with comprehensive debug capabilities, the modular CHIPit tools give design engineers productivity and flexibility to verify chip implementation and system functionality, thus significantly reducing overall verification time.

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The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and is expected to close within Synopsys' first quarter of fiscal year 2009. The terms of the deal are not being disclosed.

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CIMdata News

CIMdata in the News: “Engineers, Meet Social Media”

26 November 2008

Beth Stackpole in the Design News article “Engineers, Meet Social Media” discusses how the social media tools such as blogs, wikis, microblogging tools and social networking forums are being utilized by engineers and CAD vendors.

In the article CIMdata’s Ken Amann comments:

"These tools are a good vehicle for expanding your contacts and sources of knowledge," says Ken Amann, director of research for CIMdata Inc., an Ann Arbor, MI, market research and consulting firm specializing in engineering. "Normal systems are really focused on interacting with people within your work sphere or with defined partners while these new tools tend to have more of an open audience."

For more information, please access [Engineers, Meet Social Media](#), (Design News, 26 November 2008)

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CIMdata in the News: “PTC Invests in Itself”

1 December 2008

In the *Managing Automation* article “PTC Invests in Itself” Diane Himes discusses PTC’s expansion of its share repurchase program and other investment initiatives. For the article Ms Himes contacted CIMdata’s Ken Amann who provided this insight:

Commenting on PTC’s bullish position, Ken Amann, director of research at PLM analyst firm CIMdata Inc., told *Managing Automation* that while PLM providers in general are benefiting from manufacturers’ continued investment in PLM technology, PTC in particular keeps customers happy by consistently improving its product mix and depth and breadth of functionality.

“New capabilities they’ve rolled out over the past year have been well received, and they continue to develop their ability to compete for large enterprise engagements with companies like Siemens,” he said.

Amann expects that manufacturers will continue to invest in PLM throughout 2009, although potentially at a slower rate than they have this year. However the economy shakes out, he said, PTC will remain competitive. He predicts that the company will make two or three acquisitions in 2009 in order to continue to build its technological capabilities and broaden its footprint.

“There are certain areas they might consider investing in, including publishing, simulation and analysis, and digital manufacturing,” Amann said.

The full article is available at [PTC Invests in Itself](#) (*Managing Automation*, December 1, 2008)

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Siemens Innovation Leadership Summit (CIMdata Commentary)

2 December 2008

Recently, CIMdata had the opportunity to participate in Siemens PLM Software's Siemens Innovation Leadership Summit, which was held November 9-11 in Scottsdale, Arizona. This was a "restricted invitation" event attended by industry executives and produced by Siemens PLM Software (Siemens) to facilitate the sharing of strategies and experiences among their customers.

Overall, we thought it was an excellent event with executive-level participation from both customer speakers and attendees. The seniority of attendees was as high as we've seen at any PLM-focused event that we've had the pleasure to attend. A wide range of industries and products were represented by both attendees and speakers, with speaking executives from automotive, aerospace and defense, lighting, bearings, test equipment, high-tech, automotive racing, engineering services, software, and business consulting firms.

Not surprisingly, the uncertain worldwide economic situation was a major topic of concern among participants. This issue was addressed by numerous presenters and attendees, and PLM's role in helping companies effectively cope with economic challenges to successfully compete in today's challenging markets was stressed. Faced with the current economic uncertainty, the customers presenting at this event described their continuing commitment to investing in PLM—not slowing these investments, but aggressively pursuing them with a major focus on reducing costs and increasing productivity. While PLM's role in enabling companies to build a stronger revenue stream is still essential, the current economic stress appears to have many companies focusing on productivity improvements through PLM as their primary investment driver. CIMdata's perspective is that leading companies invest in fundamental processes and technologies to help transform their businesses during tough times, and are then better prepared to take advantage of them as the market situation improves.

A key message from the customer speakers was having a clear focus on PLM as an enterprise enabler for innovation of all types—both product-related and process-related innovation. Of course, PLM's role as a key contributor to cost reduction and efficiency was described. Additionally, many examples illustrated PLM's potential to drive revenue expansion and customer/market responsiveness. In all cases, speakers emphasized that PLM can and should be used to enable continuous innovation through ongoing (and often relatively small) process and product improvements. These smaller improvements continue to accumulate and result in significant overall improvements. A focus on continuous improvement is a fundamental characteristic of successful organizations.

The focus on PLM as an enterprise enabler reinforced that PLM is NOT just an engineering tool, but must be used to support the entire product lifecycle. "PLM for the enterprise" represents an important evolution from the historical positioning of PLM. In many companies over the past several years, PLM implementations were primarily engineering-focused. At this event, customer executives dispelled the notion that "PLM equals engineering" and were able to describe their company's PLM strategies and programs with a clear enterprise view. This enterprise perspective was coupled with themes of the global competitive environment, and the value of PLM as a fundamental enabler to connect their global enterprise whether through their divisions or suppliers.

As an additional indication of the broadening footprint of PLM across the enterprise, a couple of the customer presentations described their priority to expand PLM programs to include support for early

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product strategy/portfolio activities; the front-end of the product lifecycle. This is yet another example of the expansion of PLM strategies and programs to support additional groups within the enterprise beyond engineering—in this case the product planning and marketing teams.

Along with the theme of PLM as a process-driven enabler for achieving enterprise goals, speakers stressed the criticality of establishing the right level of internal support for PLM initiatives. Successful PLM programs demand full support and involvement from business units and executive management. While PLM is an IT-based enabler, it is most effective if positioned as a business-driven program. The business units must “own” the PLM program direction and processes in order for it to achieve the desired level of success and return on investment.

Randall Ledford from Emerson, the keynote speaker, was particularly interesting. He described Emerson’s strategy and program for supporting a corporate-wide PLM program and standards while accommodating divisional differences and capabilities. He also described their approach to accommodate differences between large-scale divisions with tailored solutions constrained by corporate standards, while also supporting smaller divisions by providing (what they call) Teamcenter-in-a-Box as a hosted service. This is intended to ensure adherence to enterprise standards, while accommodating limited-budget capabilities among the smaller groups. In Emerson’s environment, the executive team views PLM as fully aligned with, and a major enabler for achieving the major overall company strategies and goals—a true enterprise enabler.

Good presentations by Siemens PLM executives (Tony Affuso, Helmuth Ludwig, and Chuck Grindstaff) also contributed to the quality of the program. They provided a clear depiction of Siemens PLM’s vision and programs, insights into their R&D strategy and directions, good explanations of their focus on unified product and production lifecycles, and the internal work (called Project Archimedes) to fully integrate Siemens PLM products and technologies with those of Siemens Automation.

When thinking about the market evolution that presentations in this event represent, consider that none of the themes mentioned above are focused on technical features and functions, but on the processes that enable transformation of businesses to improve global competitive position. Of course, technical capabilities are required, and increasingly-sophisticated ones at that. However, the focus has clearly shifted to the business, and the demands of the executive office are driving the investments. The presenting executives’ clear perspective of PLM’s strong role in supporting enterprise competitiveness was impressive, and reinforced CIMdata’s long-held view that a clear enterprise PLM strategy is a competitive necessity for any company striving to succeed in their markets. Our perception from this event is that the transition of PLM from a competitive differentiator to that of a requirement for survivability is well underway and accelerating!

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“Trends in NC Software; CIMdata shows efficiency, effectiveness are industry goals” by Alan Christman

November/December 2008

In this Tooling and Production cover story “Trends in NC Software”, Alan M. Christman, chairman of the CIMdata Board of Directors and 30 year veteran in defining, marketing, and implementing CAD/CAM/CIM technology, discusses ten of the key industry trends.

To learn more visit [Trends in NC Software; CIMdata shows efficiency, effectiveness are industry goals](#) (Tooling & Production, November/December 2008)

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Company News

Alison Smith Joins AspenTech as Vice President of Marketing Strategy & Research

2 December 2008

[Aspen Technology, Inc.](#) announced that Alison Smith has joined the company as Vice President of Marketing Strategy & Research. Smith joins AspenTech from AMR Research, where she was Research Director for the Manufacturing Operations market service.

Smith chose to come to AspenTech to help bring to market solutions that enable best practices in process optimization. She will lead the company's marketing strategy and research, and her team will focus on analyzing industry, technology, and business process trends that shape AspenTech's go-to-market, corporate, and product initiatives.

Smith's extensive industry experience in identifying best-in-class Manufacturing practices will further drive the operational excellence initiatives at the core of AspenTech's product strategy.

Previously, Smith was a founding officer and Marketing Vice President of Framework Technologies Corporation where she was responsible for market development, strategic positioning, product commercialization, and the initial launch of Framework's collaborative manufacturing design application.

Over her 20+ year career, Smith has developed, deployed, supported, marketed, and sold manufacturing operations software applications to Fortune 500 manufacturers in industrial manufacturing, consumer products, and food environments.

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Altair Engineering Offers Free HyperWorks Training and CAE Software to Displaced Engineers in Michigan

4 December 2008

Altair Engineering announced that it will offer free technology training courses and licenses for advanced software to displaced engineers in Michigan who want to expand their skills in computer-aided engineering (CAE) as a way of increasing their marketability to employers.

Altair's Professional Workforce Initiative pilot program, which supports Michigan's efforts to retrain and diversify the state's workforce as the regional economy evolves into new industries, will be launched in southeast Michigan. Depending on its success, the program may become a sustained initiative to be offered to displaced engineers in Michigan and other regions of the United States.

"We have been approached in recent weeks by many long-time Altair clients who have been displaced from their jobs, and they have requested free software licenses to stay current with industry technology," said Altair Chairman and Chief Executive Officer James R. Scapa. "With more than 3,800 corporate clients, we felt that we could perform a meaningful service for our professional industry colleagues affected by the economic downturn while at the same time offsetting significant training costs for local companies that may subsequently hire participants in the program."

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Each engineer may enroll in as many as four training sessions, including:

- Update training in modeling and visualization
- Linear and noise-vibration-and-harshness (NVH) analysis
- Crashworthiness and safety analysis
- Multi-body dynamics simulation

“We applaud Altair for its commitment to helping engineering professionals increase their marketability and remain competitive in today’s global economy,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “Altair’s efforts mirror the state’s mission of ensuring we have a highly skilled workforce for emerging industries and high-growth professions like engineering. We thank Altair for being a socially responsible corporate citizen and encourage other Michigan companies to join us in this effort to promote lifelong learning.”

The value of the program and 90-day software license exceeds \$11,000 per person. Degreed engineers who have been displaced from their jobs in Michigan, as well as engineers on unpaid leave from area manufacturers that have suspended operations during December, are eligible to attend the sessions and practice using the software on their personal computers at no charge for 90 days. If they remain unemployed after that period, Altair will renew the license for another 90 days so the engineers can continue to expand and sharpen their CAE skills.

Engineers can view criteria, read complete course descriptions, and apply for the training through an online form at <http://www.altairhyperworks.com/PWI>.

The first training course for the Altair Professional Workforce Initiative will be held December 10 at Altair world headquarters at 1820 E. Big Beaver Road in Troy, Mich. The additional three courses will be offered at the same location in December and January. Participants completing the training sessions will receive certifications in Altair’s HyperWorks technology, which in many industries is a global standard for simulation and CAE solver solutions.

The number of participants in the Altair Professional Workforce Initiative will depend on demand and space limitations. Altair is encouraging displaced engineers to apply online today, since enrollment will be finalized during the next week.

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Autodesk Authorizes PROCAD as NavisWorks Reseller

December 2008

PROCAD Software, developers of [2D DESIGNER](#)[®] and [3DSMART](#)[®] plant design software and Autodesk[®] ISV Partner, was recently authorized by Autodesk to resume reselling NavisWorks[®] software in North America. PROCAD has been a NavisWorks reseller 6 years prior to Autodesk’s acquisition of the company.

Zaia Abraham, President of PROCAD Software says, "The NavisWorks software has significant benefits for model reviews in terms of interference checking, plant walk-through for presentation and training allowing our customers to maximize the benefits of 3D design and modeling."

PROCAD will offer the NavisWorks software alongside its [data-centric plant design software \(3DSMART\)](#) and other Autodesk plant design products. The NavisWorks modules offered will include Manage, Simulate and Review.

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BlueCielo Announces Promotion of Brian Sallade to Chief Operating Officer and New US Headquarters

26 November 2008

[BlueCielo ECM Solutions](#) announced the promotion of Brian Sallade to Chief Operating Officer, overseeing BlueCielo's entire global operations. Prior to this appointment, Sallade was serving as Chief Operating Officer for North America, during which he contributed significantly to BlueCielo's growth in the region. Alongside this, BlueCielo has expanded its US headquarters and moved it to brand new facilities in Exton, PA, with effect from November 24, 2008.

In his new role, Sallade will be responsible at top management level for BlueCielo's worldwide activity in Development, Professional Services, Support, Product Management and IT, and will spearhead better operating procedures to streamline the activities between BlueCielo's technical departments.

"BlueCielo has been growing in leaps since we changed our name from Cyco Software to BlueCielo ECM Solutions in April 2007 to reflect our new corporate approach as a total solutions provider and dedicated focus on providing integrated solutions for specific vertical markets. Our total revenues are up by 50 percent compared to the same period in 2007," states Martijn Janmaat, BlueCielo's CEO. "In the newly created role of Chief Operating Officer, Brian will support me in managing our expanding worldwide operations. Brian has been instrumental in providing strategic insight and more than doubling our revenues in North America, and I am confident that extending his proven leadership abilities across the entire organization will bring us to even greater heights of success."

Due to BlueCielo's impressive growth and increasing presence in North America, BlueCielo has expanded its US headquarters into prestigious, state-of-the-art premises overlooking Pickering Creek in Exton, PA, this week. The company's former US headquarters in Atlanta, GA, will remain in operation as one of BlueCielo's global offices.

Sallade joined BlueCielo as Chief Operating Officer for North America in June 2007 following BlueCielo's acquisition of DataCore Technology Inc, a successful company specializing in implementing ECM solutions and a long-time reseller of BlueCielo's software solutions – of which Sallade was President for 11 years.

Prior to DataCore Technology, Sallade worked at an engineering company where he started and managed a CAD Services division, and also taught all levels of AutoCAD at several local colleges. Sallade has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Delaware where he studied business administration.

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COADE Updates Video Training Course for CADWorx Plant Professional with Metric Capabilities and Other Enhancements

1 December 2008

[COADE](#) announced an updated edition of its COADE Video Training Course for CADWorx Plant Professional. This COADE-approved video course has been revised to take into account the latest functionality of AutoCAD 2009 and CADWorx Plant Professional 2009. Also, for the first time, it is

adapted to the metric format.

All major aspects of using, customizing and mastering CADWorx Plant Professional are addressed in this latest version, a comprehensive training program that contains five full days of course content, the same basic content as the training classes delivered by COADE experts across the globe. It has a step-by-step workbook designed to allow users to learn plant modeling and design skills at their own pace. The videos cover all aspects of 3D Plant design including piping, equipment and steelwork modeling; component placement, annotation, and modeling; piping specification generation; effective use of XRefs; bills of material production; leveraging databases and Isogen and much more.

“This metric-enabled version of the COADE Video Training Course for CADWorx Plant Professional now opens up the rest of the world to the benefits of training on this powerful tool,” explained David Diehl, VP Customer Experience. The latest update provides the novice and experienced user with a set of standardized skills, best practices and how-to methods for improving their efficiency and throughput when using the software. It is also a convenient alternative to refresher courses. “Some key benefits of the training videos are the flexibility and ease-of-use that the videos allow and the savings they will enjoy compared to the expense of traveling to a training center for a five-day course,” Diehl added. “After completing the key parts of these videos, the user should be able to begin using CADWorx Plant Professional for modeling the process facilities and modular process systems that our users typically create, all in 3D along with their associated piping, steel, equipment and components.”

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Delcam Seeks Extra Resellers to Accelerate Growth

25 November 2008

Delcam is seeking additional Sales Partners in selected areas of Europe to broaden the sales of its FeatureCAM and PartMaker CAM systems. Both software ranges have seen significant increases in sales since being acquired by Delcam. However, Business Development Manager John Sare believes that both products are capable of achieving further growth.

“Both FeatureCAM and PartMaker experienced the greatest levels of success in the USA before they joined the Delcam organisation. The plan for both products initially was to grow revenue by supporting them in as many countries as possible where Delcam operated,” explained Mr. Sare. “The first stage in this process was to introduce them to the existing Delcam sales channel. We needed to recruit and train the staff to sell and support the products, in particular within our larger subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, France and the UK.”

“We have seen increased sales of both FeatureCAM and PartMaker as a result of those efforts,” reported Mr. Sare. “However, our goal is to provide comprehensive coverage throughout all regions of Europe in order to reach our maximum potential for sales growth. To put it simply, even though Delcam already has the world’s largest CAM sales and support organisation, we still have room for more growth.”

“After working extensively with the FeatureCAM and PartMaker teams, I am confident that the products have become even more competitive since they were acquired by Delcam because of the increased resources focused on their development,” claimed Mr. Sare. “FeatureCAM now includes enhanced capabilities for demanding 3D milling applications, plus the powerful five-axis programming that has been a trademark of Delcam for years, while PartMaker has consolidated its position as the leading software for multi-tasking, multi-turret machines and Swiss-type lathes. These developments have expanded the horizons of both products. This has been demonstrated by the record levels of visitors to

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our exhibition stands, which prove that there is a strong level of interest in, and demand for, the software.”

Experienced CAM solution providers that wish to join the Delcam Sales Partner network should contact:

John Sare, Business Development Manager

Email: jcs@delcam.com

Delcam plc

Small Business Park

Birmingham, B10 0HJ, UK

or visit http://www.delcam.com/general/about/distributor_opps.asp.

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Mentor Graphics Supports Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi in Electronic Design Education

5 December 2008

Mentor Graphics Corporation announced an extension of its university program to the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi (TU Iasi) in Romania. Under the auspices of the company’s Higher Education Program (HEP), Mentor Graphics is supporting a new microelectronics development laboratory equipped by semiconductor supplier Infineon Technologies by donating more than \$20M worth of electronic design automation (EDA) software and support. This will enable students of TU Iasi to graduate with in-depth knowledge of the latest methodologies for functional verification and field-programmable gate array (FGPA) design and analysis.

“We want to expand our academic programs and prepare students fully for the needs of a global economy in the 21st century,” said Prof. Dr. Ion Bogdan, Dean of the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi. “With Infineon’s and Mentor Graphics’ donation of state-of-the-art hardware and software, along with support and training, TU Iasi is able to educate our students in leading-edge design methodologies that will enable them to contribute both academically and practically to the development of Romania and the electronics industry in the region.”

“Infineon is happy to have [Mentor Graphics](#) as the first EDA partner in our Universities projects and we welcome their initiative to support our activities,” said Thomas Simonis, Managing Director of the Design Center of Infineon Technologies Romania. “Romania attracted us with its commitment to building a skilled and educated workforce that will cultivate world-class engineers. Getting young engineers well-acquainted with the latest semiconductor technologies, products and practical know-how not typically imparted in electronics studies further strengthens Romania’s and Europe’s leading role among the world’s technology development regions in the semiconductor industry.”

"Investment in the electronics industries of emerging regions depends on having highly talented engineers skilled in the latest and most relevant electronic design methodologies," said Ian Burgess, development manager for Mentor’s Higher Education Program. "Through this collaboration with Infineon, one of our major customers, and Gheorghe Asachi TU Iasi, one of the leading educational institutions in the region, we are able to ensure that graduates are proficient in these state-of-the-art

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methodologies and ready to contribute to the growing electronics market in Romania."

About Mentor's Higher Education Program

Mentor Graphics' Higher Education Program provides design tools and support to universities and colleges for classroom instruction and academic research to ensure that engineering graduates enter into the industry proficient in state-of-the-art tools and methodologies

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MSC.Software and FEV Partner to Combine Best-in-Class Multi-Body Dynamics Technology and Engine/Powertrain Domain Expertise

3 December 2008

[MSC.Software Corp.](#) announced a new license and distribution agreement with FEV Motorentchnik GmbH in Aachen, Germany. Through this agreement, FEV will continue developing the common ADAMS/Engine technology, and leverage their automotive marketplace expertise to make product enhancements using their technology. FEV will be the provider of new ADAMS based Engine/Powertrain software products under the new brand: FEV Virtual Engine Powered by ADAMS™.

[FEV](#) is now licensed to develop, market, distribute, and support all MSC Software's engine modules worldwide. "MSC.Software is proud to partner with FEV, the world leader in engine and powertrain engineering to bring best-in-class multi-body dynamics technology and real-world engine/powertrain domain knowledge to the market," said Reza Sadeghi, chief technology officer, MSC.Software. "Our motion simulation technology is world-class, and when combined with FEV's deep expertise in real-world engineering we expect even greater accuracy, reliability, and performance in simulating engine performance."

"The distribution of FEV Virtual Engine is a consequent step to expand our business in terms of offering complete solutions to our customers. In addition to our engineering services, we can now also offer simulation tools and enable more efficient CAE collaboration with our customers. MSC's roadmap of multi-disciplinary simulation software is the perfect foundation for this solution" said Professor Stefan Pischinger, President & CEO of FEV.

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New Partner: Configit Strengthens Position in Germany

3 December 2008

Through the partnership with Sybit, Configit takes another important step in the fulfillment of the strategy to improve existing configuration technology by providing a general platform for compilation and distribution of configurators throughout the entire sales channel.

"Germany is a very important market for us given the number and size of companies within manufacturing," says Henrik Reif Andersen, CEO of Configit, "and with our focus on companies using SAP we could not ask for a stronger partner and reseller. Sybit is highly respected in the market and has a long and deep experience with customer-facing SAP implementations. Consequently, I am proud that Sybit recognizes the value of Configit by signing up as a partner."

Configit recently released Configit Quote, which enables sales professionals to use compiled versions of

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the SAP Variant Configurator models from a user interface with a Microsoft Office™ look-and-feel.

"Sybit focuses on configuration solutions on the SAP standard platform. Configit Quote enables us to include slim offline quotation configuration in our portfolio, which uses the standard and covers key requirements for our customers in the manufacturing industry. In this context, Configit Quote optimally complements the SAP Variant Configuration in ERP and CRM", says Martin Müller, Managing Director of Sybit GmbH.

Value add and significant ROI

"Configit Quote is a great value add for companies producing complex products in the industrial manufacturing industry," says Lars Høgsted, VP of Sales, Configit. "Configit Quote basically expands the footprint of SAP so that more users – especially front office personnel – benefit from the power of SAP. This deep link from the core of SAP to the point of customer engagement improves and speeds up the quote-to-order process. The ROI in terms of cost savings and improved sales efficiency is very significant."

About Sybit

Sybit GmbH is headquartered in Radolfzell, Germany and has sales offices in Frankfurt and Basel, Switzerland.

Sybit is SAP Special Expertise Partner for SAP CRM and Manufacturing & High-tech and implements IT solutions based on Java, Portal, Mobile and SAP technologies:

- SAP CRM implementation and consulting.

- SAP product configuration with VC and IPC.

- SAP NetWeaver technologies.

Companies such as MTU, Carl Zeiss and HP turn to Sybit for support regarding SAP Customer Relationship Management, SAP product configuration and SAP NetWeaver.

About Configit

Configit Quote is developed and sold by Configit A/S – a member of the SAP Partner Edge Programme. Headquartered in Copenhagen and with a branch office in Palo Alto, Configit has in excess of 10.000 users in more than 50 countries. The core technology in the software is based on more than 10 years of research in formal verification and constraint solving.

Customers include: Grundfos, Netstal, Vestas, Schneider Electric Power Drives, LEGO, Psion Teklogix, Novenco, Wirsbo, Lindab, Skako, Comessa, DHI Water & Environment, Dantherm Filtration, Arla Plast, SCAM Trucks, B&G Fencing, Winnie Paper, Danfoss, Logica, and CCI Europe.

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PROSTEP AG Celebrates 15th Anniversary

December 2008

Darmstadt-headquartered PROSTEP AG will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. Over the years, the company, which provides business management services and engineering solutions, has become a recognized partner to companies in the automotive industry and its component suppliers, the aerospace industry, the shipbuilding and marine engineering industries, the electrical/electronic industry and other

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branches of manufacturing industry. Today, PROSTEP provides companies in these industries with support in the form of services and software solutions, helping them design and optimize their development processes and implement product lifecycle management (PLM) concepts.

Over the past few years, PROSTEP has continued to grow and currently employs a staff of over 250 people at the company headquarters in Darmstadt and at branch offices at key customer locations. The company will generate revenues of approximately 28 million euros in the current business year, which means that revenues have doubled within a period of just five years. More than a third of the PROSTEP Group's total revenues is now generated by the aerospace industry and branches of industry other than the Group's traditional clientele in the automotive industry and its component suppliers.

"Our growth is the result of turning our focus to providing services and solutions, expanding the range of solutions we offer and turning to new industries", states Dr. Bernd Pätzold, President & CEO of PROSTEP AG. "An important factor in our success is our flat organizational structure, which allows us to respond quickly to our customers' needs. The great challenge for the future will be preserving the company's agility and spontaneity and thus its customer orientation despite the company's rapid growth and its current size."

PROSTEP AG was founded in November 1993 under the name ProSTEP Produktdatentechnologie GmbH and its mission was to provide the member companies of the ProSTEP Association with support regarding implementation of the STEP standard. Once the standardization effort was brought to a successful conclusion, the association and the company freed themselves to a certain extent from their symbiotic relationship and began to operate more independently. The private limited company (GmbH), which changed its corporate form to that of a joint stock company (AG) at the end of 2001, has developed into an internationally recognized PLM integration specialist who provides customers with support relating to the integration of their product data and IT systems and the harmonization of their collaboration processes in the form of services and company-own software solutions. Companies such as Airbus, BMW Group, Bosch, Brose, Conti Delphi, EADS, Honda, Opel, Renault, Valeo and ZF currently deploy PROSTEP's OpenSOLUTION family of products as their enterprise-wide standard.

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Virage Logic Expands Global Sales Channel to Address Growing Market Demand for Broadening Product Portfolio

4 December 2008

[Virage Logic Corporation](#) announced the expansion of its global sales channel with the addition of five new representative firms to meet growing global customer demand for the company's broadening product portfolio. The following firms will represent Virage Logic in their respective geographies: BAE Sales, Incorporated in Silicon Valley, Shinko Shoji in Japan, AST, Ltd. in Israel, PEGASUS MicroDesign in Italy and France, and AQ Technologies in Scandinavia and the United Kingdom.

"As we recently communicated in our fourth quarter and fiscal 2008 earnings announcement, the company performed very well growing revenues by 28% over fiscal 2007 and achieving an historic high in license and maintenance revenue for the year," noted Dr. Alex Shubat, president and chief executive officer (CEO), at Virage Logic. "We were able to achieve this growth by continuing to be first-to-market with next generation advanced technology products and by continually broadening our product portfolio through both organic and inorganic growth. As we begin our new fiscal year with a significantly expanded bookings opportunity pipeline and with our new representatives in key geographies, I'm

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confident we will be able to meet the growing global demand for Virage Logic's broad semiconductor IP product portfolio."

"As shrinking process geometries continue to drive up the cost of bringing new ICs to market, silicon proven IP enables maximum return on investment," commented Mike Hornig, president of BAE Sales. "Virage Logic's expanding portfolio of silicon proven IP is ideally suited to meet the cost, density, performance, and power requirements of our broad customer base in the Silicon Valley."

"As one of the largest distributors of ASICs and ASSPs in Japan, Shinko Shoji is engaged with a wide range of customers including product and IP groups at IDMs, as well as with Systems vendors and Service providers," said Takamichi Sasaki, executive director, Shinko Shoji. "With access to Virage Logic's premier and growing IP product portfolio, our partnership will enable us to provide even greater value to the Japanese semiconductor suppliers."

"Virage Logic is a forward-thinking, innovative and professional company, and we are very pleased to be initiating our partnership with them," said Uri Farkash, director of EDA and IP operations at AST. "With Virage Logic's ever broadening product portfolio of highly differentiated IP, we will be able to offer highly competitive solutions to the growing Israeli semiconductor market."

"Virage Logic is a leading broad line supplier of high quality silicon proven libraries, memories and IP for the deep submicron geometries and beyond," said Claudio Fasce, founder and CEO of PEGASUS MicroDesign. "As an emerging start-up providing high-tech solutions and services to fabless and IDM companies with specific emphasis on 90- to 32-nanometer technologies, we believe the combination of PEGASUS MicroDesign's services with Virage Logic's IP will provide a unique and unbeatable solution for our mutual customers."

About BAE Sales, Inc.

BAE Sales, Inc. is a manufacturers' representative firm covering Northern California since 1989. BAE specializes in the sales and marketing of semiconductors and other synergistic high technology, leading edge products and services to this diverse marketplace and customer base. For more information please visit: <http://www.baesales.com>.

About Shinko Shoji Co., Ltd.

Shinko Shoji Co., Ltd. was established in 1953 and is a trading company specialized in electronics, mainly dealing with semiconductor devices, largely NEC related products, and having fourteen domestic branches and ten overseas outlets (nine subsidiaries and one branch) mostly in the Asian area. The company has wide business partnerships with many companies including major Japanese domestic electric machinery manufacturers and new powerful overseas suppliers. By utilizing approximately eighty engineers in its group companies, the Shinko Shoji is supporting entrusted designs and developments of LSI, such as microcomputer or ASIC including FPGA and CPLD, and is also making a total support of board/unit product from planning phase, development phase through production phase. The company is committed to supporting all phases of its customers' product developments powerfully. Please visit <http://www.shinko-sj.co.jp/> for details.

About AST Ltd.

Advanced Semiconductor Technologies (AST) was established in 1986 as the first independent Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC) Design Center in Israel. It represents today a group of companies in the areas of IP, ASIC, EDA and ASSP. Its team of sales and application engineers combine more than 150 years of experience. For more information, visit: <http://www.ast.co.il>.

About PEGASUS MicroDesign

PEGASUS MicroDesign S.r.l., founded in early 2008 by silicon industry veterans and headquartered in Arcore, near Milan (Italy), is a professional provider of IC design services and IP based solutions to European IDMs and fabless IC companies. The company is committed to customer satisfaction, technological perfection and management excellence in order to deliver IC development solutions that reduce time-to-market, product cost and development risk.

PEGASUS MicroDesign's consultancy, design services and technical edge is focused on silicon implementation, design-for-manufacturing (DFM), design-for-testability (DFT) and custom IP development in very deep sub-micron technologies ranging from 90nm to 32nm. For further information, visit <http://www.pegasus-md.com>.

About AQ Technologies

AQ Technology Ltd (AQT), founded in 1998 with offices in the United Kingdom and Scandinavia, focuses on Silicon Valley companies expanding their business into Europe. AQT has had a wide range of successful sales and marketing engagements including clients in the markets of Silicon IP, EDA tools, ASSP, Encryption Technology and Technology Licensing.

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Events News

Autodesk University Again Features INCAT Industry Experts

1 December 2008

[INCAT](#) announced that two members of its staff, Daniel Miles, GMS Technical Director; and Kevin Robinson, GMS Product Manager, will appear as Subject Matter Experts at the 2008 Autodesk University in Las Vegas, December 2-5. Both have appeared as experts at previous Autodesk University events.

Miles and Robinson will deliver four Autodesk Mechanical classes at the event, which is expected to draw more than 10,000 attendees. One of the classes presented by Miles, "Autodesk® Inventor®: Best Practices for Working with Large Assembly," is the only Mechanical class of the event's 640 classes set to be streamed live to a worldwide audience.

The stream is available at http://au.autodesk.com/event/campusclass/live_from_AU/.

"This recognition by Autodesk reinforces INCAT's Mechanical Domain strength within the industry," said Daniel Saperstein, INCAT GMS Sales Director.

INCAT also is hosting an iCHECK™ for Autodesk Inventor booth during the AU Trade Show. More iCHECK information is available at <http://www.incat.com/icheckinventor>.

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Cimatron Demonstrates New Versions of CimatronE and Virtual Gibbs at Euromold

3 December 2008

Cimatron Ltd. will present new capabilities across its complete line of CAD/CAM solutions for tooling

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and manufacturing at the 2008 Euromold exhibition.

The new versions of CimatronE 9.0 and GibbsCAM 2009 (marketed in Germany under the name of Virtual Gibbs 2009) will be on display at the fair, which will be held December 3-6 at the Exhibition Fair Ground, Frankfurt / Main.

“Being a premier industry event, Euromold provides a unique opportunity for the Cimatron Group to present the latest enhancements to our two product lines in front of mold and tool makers from all across Europe,” said Dirk Dombert, Cimatron GmbH’s General Manager. “The need for efficiency and speed in design and production has never been greater. We are proud to be able to help our tooling and manufacturing customers step up to the requirements of these times.”

CimatronE 9.0: Greater Automation and Speed for Mold and Die Makers

Helping tool makers and manufacturers deliver higher quality tools and products at lower costs and shorter cycle times, the CimatronE CAD/CAM solution suite addresses the entire process from quoting through design, engineering changes, NC, and EDM programming to delivery.

Highlights of the new and enhanced capabilities in CimatronE 9.0 include:

- Greater mold design automation
- A new application for defining electrode measuring points and probe path
- New machining strategies for High Speed Machining (HSM) and 5-Axis milling
- A new application for transfer die design
- A new die quote generator
- Enhanced data interfaces and integration

For more information about the CimatronE product line, visit <http://www.cimatron.com>.

Virtual Gibbs 2009: Advanced 3D with HSM Enhancements

Virtual Gibbs provides a broad range of CNC programming capabilities for milling, turning, mill-turn, rotary milling, tombstone-fixtured, wire-EDM, high speed machining, and multi-turret/multi-spindle machining. Modeling functionality tuned specifically for manufacturing supports the creation and manipulation of wireframe, surface, and solid geometries. Featuring an intuitive user interface, built-in associativity, and simulation capabilities, the solution empowers manufacturers to increase productivity and elevate responsiveness to customer requirements and design changes.

New enhancements in Virtual Gibbs 2009 include:

- Advanced 3D for High Speed Machining (HSM) for multi-surface hard milling and high speed machining in SolidSurfacer®
- Extensive new lathe features designed to take advantage of newer high-tech cutting tools
- MTM enhancements to Sync Manager
- Multi-CPU support and batch processing for greater speed of processing
- Faster simulation capabilities
- Greater interoperability with CAD systems

For more information about the Virtual Gibbs product line, visit <http://www.GibbsCAM.com>

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The Euromold fair will be taking place at the Exhibition Fair Ground, Frankfurt / Main, December 3-6. The CimatronE and Virtual Gibbs solutions will be presented at Hall 6, Booth D26. For additional Euromold information and registration, visit <http://www.euromold.com/english>

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COADE Schedules December 11th CADWorx Plant Design Webinar on Extracting Data from Process and Instrumentation Diagrams (P&IDs) Using the New PIDMO Product

4 December 2008

COADE announced a new webinar, scheduled for December 11, 2008, at 12 pm CDT, on Getting More out of your Intelligent P&IDs. Led by Dan Merrick of ECE Solutions, the webinar will discuss CADWorx Plant and P&ID Professional database connections and the ease of extracting data with PIDMO, the newly released product from ECE Solutions.

PIDMO is a database interface that allows CADWorx PLANT and P&ID Professional users to leverage information stored in their process and instrument diagrams (P&ID) and 3D model drawings so that project managers, engineers, purchasing managers and other non-CAD users can import and export data from their project databases to and from Microsoft Excel. Merrick will describe capabilities of this sophisticated reporting tool and how it enables users to access component information, filter for bills of materials (BOM), compile cost estimates, create project management worksheets and create Excel-based instrument and equipment datasheets with revision controls.

Details on this and other COADE webinars can be found on the CADWorx User Blog at http://coade.typepad.com/cadworx/webinar_future/index.html. CADWorx product details are available at <http://www.coade.com>.

About Dan Merrick, webinar leader:

Dan Merrick of ECE Design provides Technical CADWorx support for users across the United States and Canada. Dan is experienced in CADWorx database implementation and is actively involved with software product development. He provides Training for CADWorx, AutoCAD, PIDMO, PLANTMO and other plant design software.

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PCO Forum 2009 – How to Succeed in Your Transition to PLM

December 2008

[PCO Innovation](#) announces that on **Tuesday January 27, 2009** in **Paris** it offers its fifth **Forum**, the opportunity for executives to meet and exchange views on the themes of **PLM** (Product Lifecycle Management) and innovation processes.

The “transition to PLM” is under control and supported by best practices; please join us to explore them through targeted success stories. **EADS, Gemalto, Renault, Schneider Electric** and **Volvo IT** will be present to share their experience of the various phases in the PLM program, from the upstream technological choice through to creation of a support organisation, as well as massive reuse of data and large-scale deployment.

More information: http://www.pco-innovation.com/forum_2009

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ProSTEP iViP Symposium 2009 – Use Your Remaining Budget: Register Now and Save

December 2008

The 12th ProSTEP iViP Symposium will take place on May 12 and 13, 2009 in the Berlin Congress Center in Berlin.

As in the past years this is a first-class program with international guest speakers, lectures on specialized topics as well as workshops. The accompanying exhibition, which well-known companies have already registered for, will provide an ideal information and communication platform. The evening reception will provide another opportunity for conversations at a personal level with partners, customers and suppliers.

Register now and save around 10% of the regular participation fee. This offer is only valid until **February 13, 2009**.

More information on the 2009 ProSTEP iViP Symposium is available at: www.prostep.org

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Sharks, Robots and Cars: Just a Glimpse of Autodesk University 2008

1 December 2008

More than 9,000 design professionals from 74 countries will again descend on Las Vegas this week for Autodesk University 2008. Attendees at Autodesk University (AU) 2008 will experience design innovation through the voices of customers in industries such as manufacturing, architecture and building, media and entertainment, automotive and transportation, geospatial and education.

With more than 650 classes and sessions, event attendees will experience hands-on training with tools and techniques that help them experience ideas before they're real. They can also gain from the personal experience of learning from some of the world's top instructors, Autodesk insiders and industry experts; benefit from Autodesk's 25+ years of experience developing the software designers and engineers use every day; and be able to apply the newly acquired professional expertise/experience to their companies and careers. Finally, AU attendees can enjoy the energizing experience of participating in a live event, in a world-class venue, and sharing ideas and insights with a community of peers.

Highlights of the Autodesk University experience include:

AU General Session and Keynotes with Cool Customers: Industry keynote sessions will feature customers such as:

Tom Kelley, general manager of IDEO, a seasoned innovation practitioner, will share proven techniques for fostering a culture of creativity and developing processes for continuous innovation.

Eddie Paul, Hollywood special effects guru, who will talk about his work creating 3D mechanical sharks real enough to bite, featured in Discovery Channel's Shark Fest.

Burt Rutan, aerospace entrepreneur and designer of SpaceShipOne, the world's first privately funded spacecraft, will talk about Digital Prototyping and his work on the legendary Voyager, the first aircraft to circle the world nonstop without refueling.

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Bob Berkebile, founding principal at BNIM Architects, and Barry Weiss, Sony Pictures Imageworks senior vice president of animation and artist development, will focus on the design visualization side of 3DDecember and discuss the "green" rebuilding of Greensburg, Kansas, a town devastated by a tornado in 2007.

Design Matters Customer Showcase: The daring work highlighted in this showcase demonstrates the power of great design, from customers such as 42 Surfboards, SHOP Architects, FIRST Robotics, California Academy of Sciences, Chrysler, Ford and Skidmore Owings & Merrill, to name just a few. The Design Matters customer showcase is located in the Exhibit Hall.

Autodesk Labs: The Autodesk hands-on Discovery Space in the AU Exhibit Hall is bursting with innovative ideas and new approaches to design technology. Try your hand at a multi-touch wall. Use a Wii remote to orbit your model. Configure a photorealistic living space, online. Watch virtual reality buildings come to life--no headgear required--and talk with the engineers who are making it happen.

Sustainability: The Sustainable by Design booth features the results of Autodesk's first sustainability report and showcases products across industries that enable architects, engineers and designers to make more sustainable design decisions. Information is available on how 3D modeling, building information modeling (BIM) and Digital Prototyping enable designers to visualize, simulate and analyze their designs early in the design process to facilitate sustainable design decision making.

AU Design Slam by Cut & Paste: AU 2008 kicks into high gear with the debut of the AU Design Slam. Not for the weak-kneed, this live-on-stage competition is a heart-pounding contest of slick computer tricks, quick-witted design and high-energy showmanship in digital Industrial design and architecture. Competing teams are provided with the latest arsenal in 3D tech weaponry, including Autodesk Maya, Autodesk AliasStudio, Autodesk SketchBook Pro and Revit Architecture software products. Presented by Cut & Paste, this fast-paced format tests the skill, speed and stage presence of the contestant teams as they create original designs in rounds of 20 minutes while their work is shown in real time on large-scale projections.

Pecha Kucha: Pecha Kucha brings together a diverse group of creative thinkers to share their ideas in a unique presentation format: The participant presenters display 20 images, each for no more than 20 seconds per image. In those six minutes and 40 seconds, presenters are expected to make a personal connection with their audience. A big success last year, Pecha Kucha night returns stronger than ever. This nonstop, high-energy visual conversation features speakers such as:

Bob Berkebile, BNIM

Mike Santolupo, John Paul II Secondary School

Jeremy Stroebel, University of Cincinnati

Craig Breckenridge, Empire Dynamic Structures

Richard Chappell, Arizona Public Service Dept.

Laura E. Handler, Tocci Building Companies

Barry Weiss, Sony Pictures Imageworks

Josef Strobel, University of Salzburg

Erleen Hatfield, Thornton Tomasetti

Brigid O'Kane, University of Cincinnati

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Ben Gilmore, Rexroth Canada Corporation

However, the AU experience doesn't end when the conference does. Autodesk customers who were not able to attend the event have full access to all class materials, video broadcasts of many of the sessions, multiple podcasts, daily news updates and the ability to network with peers across the globe through AU Online.

Live Session Broadcasts: A handful of sessions will be available online shortly after AU for all members of AU Online to view at any time. In addition, 700 hours of AU session content will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing.

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SoftInWay Presents a New Version of AxSTREAM™ Software for Turbomachinery Flow Path Design and Optimization

3 December 2008

[SoftInWay](#) has launched a new release 2.4.1.1 of AxSTREAM™ Turbomachinery Flow Path Design, Analysis and Optimization Software. Release 2.4.1.1, focused on optimizing turbomachinery and smoothing the design process, which essentially combines the enhanced features of previous AxSTREAM versions with the latest developments of SoftInWay.

One of the key innovations introduced to the new release is an advanced Euler flow solver. The solver's main objective is to rapidly define 3D flow path characteristics. It allows users to control/change mesh quality, to use previous calculation steps results as initial values for new calculations and to calculate the whole stage. Besides, the new Euler solver uses constant MFR in calculation, improves calculation accuracy through more accurate approximation in finite-elements and ensures viscosity influence on calculation results.

In AxSTREAM 2.4.1.1, Campbell diagram is a newly-implemented option that displays rotating and stationary reference frames vibration modes split as a result of whirling. It enables users to find the critical speed for a stationary frame of reference.

Among other useful features of the latest AxSTREAM, more detailed Mollier diagram and new charts for blade loading on Profiling should be mentioned.

Also, in the recent version the Streamline Solver has been adapted to centrifugal compressor calculations.

The new AxSTREAM™ release will be presented at SoftInWay interactive workshop on turbomachinery flow path design in Dusseldorf, Germany, December 3-5, 2008. During the 3-day training SoftInWay will illustrate the latest innovations and enable attendees to utilize the 3rd generation of AxSTREAM™ for more effective turbine and compressor design.

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solidThinking Releases Plug-in for SolidWorks 2009 at EuroMold 2008 in Germany

3 December 2008

solidThinking (<http://www.solidthinking.com>), developer of the solidThinking industrial design/styling software and a SolidWorks solution partner, announced that it is making available a plug-in for

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SolidWorks 2009. The plug-in, which solidThinking and SolidWorks users will be able to download for free starting Dec. 5, allows for solidThinking files to be imported directly into SolidWorks or for a SolidWorks model to be saved as a solidThinking (.st) file. EuroMold 2008 attendees can learn more about the plug-in and experience a demo of solidThinking at booth B118, Halle 6.0 Dec. 3-6 at the Exhibition Fair Ground in Frankfurt, Germany.

"As a leader in the computer-aided industrial design arena, we are working to ensure that professionals have access to the most advanced, flexible and time-saving software from whatever platform they are operating," said solidThinking Vice President of Product Strategy and Marketing Alessandro Mazzardo. "The solidThinking plug-in helps preserve near-seamless creativity and precision."

With the plug-in, SolidWorks users can import a solidThinking file as a SolidWorks part. Depending on the options selected, the system creates surfaces and/or solid bodies. Surfaces may be knit together, or separate sheet bodies can be created for each solidThinking surface. The user also may choose to rotate the model so that the original Z axis becomes the Y axis, providing the same vertical orientation as the original solidThinking model.

Similarly, solidThinking users can open a SolidWorks model that has been saved as a solidThinking file using the new plug-in. The SolidWorks sheet and solid bodies are stored as solidThinking entities, and the hierarchy

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Financial News

Magma Beats Revenue and Earnings Guidance for Second Quarter, Reports Revenue of \$36.5 Million

4 December 2008

Magma Design Automation Inc. reported revenue of \$36.5 million for its fiscal 2009 second quarter, ended Nov. 2, 2008. This exceeded the revenue guidance range issued by the company on August 28, 2008 of \$34 million to \$35 million. Second-quarter revenue decreased 32 percent from the \$53.5 million reported for the year-ago second quarter, ended Sept. 30, 2007.

"Revenue and earnings exceeded our guidance range as we executed effectively against our operating plan during the second quarter," said Rajeev Madhavan, chairman and CEO of Magma. "But despite the success of Q2, we believe it is prudent to adapt our outlook to the realities of the current economic environment and reduce our expected revenue for fiscal 2009 to a range of \$144 million to \$146 million. Our products continue to do well in competitive engagements, but in this period of economic uncertainty customers are paying particular scrutiny to their spending."

GAAP Results

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), Magma reported a net loss of \$(25.9) million, or \$(0.59) per share (basic and diluted), for the second quarter. This result was better than the guidance range issued by the company on August 28, 2008 of a loss between \$(0.70) and \$(0.68) a share and compares to a net loss of \$(6.4) million, or \$(0.16) per share (basic and diluted), for the year-ago second quarter.

Non-GAAP Results

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Magma's non-GAAP net income was a net loss of \$(6.3) million for the quarter, or \$(0.14) per share (diluted). This result was better than the guidance range issued by the company on August 28, 2008 of a loss between \$(0.20) and \$(0.18) a share and compares to non-GAAP net income of \$7.0 million, or \$0.15 per share (diluted), for the year-ago second quarter.

Non-GAAP net loss for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 excludes the effects of amortization of developed technology, amortization of intangible assets, amortization of deferred stock-based compensation, amortization of debt issuance costs and debt discount accretion, charges associated with losses on equity and other investments, restructuring charges, and acquisition-related expenses and the related provision for income taxes. A reconciliation of non-GAAP results to GAAP results is included in this press release. Non-GAAP net income for the second quarter of fiscal 2008 excluded the above items, except restructuring charges, and excluded in-process research and development and interest expense.

Business Outlook

For Magma's fiscal 2009 third quarter, ending Feb. 1, 2009, the company expects total revenue in the range of \$28.0 million to \$29.0 million. GAAP net loss per share is expected to be in the range of \$(0.67) to \$(0.65) and non-GAAP net loss per share is expected to be in the range of \$(0.17) to \$(0.15).

Magma is adjusting its outlook for fiscal 2009, ending May 3, 2009. For fiscal 2009 the company now expects total revenue in the range of \$144.0 million to \$146.0 million, a reduction from the previous guidance range of \$158.0 million to \$160.0 million. The company now expects fiscal 2009's GAAP net loss per share to be in the range of \$(2.03) to \$(1.99), compared to the previous expectation of a loss in the range of \$(1.93) to \$(1.89). The company now expects fiscal 2009's non-GAAP net loss per share to be in the range of \$(0.29) to \$(0.25), compared to the previous expectation of a loss in the range of \$(0.19) to \$(0.15). All guidance issued by the company before December 4, 2008 is no longer in effect.

A Financial Data Supplement containing detailed financial information intended to provide guidance and further insight into our business is available online in the [Investor Relations](#) section of the Magma website.

Conference Call

Magma will discuss the financial results for the second quarter, along with forward-looking guidance, during a live earnings call today at 2 p.m. PST.

Following completion of the call, a webcast replay of the call will be available at <http://investor.magma-da.com/medialist.cfm> through Dec. 11, 2008. Those without Internet access may listen to a replay of the call by telephone until 11:59 p.m. PST on Dec. 11 by calling:

U.S. & Canada: (888) 203-1112 , code #4002680

Elsewhere: (719) 457-0820 , code #4002680

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Synopsys Posts Financial Results for Fourth Quarter and Fiscal Year 2008

3 December 2008

Synopsys, Inc. reported results for its fourth quarter and fiscal year ended October 31, 2008.

For the fourth quarter, Synopsys reported revenue of \$352.8 million, an 11.9 percent increase compared

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to \$315.2 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007. Revenue for fiscal year 2008 was \$1.337 billion, an increase of 10.3 percent from \$1.212 billion in fiscal 2007.

"Synopsys delivered very good financial and operational results in Q4 and 2008, despite a marked change in the economic environment," said Aart de Geus, chairman and CEO of Synopsys. "While the global economic landscape is unpredictable, and leading to more conservative consumer and business practices, Synopsys is heading into 2009 with a solid financial, technical and business foundation."

GAAP Results

On a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, net income for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008 was \$46.4 million, or \$0.32 per share, compared to \$41.0 million, or \$0.27 per share, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007.

GAAP net income for fiscal year 2008 was \$190.0 million, or \$1.29 per share, compared to \$130.5 million, or \$0.87 per share, for fiscal 2007.

Non-GAAP Results

On a non-GAAP basis, net income for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008 was \$62.7 million, or \$0.43 per share, compared to non-GAAP net income of \$60.0 million, or \$0.40 per share, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007.

Non-GAAP net income for fiscal year 2008 was \$252.9 million, or \$1.71 per share, compared to non-GAAP net income of \$204.9 million, or \$1.37 per share, for fiscal 2007.

Reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP results is provided at the end of this press release.

Financial Targets

Synopsys also provided its financial targets for the first quarter and full fiscal year 2009. These targets constitute forward-looking information and are based on current expectations.

First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 Targets:

- * Revenue: \$332 million - \$340 million
- * GAAP expenses: \$276 million - \$291.5 million
- * Non-GAAP expenses: \$253 million - \$263 million
- * Other income and expense: \$0 - \$3 million
- * Tax rate applied in non-GAAP net income calculations: approximately 27 percent
- * Fully diluted outstanding shares: 145 million - 150 million
- * GAAP earnings per share: \$0.26 - \$0.31
- * Non-GAAP earnings per share: \$0.40 - \$0.42
- * Revenue from backlog: greater than 90 percent

Full-Year Fiscal Year 2009 Targets:

- * Revenue: \$1.380 billion - \$1.410 billion
- * Other income and expense: \$4 million - \$8 million
- * Tax rate applied in non-GAAP net income calculations: approximately 27 percent
- * Fully diluted outstanding shares: 145 million - 150 million
- * GAAP earnings per share: \$1.07 - \$1.26
- * Non-GAAP earnings per share: \$1.60 - \$1.72
- * Cash flow from operations: \$200 million - \$220 million

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More complete financials are available at <http://synopsys.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=632>

Earnings Call Open to Investors

Synopsys will hold a conference call for financial analysts and investors today at 2:00 p.m., Pacific Time. A live webcast of the call will be available at Synopsys' corporate website at <http://www.synopsys.com/> A recording of the call will be available by calling +1-800-475-6701 (+1-320-365-3844 for international callers), access code 968632, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time today. A webcast replay will also be available on the website from approximately 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time today through the time Synopsys announces its results for the first quarter fiscal 2009 in February 2009. Synopsys will post copies of the prepared remarks of Aart de Geus, chairman and chief executive officer, and Brian Beattie, chief financial officer, on its website following the call. In addition, Synopsys makes additional financial information available in a financial supplement also posted on the corporate website.

Availability of Final Financial Statements

Synopsys will include final financial statements for fiscal 2008 in its Annual Report on Form 10-K to be filed by December 31, 2008.

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Implementation Investments

AVEVA and Bilfinger Berger Power Services Intensify Their Cooperation

27 December 2008

[AVEVA GmbH](#) announced that Bilfinger Berger Power Services GmbH ([BBPS](#)) has extended its contract for AVEVA PDMS.

Against a background of increasing worldwide demand for energy, BBPS has been very successful in winning business for extending and modernising power plants both at home and abroad. This year alone the building and services group has won contracts in the energy sector totalling EUR300 million. These projects involve services and construction work on coal-fired power plants such as at Karlsruhe, Lunen, Mannheim and Moorburg in Germany and at Belchatov in Poland, as well as on nuclear power plants such as Olkiluoto in Finland. BBPS is delivering and installing special high-pressure pipelines and plant components to customers who increasingly expect more detailed engineering work from BBPS on such projects.

In order to carry out this work more efficiently and at the same time satisfy the exacting requirements made by installation companies in terms of the design and construction specifications, BBPS recently signed a new contract that allows for overall increased use of AVEVA PDMS. "We are already using AVEVA PDMS on several large-scale projects at a total of seven locations, and have to date achieved a significant increase in the quality of our engineering work," explained Thomas Appel, Head of the BHR Hochdruck-Rohrleitungsbau GmbH subsidiary in Frankfurt.

As a partner of the energy industry, Bilfinger Berger Power Services has been active in increasing the efficiency of new power plants and those requiring modernisation, as well as supporting its customers in fulfilling increasingly stringent environmental and climate-protection requirements. To achieve this, the company is investing in cutting-edge high-tech machine technology and engineering IT software from

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AVEVA, the leading supplier of engineering IT systems for the plant and marine industries.

Helmut Schuller, Managing Director, AVEVA DACH, said: "BBPS have everything going right for them; from extending the use of AVEVA PDMS, to having employees with the right skill set. This will enable BBPS to ensure that their projects are efficiently executed within the shortest time frame and with the highest quality."

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Creativity Unites with Fashion Technology in Maria Grachvogel's Spring/Summer 2009 Collection

26 November 2008

[Lectra](#) announced that London-based fashion designer Maria Grachvogel has developed her Spring/Summer 2009 fashion collection using expert fashion-dedicated design, pattern-making, and marker-making solutions by Lectra.

The new Maria Grachvogel Spring/Summer collection, recently presented in Claridge's hotel in London's fashionable Mayfair district, combines bold audacity with refined elegance and exquisite class. The unending creativity of Maria's styles and prints, as well as her celebrated fit that perfectly shapes the female form, have become recognized worldwide as the brand's defining qualities. This year's collection is once again the result of a magical combination of Maria's exceptional forces: artistic genius, a feeling for fashion, an understanding of the clientele, and, of course, the high technology fashion solutions provided by Lectra.

Each high quality dress, blouse, and pair of trousers presented during the show has been designed, developed, and produced using Lectra's Kaledo, Modaris, and Diamino expert fashion-dedicated solutions. "I believe that great design combines art and functionality, so creativity, cut and fit are all equally important in my work" says Maria. "With Lectra's solutions I know I can depend on the quality and consistency of the result. My time is freed up for reaching those exceptional levels of creativity that can only come when everything else is in place. I can count on Lectra not only to support my creativity but to inspire it."

Kaledo® is Lectra's professional design software platform developed especially by Lectra's research and development teams for fashion designers. It delivers a visual, virtual environment for creating and managing fashion collections and offers a multitude of design options and possibilities for an infinite range of creative opportunities. Kaledo is even flexible enough to handle the limitless creative concepts of designers like Maria Grachvogel. Processes are streamlined and tedious tasks eliminated, resulting in maximum efficiency.

Modaris®, Lectra's pattern-making solution especially designed for the fashion market, makes pattern creation easy, consistent, and fast. Pattern-makers can capitalize on their knowledge while ensuring the quality and fit of their products in all sizes. Modaris's features are so reliable that Maria Grachvogel insists on keeping her pattern-making in-house, using Modaris, in order to guarantee that all her models maintain her world-famous fit and hang. Powerful yet user-friendly, Modaris reduces the product development cycle while improving communication among the various actors at each step of the process, yielding high-quality results.

Using **Diamino®**, Lectra's high-technology solution for marker-making, fashion professionals can significantly speed up the marker-making process and improve material efficiency. New markers can be generated quickly using acceleration functions such as piece duplication, analogy, and substitution or

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addition of sizes or styles. For patterned fabrics and even highly detailed prints such as those in the Maria Grachvogel collections, Diamino optimizes marker-making in order to maximize efficiency while respecting the alignment of motifs in connecting pieces. Diamino's Shaker function tightly packs markers automatically using advanced algorithms.

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Delcam's PartMaker Part of a New Philosophy at Dental Manufacturer

2 December 2008

Delcam's PartMaker CAM software has been part of a new philosophy at dental manufacturer Sterngold Dental LLC. The addition of the software and new Citizen Swiss-type lathes has seen the company move from outsourcing the majority of its manufacturing work to undertaking almost all of its production in-house at its Attleboro, Massachusetts, headquarters.

"In an effort for continuous improvement and to achieve optimum efficiency, Sterngold embarked on a programme two years ago to expand our internal manufacturing capabilities," explained Director of Operations, Lee Clermont and Senior Engineer, Bruce Seavey. "Until that point, we relied on several outside vendors. Another big benefit in shifting to in-house manufacturing is the ability to do rapid prototyping and so bring new products to market more quickly."

"Lead time has also played a factor in our decisions," said Mr. Clermont. "Some of our parts require small manufacturing runs and having the ability to schedule our own jobs allows for more flexible production."

The management realised that it needed new staff before it could make the change to in-house production and so hired designer and engineer Bruce Seavey and machinist John Souza. "These appointments have been crucial to our new approach," said Mr. Clermont. "They are both experienced in their field, of course, but the main benefit has been the way in which they work together to develop products that not only meet our customers' needs but that can also be manufactured cost-effectively."

Sterngold installed the first of its new machines early in 2006. Mr. Clermont and Mr. Seavey chose Citizen equipment because they believed it would allow faster set-ups, an essential requirement given the number of small runs being produced. The second machine followed in November, and a third one last year. The company's current plan is to continually ramp up with additional equipment each year as production increases. External machining is now down to around 10% of total production.

The main components being machined are the ERA[®] implants and the ERA[®] family of resilient dental attachments. "These are used to stabilize loose-fitting dentures," explained Mr. Seavey. "Creating the complex angles in our components would be extremely difficult with manual programming, even if multiple set-ups were used. In contrast, with PartMaker it is easy both to create a program to make the parts in one operation and to run a simulation to check what will actually happen on the machine."

"With Part Maker we can maximize the efficiency of our programs, greatly reducing cycle times. With the Citizens' capabilities and some specialized tooling and holders, we can machine the part completely in about four minutes," said Mr Souza. "Using conventional methods, we would need two machines and a special fixture, with the cycle time probably approaching four minutes on each machine."

As well as being small and having to be machined to tight tolerances, the design of the ERA[®] dental implants makes them difficult to hold in the machine. "On these particular parts, we are holding onto it in the back spindle by .012 inches so toolpaths tend to be as little as one or two thousandths of an inch.

That's a lot of tool paths to calculate without any software," according to Mr. Souza. "There are also features on some of our pieces, such as tapered form threads and threads that follow contours and radii, that are difficult enough to work out using the software, never mind manually."

The ease of use of the PartMaker software enabled Sterngold to ramp up production on the new machine more quickly than expected. "We scheduled three jobs to be completed in the first month after installation but completed them all in a week," remembered Mr. Souza.

Another big benefit of the software is the reduction in the time and difficulty of setting up the machines. "Because of our short runs, we are usually setting up a different part on at least one machine every day," explained Mr. Souza. "By doing our planning and testing on the software, we can reduce the downtime between set-ups by at least 40%."

"PartMaker has also allowed us to have our machine operators setting up our equipment for different parts," he added. "The software tells them which tools to load into the various stations on the machine. The time needed to prove out the program is greatly reduced because most mistakes can be corrected before the program ever reaches the machine."

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Delcam's PowerSHAPE Used for Customised Manufacturing of Motorbike Helmets

5 December 2008

Delcam's PowerSHAPE CAD software has been used for the customised manufacture of motorbike helmets as part of the Custom-Fit project, the largest research project into rapid manufacturing in Europe. The helmets used a customised liner, which enables a standard helmet to give better fit and comfort to the rider.

Custom-Fit is an industry-led, research project supported by the European Community and coordinated by Delcam. With a total of budget of 16 million Euros, including a funding of more than 9 million Euros from the Commission, both the project members and the Commission believe that the project outcomes will benefit both society and industry in Europe.

The members of the consortium are made up from a broad base of organisations across Europe, in the fields of manufacturing, design, scanning, materials and consultancy. The aim of the project is to develop systems for the production and supply of personalised custom products or components.

Studies performed within Custom-Fit have shown that 15 to 20% of all full-face composite helmets are ill fitting and that 5% of motorcyclists cannot find helmets that fit their head geometry. Improved fit could be achieved by customising the inner liner rather than the whole helmet, thus saving time and money for the consumer, and minimising the legal issues associated with safety standards.

The process from the beginning to the end comprised of five steps:

1. Capturing geometric data with a 3D body scanner
2. Capturing non-geometric data in the form of a pressure map
3. Designing the inner liner
4. Developing the manufacturing process for the inner liner
5. Manufacturing the inner liner

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Current rapid manufacturing technologies cannot yet produce low-density polyurethane foam, which is the normal material for the inner liner. To overcome this problem, the material and its properties had to be mimicked by using laser sintering and future PPP manufacturing technologies developed by project partner De Montfort University, based in Leicester, UK, in combination with lattice-like internal structures.

More than 30 different structures have been designed using the PowerSHAPE design software as potential templates for the liners. The most promising is a honeycomb structure, which is a good compromise in mimicking the polyurethane foam and in being cost-effective for design and manufacturing. STL files based on this template can be generated by the software for used in the rapid-manufacturing machines.

Five customised helmets were produced for five professional test riders. The initial feedback from these riders was that the customised helmets 'feel good' and fit comfortably to their shape. The manufacturer, Mavet, also assessed the results positively.

The next step was to run long-ride tests with the new helmets, to confirm the improvement in comfort perceived by the riders. Objective measurements also were undertaken by using pressure sensors to measure the actual pressure exerted by the helmet on the head. This was done for one rider and the pressure distribution was found to be significantly improved.

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eSilicon Achieves First-Pass Silicon Success On World's Fastest FPGA With Magma's Implementation Software

2 December 2008

[Magma® Design Automation Inc.](#) announced that eSilicon Corporation used Magma's IC implementation software to design the world's fastest field programmable chip. With Magma's integrated synthesis and place-and-route system, eSilicon was able to maximize performance and achieve first-pass silicon success.

Designed for Achronix Semiconductor, a newly launched fabless semiconductor company, the device is the first in the Speedster™ family of FPGAs and operates at speeds up to 1.5 GHz, representing a three-fold increase in performance over traditional FPGAs. The 65-nanometer (nm) design included very complex internal circuitry and several high-speed multi-protocol interfaces. With its ability to concurrently address timing, power and area challenges in nanometer designs, the Magma software allowed eSilicon to achieve the required operating speed and reduce turnaround time.

"[eSilicon](#) has built a reputation for delivering complex designs within short timeframes," said Jim Kupec, chief operating officer of eSilicon. "With advanced capabilities and an integrated approach to IC design, the Magma software was an excellent solution that enabled us to meet the challenging requirements of the Achronix design."

"The first-time silicon success and superior performance achieved by eSilicon on the Achronix design demonstrates the ability of Magma's software to improve performance, power and turnaround time of nanometer ICs," said Kevin Moynihan, general manager of Magma's Design Implementation Business Unit. "Magma software and eSilicon's expert design services are a powerful combination."

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Faurecia Selects VISTAGY Seat Design Environment™ Software to Streamline Engineering of Seat Trim for Automotive Interiors

3 December 2008

VISTAGY, Inc. announced that [Faurecia](#), the eighth-largest automotive supplier in the world, has purchased VISTAGY Seat Design Environment™ (SDE) for use in its engineering operations in the United States as well as northern and southern Europe. While the initial purchase of SDE will be used to enhance the engineering of seat trim in automotive interiors, the companies plan to work together to improve software applications and related engineering methodologies for designing and manufacturing foam, seat assemblies and entire automotive interiors.

The SDE is the first seat design software application that addresses the entire seat engineering process and is fully integrated into commercial CAD systems. With the SDE, engineers can accurately capture all aspects of seat design, including trim cover, sew lines, attachments to foam and frame, and hardware data for airbags or heating systems. The software also performs conformance simulation and generates flat patterns from the 3D CAD model. Seat manufacturers can capture information and detail in one 3D model, make design changes quickly and early in the development process, and share information across distributed engineering teams working concurrently on seat systems.

"We're in a highly competitive market that demands that we get new seat designs to market faster than ever before," said Thilo Ludwig, vice president of R&D for the Seating Product Group at Faurecia. "In the short term, VISTAGY's role as an industry leader in seat trim tools and the compelling attributes of SDE will enable us to increase the efficiency and control of our engineering and prototyping processes. In the longer term, the cooperative planning and development of future SDE-related functionality will provide us with a significant competitive advantage."

"We're pleased to be working and partnering with one of the world's leading automotive suppliers to help them enhance their seat trim processes," said Ed Bernardon, vice president of business development for [VISTAGY](#). "The key to making design and manufacturing engineering more efficient is creating specialized environments that are made specifically to deal with the rigors of the seat trim environment. By partnering with Faurecia, we'll be able to use their 'real world' input to assure that SDE will enable manufacturers to overcome the most difficult challenges of seat trim design. It is truly a win-win partnership."

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HMS Company Perceives CATIA and ENOVIA SmarTeam as Key to Diversification Beyond Auto

3 December 2008

Dassault Systèmes announced that [HMS](#) Company (Troy, Mich.), an automotive design engineering firm, has added CATIA for design and ENOVIA SmarTeam for product data management to its software solutions. Both solutions as well as training, implementation and support, were provided by Dassault Systèmes partner RAND North America.

With over 75% of new vehicles being designed in CATIA, the company believes this investment will help to secure new automotive customers as well as assist in acquiring work from the aerospace and consumer goods industries. HMS has been a long-time user of the DELMIA Robotics solution and is now in the process of implementing a complete DS 3D PLM solution.

According to HMS, CATIA offers more than a typical CAD solution, providing an integrated

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environment to define, optimize, manage and integrate products, processes and resources throughout the entire product life cycle and across the extended global enterprise – from OEMs through their supply chain to small independent machine shops.

“We see CATIA as absolutely key to opening doors for us in various engineering communities,” said Glen Porter, general manager, HMS. “When we made the decision to diversify our customer base, research showed us that CATIA represents the most significant portion of the virtual design market among multiple industries.”

HMS’s information technology department doesn’t view the company’s move to PLM as just a CAD-based decision. HMS is investing in an entire DS PLM solution based upon its integrated environment where all data regarding design, processes and resources is stored, helping HMS gain efficiencies and improve quality across the product development cycle.

“In all industries, there is a continual shortening of the design cycle,” noted John Haning, information technology manager, HMS. “Technology tools allow us to keep up with this demand and accomplish jobs faster. This, in turn, provides us an opportunity to accomplish more work with the same size staff. CATIA’s market share, as well as its power and versatility should help us gain that additional work.”

HMS began using the DELMIA (Deneb) robotic simulation solutions 16 years ago, which they say has given them a competitive edge. “HMS is very skilled in its ability to manage and clearly communicate using 3D data within a global engineering environment,” said Naron Ungkuldee, regional sales manager, [Dassault Systèmes](#). “We are pleased they are taking the next step towards a comprehensive DS PLM solution.”

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Honda of Canada Selects Dassault Systèmes DELMIA and 3DVIA Solutions for Alliston Plants

3 December 2008

[Dassault Systèmes](#) announced that Honda of Canada Manufacturing, a division of Honda Canada, Inc., has selected DELMIA 3D digital manufacturing solutions to optimize layout and throughput of the Alliston, Ontario plants in preparation for production of the 2011 Honda Civic. Honda will be implementing the DELMIA Process Engineer, DPM Assembly, DELMIA Human, 3DVIA Composer and the add-on Kineo Path Planner solution from Kineo CAM.

To gain process efficiencies, Honda’s overall production targets, including cost and scheduling data, as well as physical production system constraints, are defined and then stored within DELMIA’s single data repository. All product, process and resource data is in one location for easy accessibility and sharing by any party involved in the process. In digital manufacturing studies, it has been shown that this single repository can reduce data search time by as much as 80 percent.

Once the information is stored, planning analyses and 3D simulations can be run in the virtual world to ensure optimal production load and line balancing prior to plant floor build. Assembly sequences and paths can be verified in conjunction with human studies to ensure that all tasks are within ergonomic feasibility. Additionally, cost and efficiency analysis can be conducted by leveraging the solution software for cohesive management of cost throughout the product, process, and resource dataset. Lessons learned from the various simulations can then be incorporated into a set of best practice processes for reuse in similar situations, helping to further reduce time on future projects.

Additionally, with 3DVIA Composer, the entire digital product definition is fully reused so that

assembly process documentation can be easily generated and provided to anyone that needs it, from management to workers on the plant floor. Using 3DVIA Composer to finalize the assembly documentation and offer a 3D interactive environment for the review and presentation of assembly instructions offers greatly improved communication that will shorten approval cycles, help verify the processes more efficiently, improve training of the actual assembly procedures, and reduce assembly errors on the shop floor.

“DELMIA is not new to Honda,” said Mark Vargo, director of automotive sales, DELMIA, Dassault Systèmes. “Every plant in North America has been benefiting from our robotics solution for years, and Dassault Systèmes’ CATIA is Honda’s global design standard. Implementation of this comprehensive set of DELMIA solutions in conjunction 3DVIA Composer will take the Alliston facilities to a whole new level of collaboration and efficiency. We are honored to be their partner on this venture.”

About Honda Canada

Honda Canada Inc. began operations in 1969, establishing its first manufacturing facility in 1986, which was followed by a second plant in 1998. Honda Canada, Inc. employs approximately 5,100 associates at its two facilities in Alliston, Ontario. Honda of Canada Manufacturing annually manufactures 390,000 vehicles and purchases two billion dollars of goods from Canadian-based suppliers.

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Japan’s Saito Die&Mold Factory Reduces Manufacturing Cycle Time by 60% Using PTC Product Development System

2 December 2008

PTC announced that [Saito Die&Mold Factory](#) has selected the PTC® Product Development System, including Pro/ENGINEER® and Windchill® as their engineering and data management solutions to improve productivity and to transfer craftsmanship to the next generation of Saito engineers.

Saito Die&Mold Factory, a 30-employee mold manufacturer founded in 1955, is highly respected, particularly for their automotive part tooling and their exceptional craftsmanship developed throughout the company’s history.

The company deployed PTC’s Pro/ENGINEER 3D CAD software to integrate its mold-manufacturing expertise with PTC’s cutting-edge technology. Pro/ENGINEER has enabled Saito Die&Mold Factory to reduce its manufacturing cycle by over 60 percent. Now engineers can exchange native Pro/ENGINEER data with their customers, reducing the time for design changes from several days to a few hours. Also, the precision of the cast parts is so high that no modification is necessary when the parts are assembled. These improvements in efficiency have helped Saito Die&Mold Factory shorten their time-to-market.

With Pro/ENGINEER as the main engineering tool for the Saito Die&Mold Factory design team, the amount of product data that users generate has increased. The deployment of PTC’s Windchill data management solution has helped the team to better understand design concepts and to progress, enabling them to start procurement processes early and reduce their overall design cycle. Windchill has also helped the Saito team improve its data sharing environment for a integration of manufacturing and customers, and also enabled the team to move from paper-based to environmentally friendly paperless manufacturing instructions and other documents.

In addition, the company now uses Windchill as a tool to capture the knowledge of its engineers and designers — know-how previously managed by each individual engineer — enabling Saito to transfer its

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knowledge to its next-generation engineers.

“We cannot transfer every detail of each engineer’s craftsmanship through the digital data, but what we can do is transfer their knowledge and know-how,” says Mr. Kiyoshi Saito, president, Saito Die&Mold Factory. “Windchill helps veteran and junior engineers access the same information. This is exactly the system we were looking for in order for us to survive in the market. We will continue integrating long-accumulated engineering know-how and the state-of-the-art software technology to achieve a quality level that is considered the world’s highest and even support future market requirements,” explained Mr. Saito.

“We are very pleased that Saito Die&Mold Factory, a company with a long, well-respected history, selected Pro/ENGINEER and Windchill as their PLM solution,” says Mr. Kimio Inoue, president, PTC Japan. “The recent severe market conditions have impacted many industries, which is why PTC provides scalable solutions to meet the increasingly advanced needs of our customers. PTC will continue supporting Saito Die&Mold Factory on productivity improvements, as well as craftsmanship transfers.”

Pro/ENGINEER models created by Saito Die&Mold Factory engineers:

Sample model for trial mold machining

http://www.ptcjapan.jp/pr/saito/trial_mold_machining.html

Mold assembly - Cylinder block core mold

http://www.ptcjapan.jp/pr/saito/cylinder_block_core_mold.html

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Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. Selects Enterprise Informatics for Design Engineering Solutions

3 December 2008

[Enterprise Informatics](#) announced that Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. has procured the Design Engineering Application from the company’s eB Nuclear Application Suite. Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) enriches nuclear fuel, primarily for the United States Navy. The company is expanding to provide fuel for the commercial market space as well. Enterprise Informatics is providing a solution platform to help the company comply with the guidelines of the Institute for Nuclear Power Operators (INPO) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Glenn Cox, Vice President, Nuclear Business Unit of Enterprise Informatics, explains that “NFS already complies with the U.S. Department of Defense, but needs to comply with INPO in order to service the commercial market. Our eB software provides configuration control using the design engineering application process, which works seamlessly with other nuclear applications, such as controlled documents, records management and requirements management.”

Based in Tennessee, NFS is one of the nation’s most innovative nuclear facilities. The company is privately owned and licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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PTC Accelerates Delivery of Porsche’s Maintenance and Repair Manuals

1 December 2008

PTC announced that Porsche, the German premium car manufacturer, is using PTC’s Arbortext dynamic publishing software to streamline the creation and distribution of its maintenance and repair manuals.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

The solution is currently being used by more than 650 authorized Porsche maintenance and repair shops globally. Arbortext is at the heart of Porsche's technical documentation system integrating all maintenance- and repair-related information and documents in a single web-based platform. By maximizing the reuse of document components, maintenance and repair information is now created much more efficiently and service quality has also improved significantly as service documentation is now always up-to-date.

Enabling shorter development cycles while managing a growing number of new models and equipment variants is not only a challenge for product development engineers, but also for technical editors serving the aftermarket. They have to generate more maintenance and repair documents while delivering that documentation to the maintenance and repair shops faster than ever before. Porsche selected PTC Arbortext because of its ability to help customers overcome these challenges through its component-based authoring tools, the incorporation of industry standards and best practices within the solution, and its ability to publish to multiple formats such as PDF, print and web.

“In the past, our manuals were produced using different processes, software and even different hardware platforms, which made information reuse very difficult,” said Dr. Ulrich Lutz, head of after sales engineering, Porsche. “In many instances, information was already outdated before it had even reached the maintenance and repair shops. One of the main reasons for implementing PTC Arbortext as the core element of our new maintenance and repair information system was to have one single platform providing online access.”

The number of electronics control units in cars is constantly growing. As a consequence the amount of diagnostics to run is increasing. This also impacts the volume of repair and maintenance manuals necessary. As an example: The Porsche 993 has four control units, Porsche 996 contains eleven and the Cayenne has 40 control units. The manual for the Cayenne consists of 16 folders, which means more than 70,000 pages. This makes it necessary to reuse information wherever possible, thus enabling technical editors to generate more documents with the same number of staff. Moving forward, this will also enable Porsche to have the repair and maintenance manuals for the new Panamera sport limousine ready for its launch in 2009. Speed and quality of service in the repair and maintenance shops has improved considerably due to more up-to-date information, easy access via the Internet and the ability to collect failure and reliability information on-line.

“To effectively manage the increasing complexity of product development in the automotive industry, companies have to broaden their PLM initiatives beyond engineering to include technical documentation and after sales,” said Joshua Fredberg, senior vice president, product and market strategy, PTC. “We are proud that Porsche, a company built upon delivering a standard of excellence to its customers, has selected [PTC](#) as its service manual publication partner.”

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Share-A-space Used in Test Series Production by US Army TARDEC

3 December 2008

Eurostep has delivered its PLCS-based server solution Share-A-space® for use in test series production at US Army TARDEC. Share-A-space® has been used in the PLM collaboration between US Army TARDEC and AM General for the test series production of the next generation of the HMMWV: the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (“Humvee”).

This programme was expressly developed for the next generation of Expanded Capacity HMMWV

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Vehicles.

“After delivering several pilot projects and studies to TARDEC, we are very pleased to see PLCS applied”, says Håkan Kårdén, CEO Eurostep Group. “TARDEC is showing important leadership in the deployment of PLCS, and we are proud to support such a demanding PLM environment”, adds Mr Kårdén.

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Siemens PLM Software Technology Speeds Hendrick Motorsports and Driver Jimmie Johnson to Third Consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship

1 December 2008

[Siemens PLM Software](#) announced Siemens PLM Software-sponsored driver Jimmie Johnson and [Hendrick Motorsports](#) – whose cars are developed with the help of Siemens PLM Software technology – won the 2008 NASCAR® Sprint Cup championship for the third straight year. Johnson secured the championship in the final NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race of the season at Homestead-Miami Speedway, to become only the second driver in NASCAR history to win three consecutive championships.

Siemens PLM Software-sponsored race teams dominated the Chase for the Championship winning nine of ten Chase races and finishing 1-2-3 in the final standings. Roush Fenway Racing driver Carl Edwards, who won the final race, and teammate Greg Biffle finished second and third overall, respectively.

Siemens PLM Software-sponsored races teams have now won nine straight NASCAR Sprint Cup championships, including every championship this decade.

The nine of ten Chase race wins came with Biffle winning the first two races at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and Dover International Speedway; Johnson winning the third, sixth and ninth races at Kansas Speedway, Martinsville Speedway and Phoenix International Raceway; Joe Gibbs Racing driver Tony Stewart winning at Talladega Superspeedway; and Edwards winning the seventh, eighth and final races at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Texas Motor Speedway and Homestead-Miami Speedway.

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Zweave’s Zdesign PLM Selected by Concept to Market - C2m - a Hong Kong Based Full Service Design and Manufacturing Facility

28 September 2008

[Zweave, Inc.](#) announced that C2m, a Hong Kong Based, Full Service Design and Manufacturing Service has selected Zdesign On-demand as its PLM platform. C2m provides fabric, print and trend direction, printing and CAD services and manufactures for leading U.S and European brands. C2m has subscribed to Zdesign On-demand’s integrated product suite for trend, material, color, fit, design, sourcing, sampling, costing and production management.

“Zweave’s software was built to manage a business like ours in which we collaborate intensively with the factory, suppliers and clients” said Tony Cooper, CEO of C2m. “We needed a PLM product that could support our intensely visual product development business. Our customers browse libraries of inspiration and move from concept to sample in a matter of days” says Cooper. “In evaluating PLM software vendors to partner with our selection criteria included three key objectives: a scalable, flexible

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

product that would take less than three months to implement, templates and processes that support apparel and a truly collaborative platform where our vendors, suppliers and customers can easily participate in the product lifecycle. Zdesign addresses these needs and we are excited that we can support our growth with best practices and a strong PLM foundation.”

“C2m’s team understands product development and sourcing. They have worked with the biggest vertical retailers and manufacturers. This is a serious business where days make a difference. The end game is to behave like a vertical organization with your customers and partners and perform each time” says Laura McCann-Ramsey, Zweave’s CEO. “Our approach to PLM allows our clients to deploy rapidly with a phased approach at a cost they can’t beat. Companies whose core competency is product development, marketing and distribution do not have to become technologists to implement PLM and spend enormous amounts of their budget, resources and time on implementing our software or buying licenses and hardware” says McCann-Ramsey. “We believe the market wants what they need, how they need it, when they need it. On-demand PLM delivers this and more.”

“Zdesign on-demand addresses the top five product development challenges of product development organizations: Easy to use and affordable software; Outsourced or in-house Hosting and Services; collaboration and accountability between merchandising, design, and sourcing activities; cost reduction of product development activities; and reduced product development cycle times,” says David Buck, Zweave’s Chief Technology Officer. “As we support C2m and its extended development team we will change the way they work and give them efficiencies that have only been available to the largest players in the industry.”

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Product News

Animech Technologies Announces the Launch of a New Version of aniDemo™

December 2008

The advantage of using interactive 3D technology in online marketing, is its ability to maintain the customers’ interest by providing a responsive environment with an as close as possible resemblance with the real product. aniDemo give the customer the possibility to examine a realistic model of the product from any angle and product functionality is visualized using real-time 3D animations.

The new version of aniDemo is improved to work on both PC and Mac and it is now compatible with all major browsers, covering more than 99% of internet users today. By using standard web format no additional plug-in or program are needed. New functionality for play/pause during running animations and an impressive user interface is implemented in this new version.

aniDemo is tailor-made for industrial companies who wants’ to boost sales by improving quality of product presentations online. All 3D content is created using a highly automated process reusing existing 3D CAD (construction) data. This provides several benefits such as single sourcing, proprietary data protection and compact size - a cost effective process. The authoring process is completed in just a few hours.

aniDemo is a standalone product built around the same core technology as aniDim3nsion™ and aniPart™. Authored material can be reused across all three platforms, thereby further reducing costs when complementing other applications in the aniPart product family.

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Animech Technologies is now looking for agencies interested in providing the aniDemo™ solution to their customers, or implementing the functionality in their software solutions.

For more information about aniDemo™ take a look at <http://www.animechtechnologies.com/products/anidemo/>

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Apriso Expands Enterprise Quality Solution With FlexNet Quality Planning

2 December 2008

Apriso®, a provider of adaptive software solutions for global **Manufacturing Operations Management** (MOM), announced expanded quality planning capabilities within the latest version of FlexNet® Quality 3.0. FlexNet Quality functions as a "hub" for Enterprise Quality Management across manufacturing operations. This product expansion allows quality characteristics to be collected according to an Inspection Plan residing within FlexNet, instead of relying on external systems such as ERP, which may lead to unnecessary delays or disruption of material flows, impacting Lean and other continuous improvement initiatives.

This highly integrated solution creates and expands sampling procedures, which can then be scheduled to integrate inspection priorities across manufacturing, warehouse and supply chain operations. FlexNet customers can now perform sampling with far greater flexibility based on ISO 2859 rules, which includes determining sample size according to lot size or severity level. Results are available in real-time, to support immediate corrective actions as well as to provide valuable information to corporate planning and reporting activities within enterprise applications, such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM).

Apriso's FlexNet delivers all the functionality of a **Quality Management System** (QMS), leveraging a platform-based unified data model to join multiple quality, traceability and containment management capabilities, each working cohesively across an enterprise manufacturer's operations. With FlexNet, quality is managed across operational "silos," offering a solution to accelerate product and process quality assurance across all operations, to approach a zero defects "nirvana."

"Quality sampling performed after production may improve customer satisfaction, but does little to reduce the total cost of quality. Manufacturers applying Six Sigma and Lean are eager to remove waste completely from their value streams, which includes avoiding the production of defective materials in the first place," states John Fishell, director of product management at Apriso. "Manufacturers can leverage FlexNet Quality Planning to perform inspections within production, warehouse and supply chain processes before final assembly. Based on the inspection results, corrective actions can then be performed in a timely manner, whether that involves containment, process adjustment or a complete shutdown of production. The direct result is a lower total cost of quality, and an overall reduction of 'muda' or waste."

Recognizing that 'one size' seldom fits all, Apriso has designed its latest Quality application to work in a modular fashion. By including as much or as little quality management functionality as needed, ERP users need not embark on a "rip and replace" strategy. Instead, manufacturers can complement and leverage existing IT, QMS or ERP investments, adding FlexNet Quality where appropriate, addressing unmet Quality assurance needs without "over-purchasing" software with redundancy in functionality.

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AutoCAD 2009 Enhances PDF Capabilities and Adds On-demand 3D Printing

2 December 2008

Autodesk, Inc. announced the availability of two new bonus packs for AutoCAD software. The new functionality included in the [bonus packs](#), available exclusively to customers on [Autodesk Subscription](#), will feature enhanced PDF support and on-demand 3D printing capabilities for AutoCAD.

"After more than 25 years of development, Autodesk continues to improve AutoCAD by responding to customer needs and incorporating innovative technologies," said Guri Stark, vice president, AutoCAD and Platform Products. "We are dedicated to increasing the value we provide to our subscription customers and the enhanced PDF and 3D printing capabilities are part of this commitment."

Earlier this year, Autodesk introduced and adopted a [flexible software delivery model](#) for AutoCAD in order to increase customer satisfaction and subscription value by providing AutoCAD customers with earlier access to new features and greater control over their software upgrades. The new subscription bonus packs are now available for download from the [Autodesk Subscription Center](#).

Enhanced PDF Capabilities

For several years, a top AUGI (Autodesk User Group International) wish list item has been more robust capabilities with the PDF file format in AutoCAD. In response to that feedback, Autodesk is now offering AutoCAD Subscription customers with enhanced ability to use PDF to communicate with suppliers, clients and partners with PDF Import and Underlay and enhanced PDF publishing features. The PDF Import and Underlay feature allows users to import PDF files as an underlay, providing access to a variety of tools, like the ability to snap to lines and objects, control the display of layers, as well as move, scale, rotate, and clip the PDF underlay. The enhanced PDF publishing capabilities provide key improvements for publishing PDF files from AutoCAD - reducing file sizes to ease file sharing needs, as well as support for TrueType font, which provides users with precise control over how fonts are displayed.

On-demand 3D Printing

The third subscription bonus packs brings on-demand 3D printing capabilities to AutoCAD 2009, allowing users to produce physical 3D models and prototypes more accurately and powerfully than ever before. With Bonus Pack 3 installed, users can now connect to 3D printing service providers directly from within AutoCAD, or print to their own 3D printer.

Autodesk has entered into agreements with RedEye, a business unit of Stratasys, and Z Corporation, two leading 3D printing manufacturers, to make 3D printing available to AutoCAD 2009 users. Connecting online with the selected service provider, AutoCAD users can now have 3D printed models shipped directly to them.

"Having 3D printing capabilities at our fingertips in AutoCAD has provided our business with the effortless accessibility to print a model that our design team and customers can touch and manipulate," said Matt Little, CAD Manager and Engineer, Water FX. "In turn, we actually bought a 3D printer to seek maximum ROI with the 3D printing capabilities."

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Avatech Solutions Launches BIMreview Software for the Autodesk Revit Platform

1 December 2008

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Avatech Solutions, Inc. announced the launch of BIMreview. This new product is the first and only application for the Autodesk Revit platform that finds inconsistencies in a model and provides automatic correction capabilities, significantly improving companies' abilities to leverage the building information modeling (BIM) process.

“Our clients invest time reviewing, fixing, and auditing their building models to adhere to industry and project standards,” said Beau Turner, director of business development for Avatech’s Building Solutions Group. “Automating that manual process adds efficiency, improves overall model integrity, and enables designers to spend more time on design.”

BIMreview helps CAD Managers, BIM coordinators, project managers, and facility managers save time and money while increasing confidence in BIM completeness and accuracy. This software application works directly inside the Revit platform to check, correct, and manage information in a building model. By reviewing geometry, specifications and materials, it ensures that the model adheres to company standards, industry best practices, as well as standards set by an individual firm or building owner for a specific project.

Unique Features & Benefits

- Automates BIM checking and correcting, eliminating time spent manually reviewing and auditing project models for accuracy and consistency.
- Several standards are pre-loaded, including GSA Spatial Program validation and National CAD standard V4, making it fast and easy to get started.
- Provides energy analysis validation to ensure accurate results.
- Customizable to configure custom checks and rules.

“Our talented team of engineers and software developers has listened to the needs of architecture and engineering firms across the industry and has responded by creating an innovative product that solves a significant and growing industry challenge,” said George Davis, president and CEO of Avatech Solutions. “Building upon Avatech’s long history of developing successful software products that automate and streamline the quality assurance process, Avatech demonstrates that it is diversifying its offerings and solidifying itself as a leading provider to architectural and engineering firms across the nation.”

Pricing and Availability

BIMreview is available for download at <http://www.avatech.com/BIMreview> A single license is priced at \$995USD. The single license maintenance fee is \$250/year and offers support and updates. BIMreview Plus includes a batch processing license and is priced at \$1,295. For more information and pricing, please visit <http://www.avatech.com/BIMreview>.

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Bottom-Up or in Place Design with TopSolid’Design

2 December 2008

In CAD circles we often hear CAD/CAM software developers speak about bottom-up or in place design. In fact whether you know it or not when you design a part using a CAD software you will use one of these 2 design methods. So what is bottom-up and in place design and does your CAD system allow you

to choose the method which is best adapted to your needs?

Bottom-up design

Bottom-up design is in fact the most widely used design process used in the CAD world. In this case the designer designs one part per file, all parts are completely isolated from their context. After all parts have been designed they are then assembled in one assembly file. There are a few main advantages of the bottom-up design method. The first is that the engineer can easily modify or reuse the part. Another key reason for bottom-up design would be when you have multiple engineers working on one project. With the bottom-up design method, the work load can be shared equally across your engineering department. Also bottom-up designs are very useful for the design of large assemblies that contain thousands of parts. In these large assemblies, the file size is spread out between all of the parts in the assembly, thus making it easier to work with the large assembly. However, a bottom-up design method does not allow close geometric ties to be created between files, which means that building associativity between files is extremely difficult to achieve, if your CAD product even allows it to happen in the first place.

In place design

Following on from the description of bottom-up design a logical question arises: How can an engineer design when close associativity needs to be maintained between parts? The solution is called in place design. Our definition of in place design is: The design of a part in its assembly context. Let's take the example of the design of a machine: most parts can be designed using the bottom-up program of different components and parts. How can the engineer deal with the linked parts or the chassis? The chassis depends entirely on its environment (i.e. the assembly file with all the parts of the machine) Therefore, it would seem natural to design the chassis in the assembly file which would offer the following advantages:

Important time gains - all design is carried out in 1 file which is completely associated with its environment. Time gains are also achieved by the simple fact of working in 1 file instead of several at the same time

Error reduction - as the file is associative all changes are carried through the entire file. In the case of bottom-up assembly each file would have to be manually changed individually.

In place design enables pre-project work to advance quickly thanks to the use of one single file

Version control - In an in place design, you always have 100% access and control over your parts/assembly. You always know that you are working with the latest version of the part/assembly.

In place design in industry

In place design has been a design program offered by Missler Software since the beginnings of TopSolid. It is in fact one of the cornerstones of TopSolid. In place design is an essential design program in industries such as the toolmaking and wood industries. If we look at the toolmaking industry we know that the design of a mold is often a unitary study. All parts are strongly linked and in place design permits the creation of strong links between parts: a component such as a guiding pin can, for example, provoke a drilling or boring operation on several parts. Each part is very closely linked to the rest of its environment. For this reason TopSolid's in place design offers huge advantages to toolmakers and is one of the very strong points of TopSolid'Mold.

In place and bottom-up design

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

In fact, both methods of design are very powerful by themselves. However, what makes TopSolid unique is its ability to work with the 2 design methods without limitations. There are definitely certain parts of an assembly that can be designed in their own files and then assembled into the main assembly document. Again, this method is perfect for teams of engineers. However, when designing a mechanical element that includes gears for example, it just makes sense to use the in place method of design. With the in place method you can be sure that your gears are created correctly and that they interact correctly as well. When your assembly of gears is complete, you can insert it into your bottom-up assembly and move on. What makes TopSolid a powerful leading CAD/CAM product is its ability to allow you to work the way you need to work. Your needs can and most likely will change from project to project. It is clear that it only makes sense to work with a product that can support both strategies of design seamlessly and effortlessly.

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Cadence Announces Encounter Digital Implementation System with EDA Industry First End-to-End Parallel Processing Flow

3 December 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. has launched the Cadence® [Encounter® Digital Implementation System](#), a configurable digital implementation platform delivering incredible scalability with complete support for parallel processing across the design flow. The system also brings an ultra-efficient new core memory architecture delivering higher-performance, higher-capacity design closure for single CPU operations. With this new system, designers are reporting improved design time, design closure, and faster time-to-market for advanced digital and mixed-signal devices.

Along with enhanced performance and capacity, Encounter Digital Implementation System offers new technologies for silicon virtual prototyping, die-size exploration and RTL and physical synthesis, providing improved predictability and optimization in early stages of the design flow. In addition, multiple new and enhanced implementation and design closure technologies are being introduced, including automated floorplan synthesis, end-to-end multi-mode multi-corner optimization, variation-tolerant and low power clock tree and clock mesh synthesis, high-capacity placement and optimization, 32-nanometer routing and manufacturing-aware optimization, signoff-driven implementation, and flip chip design features.

"Tilera's TILEPro64™ processor includes 64 general purpose cores each operating at up to 866 MHz with total chip power consumption under 20 watts, thus putting challenging requirements on timing and power," said John F. Brown III, VP IC Engineering at Tilera. "Encounter Digital Implementation System brings together all the related tools under one interface with easy data-sharing and powerful debug capabilities. We can now converge early in the chip development process, achieving faster design closure and meeting aggressive time-to-market goals for our networking, wireless, and digital multimedia applications."

Using Encounter Digital Implementation System designers are able to achieve extraordinary levels of predictability, productivity, scalability, and flexibility from its unified and automated implementation environment for high performance, high-capacity design closure; low power, mixed signal and advanced node design; and signoff analysis. The extensibility and integration of the Encounter Digital Implementation System helps designers to achieve rapid technology adoption, and a faster, higher-quality ramp to volume production.

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

"As a leader in SoC design services, Faraday has always been committed to designing chips that are not only high performance, but high power-efficiency as well," said Kun-Cheng Wu, Director of Design Development, Faraday Technology. "Encounter Digital Implementation System's low power technology exceeds our expectations in delivering a low-power implementation flow. The CPF-enabled Cadence Low Power Solution provides a full front-to-back solution that helps us significantly reduce power consumption in our designs."

"We have been very successful in using the Cadence implementation environment to develop and tapeout our challenging mixed signal designs," said Dr. Daniel Van Blerkom, CTO at Forza Silicon. "Our corporate goal is to exceed our customer's demanding time-to-market objectives, and Cadence has helped us achieve this goal. Using the combination of the Encounter Digital Implementation System and the Virtuoso® custom IC design platform has significantly improved our design efficiency. This has enabled us to deliver high quality mixed signal circuits and designs to our customers, while meeting our aggressive schedules."

The Encounter Digital Implementation System's advanced node technologies, including litho-, CMP-, thermal, and statistical-aware optimization, make it an uniquely capable solution for leading-edge 45- and 32-nanometer designs – those with aggressive design specifications including 100 million or more instances, 1,000-plus macros, operating speeds exceeding 1GHz, ultra-low power budgets, and large amounts of mixed-signal content. The system provides comprehensive manufacturing-aware and variation-aware implementation, and an end-to-end multi-core infrastructure for fast, predictable design closure.

"Built on a strong portfolio of production-proven core technologies, the new Encounter Digital Implementation System ushers in a new era of productivity for digital IC design," said David Desharnais, group director of the [Cadence](#) digital implementation group. "It leads the way in multi-CPU performance, capacity, integration of design closure, low-power, mixed-signal, and advanced node design features and real-time signoff analysis necessary to reduce time to market and risk for our customers."

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Cadence Introduces Industry's First Family of MIPI Standard-Compliant OVM Multi-Language Verification IP

4 December 2008

[Cadence Design Systems, Inc.](#) introduced six additional verification IP (VIP) to its Incisive® VIP portfolio, each designed to speed verification of designs based on the emerging Mobile Industry Processor Interface (MIPI) standard. This unique family of VIP—for Camera Serial Interface, Display Serial Interface, UniProSM, SLIMbusSM, DigRFSM v4 and the MIPI physical layer—enables Cadence customers to verify that designs with MIPI content will work as intended and in compliance with the MIPI specification.

The introduction of the MIPI VIP family is the latest in a series of new VIP introduced by Cadence to provide customers with an extensive offering of Open Verification Methodology (OVM) VIP and unique verification and compliance automation. All Cadence MIPI VIP are OVM compliant and feature a metric-driven approach that ensures compliance to the MIPI protocol specifications. These capabilities provide customers with improved predictability to reduce schedule risks, increased productivity through reuse and automation, and high product quality from pre-packaged advanced verification and

compliance capabilities.

"The fast adoption rate we're seeing for the MIPI standard reflects the significant growth of the mobile market, and Cadence is taking the lead in quickly providing the verification IP necessary to enable this adoption," said Dave Tokic, director of VIP/IP solution and product marketing at Cadence. "Our customers are telling us that our MIPI OVM VIP has allowed them to meet their quality and challenging time-to-market goals and provides confidence that they are meeting the new MIPI standards."

Cadence has long been involved with MIPI and is a contributing member of the MIPI Alliance, a collaboration of mobile industry leaders with the objective of defining and promoting open standards for interfaces to mobile application processors.

"The availability of advanced verification IP will help all MIPI adopters more easily implement our standard," said Joel Huloux, chair of the MIPI Alliance. "We are pleased with Cadence's participation in the Working Groups, and feel that their collaborative approach to the development of this verification IP has strengthened the MIPI specifications."

In addition to offering tremendous breadth in OVM testbench VIP, Cadence provides a comprehensive set of VIP classes applicable to block, module, chip and system-level verification. This includes assertion-based and transaction-based acceleration and emulation rate SpeedBridge® adapter products.

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Cadence Provides Open Source OVM Adoption Solution for VMM Users in Response to Industry Demand

4 December 2008

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced the release of an open-source SystemVerilog solution to help users include Synopsys' Verification Methodology Manual verification IP (VMM VIP) as they adopt the advanced environments supported by the Open Verification Methodology (OVM). This solution leverages investment in existing verification components in order to take advantage of the industry-leading features of the OVM and its vibrant ecosystem. These features include verification language interoperability, scaling from block to system, inter-component communication using transaction-level modeling, and advanced object-oriented capabilities for reuse and customization of these components.

"The verification ecosystem has enthusiastically recognized the superior features of the OVM," said Michal Siwinski, Verification Solution and Product Marketing group director at Cadence. "We are seeing a growing demand for assistance in adopting the OVM, especially given the tremendous breadth of Cadence's line of verification IP. This new solution arises directly from our experiences helping customers move from VMM VIP testbenches to the OVM with minimal recoding. We are making it available as open source as a way to invite more VMM VIP users to share in the benefits of the OVM."

The [Cadence](#) solution, built on top of the OVM 2.0 release, lets users run both OVM and VMM VIP within a single OVM environment. The OVM environment configures the VMM VIP, which communicates using both OVM sequences and virtual sequences, and uses the OVM message utility.

"We have a lot of experience in both methodologies and find clear advantages in the OVM," said Adrian Coman, CEO of TrustIC. "Increasingly, our customers use our services to move to the OVM, and that places us in a unique position. We have evaluated the Cadence solution and find it to be excellent for enabling OVM productivity."

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

As an active member of the Accellera VIP Technical Subcommittee (TSC), Cadence has worked with other committee members to define the requirements for interoperability among different verification methodologies. The Cadence solution is freely available to all Accellera VIP TSC members as a proof-of-concept implementation meeting their requirements.

Availability

The SystemVerilog source code and documentation are available immediately in the "Community Contributions" area of the OVM World site at <http://www.ovmworld.org>.

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Dassault Systèmes Announces New Composite Crush Simulation Technology

3 December 2008

Dassault Systèmes (DS) announced the availability of CZone for Abaqus, from the DS SIMULIA brand, for simulating crushing of composite materials.

CZone for Abaqus, a new add-on product for Abaqus FEA software, enables engineers to accelerate the design and evaluation of energy-absorbing composite components and assemblies. Based on technology from UK-based Engenuity Ltd., the new product provides the ability to study the crushing behavior of composite structures in automobiles, helicopters, aircraft, trains, and other transport vehicles to protect occupants and cargo from shock or injury during severe impact. Energy-absorbing composite structures offer the possibility of increased safety at a lower cost of both initial manufacture and repair—for example, through modular, replaceable front and rear assemblies.

“Bentley Motors has plans to incorporate more composite structure materials into our premium automobiles,” stated Antony Dodworth, principal research manager at Bentley Motors Limited. “Before embarking on the development of costly vehicle prototypes, we need to have simulation technology that enables us to have confidence in predicting the crashworthiness of composite-intensive structures that is comparable to what we have today for evaluating steel structures. The combination of CZone and Abaqus will provide us this critical simulation tool.”

“CZone for Abaqus links the unique composite crushing technology developed by Engenuity with the industry-leading composites capabilities already available from SIMULIA in our Abaqus FEA software,” notes Dale Berry, director of technical marketing for SIMULIA, Dassault Systèmes.

“Together, they offer a comprehensive insight into the crashworthiness performance of an entire structure, including both the crush front and the back-up structure.”

“This integrated solution will provide significant value to the automotive and aerospace industries by enabling them to accelerate the design cycle and lower the costs of including new composite materials in their vehicles,” stated Graham Barnes, director of Engenuity. “Additionally, the robust simulation solution will help them develop safer products capable of absorbing crash energy through composite crushing.”

Engenuity’s CZone technology includes direct implementation of crush-based element force generation and failure for defined “crush zones,” which are typically located at the forward edges of a product. CZone for Abaqus determines the extent of composite material crushing as well as other modes of potential failure—such as composite delamination, fracture, and buckling.

For more information, visit: <http://www.simulia.com/products/czone.html>.

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Delcam's ArtCAM Includes New Sculpting and Embossing Tools

1 December 2008

Delcam has launched new releases of its ArtCAM family of software for artistic applications. The range comprises the entry-level version, ArtCAM Express for users new to CNC machining, ArtCAM Insignia for production machining and ArtCAM Pro for more complex design and manufacturing, plus the ArtCAM JewelSmith edition for the jewellery industry. All of the products have been enhanced in the new versions. However, the key enhancements are new sculpting and embossing tools in the Pro and JewelSmith versions.

The sculpting tools in ArtCAM have always been highly valued by the most creative users as they can be used to produce virtually any shape. They duplicate in the virtual world the ability to sculpt physical materials but with the added advantage that material can be added as well as taken away.

“The work that has been produced with ArtCAM’s sculpting tools has astounded us,” said ArtCAM Development Manager Edward Powell. “The problem has been that the tools were more difficult to use than we would have liked so all this creative power was limited to the most experienced users. With our new release, we have made sculpting much easier and so made it accessible to a much larger number of users.”

Another application of the sculpting tools has been in cleaning up imported data, such as reverse engineered models brought in as STL files. As well as seeing the improvements in ease of use, this functionality has been enhanced with the addition of a “clone” tool. This allows patterns and textures from one part of a model to be duplicated in another region. It can be used to fill in gaps in the scan data or to repair defects from the physical originals, for example a crack in a historic ceramic piece or a sink mark in a plastic moulding.

The new embossing tool allows low-level reliefs that are typically needed for coins, medals or signs, to be created from deeper models. The user can move the model into any position to give the desired perspective and then reduce it to the desired height. Even though the height can be reduced significantly, the design will still preserve all the detail and the illusion of depth from the original.

On the machining side, the main emphasis has been on improved strategies for harder materials to enable more efficient and faster engraving of metal tooling. In particular, area clearance has been made more robust to allow higher feed rates to be used and rest machining has been made more efficient by improving the ordering of toolpaths. Typical applications that will benefit include the engraving of decorations, logos and lettering into moulds, the manufacture of stamping dies for coins and medals, and the production of embossing dies for cards, packaging and book covers.

The machining simulations have been made much more realistic as part of a general improvement in the ability to visualise designs in a variety of materials. In addition, an option has been added to display boundaries and other design vectors on the simulation of the machined model. Both these improvements give users a much better guide to the finished quality of the part and allow them to check, for example, that the most appropriate size of cutting tool has been used.

Another enhancement across the complete ArtCAM range is the ability to export designs in the 3D pdf format used by the Adobe Acrobat reader. This allows designers to send files to potential customers or retailers in a lightweight form that can be viewed in freely-available software. Other general

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improvements include auto-recovery of data, for example if there is a power failure to the computer, and the ability to hide options that are rarely used so simplifying the user interface.

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Intergraph® Releases SmartPlant® Enterprise for Owner Operators Project Execution Solution

2 December 2008

[Intergraph®](#) has released the third solution of its SmartPlant® Enterprise for Owner Operators (SPO) portfolio, SPO Project Execution. Complementing the previously released SPO Core and SPO Operating Plant solutions, SPO Project Execution provides processes for the successful execution of greenfield/brownfield capital expenditure (CAPEX) projects by Owner Operators and Project Management Contractors.

The SPO solutions portfolio enables plant owner operators and project management contractors to create and maintain the engineering design basis, optimize plant operations, increase productivity throughout the plant life-cycle and shorten project schedules. SPO Project Execution builds upon the SPO Core solution, which manages core work processes and is a prerequisite for implementation, and includes out-of-the-box business packages for managing project changes, non-conformities and technical queries.

Savings resulting from SPO Project Execution can amount to between two and five percent of CAPEX costs – highly significant on today’s billion-plus dollar projects. These savings result from improved management and visibility of project change as well as schedule reduction and earlier production by avoiding project delays brought about by late responses to technical queries. Additionally, the handover of non-conformity data related to affected plant assets can result in annual operational expenditure savings of \$2-3 million per \$1 billion CAPEX investment. This comes from reducing the probability of plant incidents and, where incidents do occur, enabling documentation to be rapidly presented to allow the plant to be brought more quickly back into production.

Patrick Holcomb, executive vice president for the Intergraph Process, Power & Marine division said, “The release of SPO Project Execution is another milestone in our efforts to provide owner operators the tools they need to manage their assets, reduce costs on CAPEX projects, and address operations and maintenance needs while increasing interoperability throughout the plant life cycle.”

The SPO Project Execution Solution provides a unique level of change control within plant engineering and design projects reducing the risk of cost and schedule overruns. It ensures auditable traceability through the review, approval, and implementation cycle for changes using automated workflows and adherence with owner operator project authorization matrices.

Non-conformities to relevant laws, regulations, corporate governing documents, and project specifications all need to be closely managed on projects. The SPO non-conformity process is closely linked and integrated with other SPO project execution processes, such as technical queries or management of change, and demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements for managing non-conformities. The SPO non-conformity process provides auditable traceability of the process of reviewing and approving non-conformities and facilitates linking them to affected parts of the plant, such as area or system tag.

The technical query process in SPO greatly simplifies the administration and processing queries. Consistent handling and follow-up will be ensured by flexible workflow templates and management reports. Monitoring technical queries through SPO provides plant engineering project managers an

excellent overview of the state of design and construction on a project.

Future releases of SPO Project Execution are envisioned to cover additional processes including:

- Interface control – managing the complex interfaces between the owner operator and contractors
- Audit management – determining management reviews and follow-up of findings
- Risk and opportunity management – identifying risks and opportunities
- Risk reducing measures – identifying plant risks and measures to be taken to reduce risk “as low as reasonably possible.”

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LEDAS Expands Capabilities Of Free Parameterization in Google SketchUp

3 December 2008

LEDAS Ltd. announced the availability of Driving Dimensions 0.2, the second preliminary version of its free plugin for Google SketchUp. The plugin can be downloaded at <http://www.DrivingDimensions.com>. It offers parameterization tools, which considerably reduce the time required to make changes to the existing models and open new modeling capabilities.

The new features of Driving Dimensions 0.2 are its full compatibility with the latest version of Google SketchUp 7, possibility to set new types of driving dimensions — binary distances and angles (in addition to the lengths and radii, introduced in 0.1 version), smart parameterization of cylindrical surfaces, and robustness improvement working with large models. Driving distances in 0.2 version can be set between two arbitrary vertices, a vertex and an edge, or between two parallel edges. Angular driving dimensions are set between two adjacent edges of the same face. Smart parameterization of cylindrical surfaces maintains cylindrical shape in setting the radius of one of the surface-constraining arcs (circumferences). Setting different values of the radii for two surface-constraining arcs (circumferences), the cylinder is transformed into a cone.

“In the month passed since the release of the first preliminary version of Driving Dimensions 0.1 plugin for Google SketchUp 6, we have seen considerable interest to this solution by the SketchUp users around the world,” says Dmitry Ushakov, Director, Product Management, LEDAS Ltd. «The overall number of successful downloads of the plugin from our site and from <http://download.com> has exceeded 1500; many industry experts mentioned our plugin in their blogs; and various user communities have been actively discussing it in their forums. All this greatly stimulates our development work and encourage us to create similar plug-ins for other popular systems of geometric modeling.»

About Driving Dimensions

Driving Dimensions are end-user applications developed by LEDAS as plugins for popular 2D and 3D modeling systems to provide advanced parameterization capabilities to their users. Driving Dimensions are based on the Variational Direct Modeling technology, which uses direct (history-free) editing model elements, preserving its design intent, expressed by explicit and implicit driving dimensions (linear, angular, radial) and geometric constraints. Simultaneous satisfaction of geometric and dimensional constraints is achieved with LGS variational geometric solver, which is being developed by [LEDAS](#) since 2001 and is available for licensing to all CAD developers.

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Mentor Graphics Delivers Solution for SystemVerilog Base Class Library Interoperability to Enable Reuse of Legacy VMM Code in an OVM Environment

4 December 2008

Mentor Graphics Corp. announced the availability of an open-source SystemVerilog solution for users adopting the Open Verification Methodology (OVM). The solution enables the easy and flexible reuse of legacy Verification Methodology Manual (VMM) code within an OVM environment.

VMM-based verification components can now be reused within an OVM environment. In addition, entire VMM environments can be reused without modification within an OVM environment through the use of a new OVM/VMM Interoperability library that provides the data and semantic conversions between the old and new environments. VMM sequential stimulus can be reused as well, and integrated with OVM's sequences thus preserving and enhancing existing stimulus generation capabilities.

As an active member of the Accellera VIP Technical Subcommittee (TSC), Mentor has worked with other committee members to define the requirements for interoperability among different verification methodologies. Mentor's solution conforms to the Accellera VIP-TSC's set of requirements for SystemVerilog base class library interoperability that was approved by a technical subcommittee vote on December 3, 2008.

"Interoperability of verification IP (VIP) is critical to achieve productivity gains as design teams reuse legacy IP in an OVM environment," said Stephen Bailey, Director of Marketing for the functional verification division at Mentor Graphics. "This solution provides an optimal means for VMM users to adopt the OVM with minimal effort. It also paves the way for the TSC to deliver an interoperability guideline document."

"As a leading supplier of IP, Denali is pleased to see Mentor's open-source solution as the first tangible effort at true VIP interoperability," said David Lin, Vice President of Marketing, Denali Software Inc. "This solution presents advantages for us, as we continue to deliver best-in-class OVM-compliant VIP, and for our customers, as it broadens their choices and VIP access."

Availability

The Mentor open-source SystemVerilog source code and documentation is distributed under the Apache2.0 open-source license, and is available immediately in the "Community Contributions" area of the OVM World site at <http://www.ovmworld.org> and at the Mentor Graphics functional verification website at <http://www.mentor.com/go/cookbook>.

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New Geomagic Studio 10X Accelerates Creation of Intelligent, CAD-Ready Surfaces from 3D Scan Data

2 December 2008

Geomagic announced a new version of Geomagic Studio software that adds surface manipulation capabilities to its Fashion module while improving performance for point and polygon processing tools. Geomagic Studio is a leading software for creating accurate 3D digital models from scan data of physical objects.

New in Fashion

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The Geomagic Fashion module in Geomagic Studio 10x automatically identifies, analyzes and corrects imperfections in scan data to create high-quality geometric and freeform surfaces that can be further manipulated in CAD. This greatly reduces the time required to bring physical forms into the digital realm for mechanical design applications such as new design and reverse engineering. Major new features and enhancements to Geomagic Fashion include:

- Constrained surface-fitting capabilities for perfectly aligning surfaces and correcting imperfections in the as-built model or scan data.
- Automatic surface extension and trimming capabilities for creating perfectly sharp edges between neighboring surfaces, making edges and surfaces faster and easier to manipulate downstream in CAD.
- Advanced tools that enable users to exclude regions of a mesh that deviate from the desired surface classification, resulting in a more accurate representation of the digitized part.

“Geomagic Fashion gets us from scanning to accurate CAD models in half the time of other software,” says Charles Evans, design analyst for Florida Turbine Services. “It’s simple to use, and even with complex shapes and less-than-desirable point clouds, the accuracy is fantastic.”

Better polygon models

Geomagic Studio 10x also includes enhancements that improve performance and quality of point and polygon processing. An improved algorithm for registration helps users create more accurate point clouds from scan data, and a new decimation methodology produces smaller, yet still accurate, polygon models.

Front-end for Class A surfaces

Geomagic Studio 10x with Geomagic Fashion further speeds, automates and simplifies the workflow of transforming scan data into a Class A surface model. Its capabilities make it an ideal complement to design tools such as Autodesk AliasStudio.

“Geomagic Studio 10x with Geomagic Fashion streamlines what was previously a time-consuming and tedious process of moving from points to polygons to Class A surfaces,” says Karl Matthews, director of product management for Geomagic. “In conjunction with AliasStudio, it allows designers to bypass challenging modeling procedures and concentrate on the design process.”

Solutions for specific applications

Geomagic Studio 10x comes in three editions to suit the needs of mechanical design and medical/scientific markets:

- **Geomagic Studio – Fashion Edition** is the premier product for mechanical design applications such as new design and reverse engineering. It includes Geomagic Fashion for automatically extracting design intent from scanned physical objects, providing the fastest way to go from scanning to CAD-ready surfaces.
- **Geomagic Studio – Shape Edition** is designed for medical and scientific applications where users want to create exact 3D replicas of organic objects such as bones or historical artifacts. It includes the Geomagic Shape surfacing module for creating water-tight NURBS surfaces.
- **Geomagic Studio – Complete Edition** is ideal for mechanical designers who want to extract design intent from existing objects and perform FEA and CFD analysis on as-built parts. This edition includes Geomagic Fashion for design work and Geomagic Shape for creating models of as-built parts.

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Geomagic 10x will be available in early 2009. A complete listing of new functionality in Geomagic Studio 10x, descriptions of Geomagic products, and a feature comparison for the three different Studio editions can be found on the Geomagic web site: <http://www.geomagic.com>.

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Real-Time, 3D PCB Design Gets Faster Still: Altium Delivers New Release of Altium Designer

3 December 2008

Altium has launched the winter 09 release of its next generation electronics design solution Altium Designer. Altium has introduced a number of new design technologies and concepts to help electronics designers innovate and exploit advances in technology, and make the task of designing a product and getting it to market easier and faster.

Altium's real-time 3D PCB features have been extended with faster real-time 3D design performance. New capabilities help designers manage the release of their designs to manufacture. Altium is also introducing new concepts in Altium Designer to let designers explore future techniques and design possibilities, and help exploit the potential of programmable devices. A new Field Instrumentation dashboard will help designers overcome some of the challenges of testing or remotely monitoring designs inside FPGAs. And a new plug-and-play Software Platform Builder will help designers 'snap' together systems and exploit a standard set of services within the 'soft' hardware environment created inside programmable devices.

Nick Martin, Altium's CEO, said, "This is the second release under our new twice yearly approach and we are pretty excited about what we are delivering. With this new approach to product delivery, we are moving away from making huge changes every couple of years towards smaller updates made more often. But, as this release shows, this doesn't mean we are holding back on taking significant new technologies to the market.

"The new Software Platform Builder and the Field Instrumentation dashboard included in the winter 09 release are examples of this. Both represent new frontiers for designing electronics systems and both should be viewed as platforms for moving the overall process of designing electronics forward.

"We expect these to rapidly develop and expand over the next few releases in much the same way that our 3D PCB system has developed over the last couple of releases.

"And all of these are examples of what a next generation of electronics design system should look like.

"The current difficult economic outlook is encouraging everyone to take a step back and examine what makes them, and the products they create, unique. Our job is to facilitate this process by creating the tools that help electronics designers make this happen.

"The many enhancements in the new winter 09 release of Altium Designer will give a significant boost

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to designer effectiveness. But it's the radical new systems, such as the Software Platform Builder and Field Instrumentation dashboard, that provide the foundations on which to lift the way electronics design is done in the future to new levels."

Performance upgrades to 3D PCB graphics engine -- even more accuracy, faster

Altium's 3D PCB design environment, introduced in earlier releases, gives board designers realistic three dimensional views of what they are designing in real time. They can work more intuitively, and represent mechanical CAD information directly within the PCB design space. This helps designers make decisions about placement and clearance of components more accurate.

This new release of Altium Designer improves the memory and speed of the 3D PCB graphics system -- by up to seven times.

Also faster is 2D drawing, by up to three times; 2D transparency, over 11 times faster; highlighting and masking, over nine times faster; and 3D rotation, up to five times faster.

To help designers exploit the power of 3D PCB design and get the most from their software procurement budgets, the new release includes a list of benchmark results for commonly available PC graphics cards. This helps designers get the most from the computing hardware readily available today, at the investment that works best.

The optimization of the 3D PCB graphics engine is particularly important. It lowers the hardware requirements necessary to achieve stunning results, makes the whole system more responsive and 'feel' better, and removes distractions to design caused by lags in the GUI.

Enhanced PCB modeling -- realistic surface finishes and other visualization enhancements

Altium has extended the real-time, dynamic 3D PCB design features with this new release. Altium Designer now supports texture mapping of 3D models, which lets designers add realistic surface finishes to components and boards.

Altium has also enhanced vias by allowing different sized pads to be used on different signal layers for each via. This so-called via layer stack-up supports higher trace densities, and designers can offset holes in component pads.

All of these enhancements add to the accuracy of PCB design, and provide new design options for board layout and visualization.

New interactive routing features -- higher-speed 'walk around' and 'hugging' features

Altium has enhanced the interactive routing engine it introduced in May. Routing of differential pair signals and of buses (routing multiple, related traces in one action) now use all the capabilities of Altium's new routing engine. These include automatic 'walk around' of existing objects, 'hugging' new traces to existing traces, pushing aside of existing objects (including vias) and intelligent automatic completion of traces. The new modes also inherit the speed and smoothness of the new engine.

Designers can now intelligently swap pins on-the-fly with both differential pair and single-ended signals during interactive routing. This is particularly useful with FPGA devices, which often allow a particular signal to be brought out on a range of pins. Altium has improved the way the system handles the dragging of existing traces by using the interactive routing engine to automatically deal with obstacles.

Harry Selfridge, engineer at US-based engineering consultancy Encore Engineering, said, "The new board design and layout capabilities in this new release of Altium Designer really save time, especially

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where there are many multi-pin connectors that have to be routed, such as in automatic test equipment boards. The enhanced routing capabilities have given us improvements of between 10% and 15% at least, in the time required to interactively route a board. Alongside the routing improvements offered in the summer 08 release of Altium Designer, this saves us between \$60 and \$100 per day."

Introducing new design concept -- managing links to manufacturing

Altium has also introduced new technologies that help designers manage the process of getting a product from design through to manufacture.

When designers prepare a design to go to manufacture, they produce a large number of files in various formats for different groups of people in the manufacturing chain. Typically, the information comes from a variety of sources: schematic documents, PCB files, bills of materials, component data, FPGA and software source and object files, reports from the design process, and so on. Some people need printouts, while others require PDFs of the same documents.

Generating the correct documents is a time consuming process in itself. Mistakes, or changes not carried through this process, can be costly in both time and money.

With this new release, Altium has strengthened support for version control of all design files. New technology has been introduced to create and track document histories within the design environment. Altium Designer now centralizes the definition and generation of output files to allow simpler processing of outputs. And documents can be created in a variety of formats, most notably as smart PDFs and in online formats.

These features also link to Altium's 3D PCB design environment, which aids the path to manufacture by letting designers visually check their designs before they generate the manufacturing files.

A new Design Release Manager provides a Wizard-style interface for managing the entire process of releasing a design to people beyond the design team. It provides a central control panel for creating all the various output files in the various formats, and distributing them to the people that need them. The Design Release Manager can also take a 'snapshot' of designs so that designers can retrieve, modify and re-release the design, complete with the correct file dependencies. Multiple releases can be created for a design, providing a complete and traceable release history for the project.

New manufacturing rules have been added at the PCB layout stage in Altium Designer that help prevent common manufacturing issues becoming design problems. A range of constraints can now be checked in real-time during the design process and before the fabrication of files, helping avoid unnecessary design re-spins and getting to market faster.

New field dashboard for FPGA-based instruments -- a new, stand-alone way to test FPGAs

Altium has introduced a stand-alone instrument dashboard for FPGAs which helps overcome some of the challenges of testing or remotely monitoring designs inside programmable devices.

Altium's LiveDesign protocol now provides the opportunity for designers to create, build and explore instruments inside FPGAs as part of the application. The new instrument dashboard lets designers stimulate and probe their design live inside the device.

The new instrument dashboard can be downloaded and installed on any PC, without having to run a full license of Altium Designer. The remote dashboard interacts with the instruments programmed inside the FPGA by the designer, so that users can now test or service the device, or look to add advanced services to the product once it's in the field.

New Plug-n-Play Software Platform Builder -- a new concept to create basic software platforms in the soft domain

Altium is also introducing the concept of a Plug-n-Play Software Platform Builder in this new release of Altium Designer.

Together with Altium's NanoBoard reconfigurable hardware development platform, designers can more easily 'snap' together the basic software platforms needed to run on the hardware. This covers the design elements common to many electronic designs: the peripherals, the communications, and the associated protocols and drivers needed to make these basic design elements work (which come with the NanoBoard). This essentially reduces the task of creating these basic, but necessary, software blocks to one of dragging and dropping preconfigured software blocks into a design, freeing the designer to focus on creating the application (the 'smarts' of the product) itself. This new feature supports the drivers and software protocols for the peripherals on its NanoBoard development platform.

Andreas Stöckli, engineer at Astrol Electronic AG, said, "Most of the time I am a hardware designer and I don't really like the task of searching for and integrating drivers for components. With the new software plug and play platform provided in Altium Designer, I can start my software applications very quickly and easily. I've already created a new software project including all drivers around my hardware in less than one afternoon. This is a huge improvement -- my first attempt took me more than three days."

Availability

The new winter 09 release of Altium Designer is now available.

View the videos at <http://www.altium.com/winter09>.

Visit Altium's new user community Wiki at <http://wiki.altium.com>.

Go <http://www.altium.com> to book a web demo, or to contact your nearest Altium sales center.

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STHENO/PRO Version 3.1.1 Release Announcement

3 December 2008

CAD Schroer Group (CSG) announced the release of version 3.1.1 of STHENO/PRO, the only drafting solution fully integrated with Pro/ENGINEER, Pro/INTRALINK® and Windchill PDMLink™, ideal for consolidating model and drawing-based product development processes. Version 3.1.1 introduces support for the latest Pro/ENGINEER® release, along with many new productivity tools, especially in the areas of advanced drafting and data exchange, along with a long list of improvements and enhancements.

“Our customers will be especially interested in further enhancements in our excellent CADConvert™ DXF/DWG interface, which now allows users to convert multi paper space AutoCAD® drawings, and (for users of the STHENO/IMAGE COLOUR™ raster module) will display any raster images in imported designs. SMART Draw™, our new intelligent sketcher, is another highlight, offering substantial productivity gains,” explains CAD Schroer's Product Manager Mark Simpson.

What's New in STHENO/PRO Version 3.1.1

Below are some of the highlights of the latest release:

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Support for Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire 4.0 and 64bit Support

Support for Shaded Model Views

Multi Paper Space AutoCAD Drawing Conversion

New Numbering/Un-numbering/Re-numbering Tool for Text on Sheet

New Move-By-Grid Tool

New in STHENO/PRO ADVANCED™

SMART Draw - The new way to create geometry

New in STHENO/PRO Add-On Products

STHENO/IMAGE COLOUR - Support for Raster Images Inside Imported Drawings (e.g. AutoCAD DXF/DWG)

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Theorem Solutions Releases CATIA V5 Multi-CAD Module

3 December 2008

Theorem Solutions, Inc. announced the release of a new CATIA V5 Multi-CAD module that will assist CATIA users. With the use of the new module, users will find that external translations are no longer required and high-quality data is assured. In addition, the new module assures users that the latest version of the imported file is always used.

CATIA V5 users working with Theorem's new Multi-CAD module can forget about translating non-CATIA parts that might be needed for their work. By simply using the CATIA command "insert existing component," the CATIA V5 user can now select and insert non-CATIA geometry including NX, Pro/E and I-DEAS, eliminating the need to carry out an external translation.

This new streamlined workflow provides the user with a much easier working environment, and the use of Dassault Systemes' development tools in the creation of this exciting interoperability development ensures that the data imported is of the highest quality.

The level of interoperability is such that the Multi-CAD module monitors parts or assemblies inserted in this way and if they change, the user is alerted and an automatic update takes place in CATIA V5. Multi-CAD for CATIA V5 provides the user with the highest possible levels of interoperability with NX, Pro/E and I-DEAS files and assemblies.

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Zuken Announces Free Download of Spartan-3 FPGA Simulation Kits

28 November 2008

Zuken announced the availability of a free simulation design kit for Xilinx® low-cost Spartan®-3 FPGAs. The new download service delivers design kits for the latest version of Zuken's high-speed design environment CR-5000 Lightning, including simulation models, net topology templates and associated documentation. The new kit enables designers to perform much faster analysis and verification of printed circuit boards (PCBs) that include Spartan-3 FPGAs.

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“Performing FPGA silicon simulation during the PCB design cycle is critical for achieving performance, reliability and time-to-market objectives,” said Patrick Dorsey Senior Director, Product Management at Xilinx. “Xilinx is focused on continuous improvements to the industry’s lowest-total-cost FPGA platform and the delivery of Zuken’s new freely downloadable simulation kit provides a significant addition to the broad third party support behind the Spartan series of FPGAs to further reduce the time and development expense of getting cost-sensitive applications to market.”

"Preliminary verification of PCBs using Signal Integrity (SI) simulation is very important; conducting an effective test with minimum effort is a key issue." said Werner Rissiek, General Manager Engineering Europe. "We have received a lot of requests from customers for the Spartan-3 FPGA simulation kit since last year's Virtex-5 family simulation kit announcement and we'll soon be offering support for the Extended Spartan-3A family. Using our new simulation kit, a circuit engineer can speedily and easily evaluate signal integrity of memory I/O without the need for onerous preparation."

Xilinx design kit download site

<http://support.zuken.co.uk/support/kits/xilinx.htm>

A Zuken LinkZ account and password are required to access this site. This type of account is offered to Zuken customers who have a maintenance agreement.

Collaboration with Semiconductor Vendors

Zuken is working to shorten customers’ design and verification cycles, and consequently time-to-market, through collaboration with various semiconductor vendors.

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