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Company News

Autodesk Honors Four Value Added Resellers on Silver Anniversary

9 March 2009

Autodesk, Inc. has honored four [Value-Added Resellers](#) (VARs) for 25 years of outstanding sales and customer service at an awards ceremony at the company's annual [One Team Conference \(OTC\)](#) sales and channel event. The value-added resellers celebrating 25 years with Autodesk are:

[CAD MicroSolutions Inc.](#), Toronto, Canada

[Hagerman & Company, Inc.](#), Fort Wayne, Idaho

[Industrial Technology Inc.](#), Riviera Beach, Florida

[Le Groupe BusCom](#), Montreal, Canada

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Since partnering with Autodesk in 1984, these companies have helped designers and engineers take advantage of Autodesk's 2D and 3D design solutions, and embrace design concepts such as [digital prototyping](#) and [building information modeling](#) (BIM). Listen to three [reseller podcasts](#) to hear CAD MicroSolutions, Hagerman & Company and Le Groupe BusCom talk about their experience in the industry over the past 25 years.

The four VARs honored at OTC are part of Autodesk's global network of approximately 1,900 channel partners responsible for delivering Autodesk's digital design technologies to customers across multiple industries, including architecture, engineering and construction, manufacturing, automotive, utilities and government, telecommunications, gaming, TV and film.

Autodesk Channel Network

Autodesk supports its global partner network through a number of initiatives including a distinguished reseller recognition program, a customer engagement program which has helped increase partner solutions sales, investments in channel capability through immersive training, and a channel partner Web portal designed to provide resellers fast, easy access to a wealth of materials, program information and news.

Autodesk designates VARs based in part on their proficiency in promoting, demonstrating, installing and supporting Autodesk products. The companies celebrating their silver anniversary with Autodesk have helped set the standards that resellers must meet to become Autodesk-authorized VARs.

About CAD MicroSolutions Inc.

Founded in 1984, CAD MicroSolutions is located in Toronto. The company provides design automation software, training, consulting and software development services for several market applications including AEC, Civil Engineering and GIS.

About Hagerman & Company, Inc.

Hagerman & Company's products and services encompass three broad lines of business: CAD/CAM, Consulting Services (including design automation systems and systems for product data management and electronic document management) and Customer Relationship Management. Hagerman & Company is a Microsoft Certified Solution Provider. The Company represents major software developers in the above industries including Autodesk, Inc., Pathtrace Systems (CAD/CAM), Blue Cielo (PDM/EDM), Pivotal Software and Microsoft (CRM). The company also sells and maintains the Stratasys Dimension Series 3D printers. Hagerman & Company is recognized as an Autodesk Premier Solutions Provider - Manufacturing and operates Autodesk Authorized Training Centers (ATCs) in San Jose, Anaheim, Mt. Zion and St. Louis. For more information about Hagerman & Company, please visit www.hagerman.com.

About Industrial Technology

Since 1982 Industrial Technology has been providing specialized solutions for manufacturing. Today it is leveraging the power of Digital Prototyping to offer powerful solutions for its customers as it celebrates its 25th year as an Autodesk value added reseller.

About Le Groupe BusCom

The company was founded in 1984 to serve Quebec's architectural and engineering markets with AutoCAD as well as train our customers. Over the years, as the product line has expanded, they have added new expertise to their support team and expanded markets such as manufacturing and building.

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Their team is now comprised of 30 experts, trained by Autodesk in technical support as well as marketing. BusCom represents Autodesk, BlueCielo, DP Technologies, OpenText. and Organice. Please them at www.buscom.ca for more details.

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Autodesk Platinum Club Recognizes Outstanding Partners for Fiscal Year 2009

10 March 2009

At its annual channel partner conference, One Team Conference (OTC), [Autodesk, Inc.](#) inducted 30 [Value Added Resellers](#) (VARs) and Value Added Distributors (VADs) into the Autodesk Platinum Club 2009. These companies demonstrated strong sales performance and commitment to customer service in fiscal year 2009.

"The Platinum Club inductees have performed at a consistently high level, in spite of the economic challenges," said Steve Blum, Autodesk senior vice president of Americas sales. "They continue to deliver world-class service and technical expertise to help customers fully experience their ideas virtually through Autodesk solutions."

Autodesk Platinum Club members include channel partners who have excelled in sales, growth and other key measures. The Platinum Club also includes channel partners who were the leading commercial education, government or distribution partners in their Americas sales region.

Platinum Club 2009 Winners North America

Reseller of the Year

IMAGINiT Canada

Top Government Product Sales Growth

CADD Microsystems, Inc.

Top Reseller in Education Total Sales Growth

Sivad Inc.

Top Education Reseller in Total Sales Volume by Territory

Ronald A. Williams

Top ISV Product Sales Growth

AEC Design Group

Asset Management Award

INCAT

Reseller with Highest "Top Truly Loyal" Score

JVH Engineering, Inc.

Marketing Excellence

Elaine Perry from Hagerman & Company

Top Reseller for Subscription Renewals

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Consortech Solutions

Top Reseller in Geospatial Product Sales by Territory

CADsoft Consulting, Inc.

Top Reseller in Manufacturing Product Sales by Territory

Hagerman & Company, Inc.

Top Reseller for AEC-Architecture 3D Product Sales Volume

Total CAD Systems, Inc.

Top Product Sales Growth

IRISCO

Top M&E Visualization Product Sales Growth

Avatech Solutions

Top M&E Entertainment Volume Award

RFX, Inc.

Top M&E Reseller in Product Sales Growth

Annex Pro

Top U.S. Reseller in Geospatial Product Sales Growth

Advanced Solutions, Inc.

Top U.S. Reseller for Manufacturing Product Sales Growth

ECAD, Inc.

Top U.S. Reseller in AEC (Architecture, Engineering, and Structure) Product Sales Growth

Applied Technology Group, Inc.

Top Canadian Reseller in Geospatial Product Sales Growth

Global CADD Systems Corp.

Top Canadian Reseller in AEC-Civil Product Sales Growth

IMAGINiT Canada

Top Canadian Reseller in Product Sales by Territory

LeGroupe Buscom

Latin America Awards

Top M&E Reseller in Product Sales Growth

Brassoftware Informatica Ltda.

Top Distributor Highest Percentage of Quota

Nexsys del Peru

Top Reseller in Education Product Sales Volume

Allen Rio Comercio e Servicos de Produtos de Informatica Ltda.

Top Reseller for Subscription Sales Volume

Mapdata Tecnologia Inf e Com Ltda. Americana

Top Reseller in Multi-Countries Organization Region in Product Sales Volume

Replica SRL

Top Reseller in Product Sales Volume

Frazilio and Ferroni Informatica Com e Serv Ltda.

Top Vertical Reseller in Product Sales Volume

Mapdata Tecnologia Inf e Com Ltda. Americana

Top Reseller Product Sales Growth

V53 Comercio e Processamento de Dados Ltda. dba Brasiltech

Top Distributor Product Sales Growth

Nexsys del Peru

Top Distributor Product Sales Volume

PARS Produtos de Processamento Dados Ltd.

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CADCAM Pioneer Donald Welbourn Dies

10 March 2009

Delcam is very sad to announce the death of Donald Welbourn MA FEng. Donald was the key pioneer of CAD/CAM research and development in the UK. His work led to the creation of Delcam and contributed to the establishment of Cambridge University as a major centre for CAD/CAM research.

Donald first became aware of the potential of computer-aided manufacturing in March 1965 when he heard a lecture to the Engineering Society by Prof. Strachey on the early work at MIT on Computer-Aided Design. He was so fascinated by this that, the following morning, he caught the Head of the Cambridge University Engineering Department (CUED), Prof. J.F. Baker, and told him that the University must get started in this field. Prof. Baker was enthusiastic, and by the end of the year, the UK Science Research Council had awarded a grant of £65,000 with which to start work on CAD.

From the start, the research concentrated on 3D design, unlike other systems of the time which were being developed purely for 2D drafting. During his time in industry, Donald had become aware of the problems experienced by toolmakers that were working from 2D drawings. These were frequently ambiguous when describing complex 3D models and Donald believed that 3D computer models could provide a more reliable solution. Initially work was done on the PDP11 graphics computer, with 8k memory, bought in 1965 for £45,000.

In 1972, the CUED was able to obtain two 3-axis NC machine tools with a DTI grant to help the machine tool industry, thus enabling the work in CAD to be expanded into CAM. One of these, a Hayes

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

milling machine, went onto the firm's stand at the Machine Tool Exhibition at Olympia that Autumn, probably the first ever public demonstration of 3D CAD/CAM at a machine tool exhibition.

Meanwhile, in 1971, Donald had become Director in Industrial Co-operation and Director of the Wolfson Cambridge Industrial Unit. With the Science Research Council claiming that his work was no longer research, he focussed his efforts on raising support from industry.

In 1974 he persuaded the late Lord Caldecote DSC, Chairman of The Delta Group plc, and a former member of the staff of the CUED, that his companies must get involved with computer aided engineering. Delta seconded Ed Lambourne to work with the Unit for two years while taking an M.Sc. In 1977, after Ed's return to Delta, Lord Caldecote founded a new subsidiary, Deltacam Systems Ltd., to advise on CAD/CAM and to supply time-sharing services to other firms in the group. The Managing Director of the subsidiary was Hugh Humphreys, while Ed became the Technical Director. Hugh and Ed subsequently lead the staff buyout from the Delcam Group which created Delcam as an independent company in 1989.

Surprisingly for such an important figure in the history of CAD/CAM, Donald never did any of the programming in connection with the software. He made it his job to set targets for what needed to be done, to get money and to get able staff to do the work.

Donald retired from the University in 1983, but continued to play an active role as a Fellow of Selwyn College and in supporting Delcam. He attended most of the company's annual Sales Partner Meetings, where he gave regular presentations on his pride at seeing that such a large and successful company had developed from his initial ideas.

Donald's wife Esther, Fellow of New Hall, Cambridge, predeceased him in 2001. He leaves a daughter, Ann, and a son, Hugh.

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Cambridge University Students Racing to Design Solar Car in SolidWorks and SIMULIA Abaqus Software

10 March 2009

Dassault Systèmes (DS) announced that a team of Cambridge University engineering students is using [SolidWorks® 3D CAD](#) and [Abaqus finite element analysis](#) (FEA) software from Dassault Systèmes' SIMULIA brand to develop a solar-powered car they will race across Australia in the fall of 2009. More spaceship than road vehicle, the car's flat shape will feature a large solar panel that converts the sun's energy into speeds of 60 miles per hour or faster as the team races against other teams from around the world.

The World Solar Challenge is a biannual event drawing about 40 teams from universities, car manufacturers, and individuals to race across 3,000 kilometers of the Australian outback. Engineering ingenuity and grit are typically the difference-makers, with teams only having a limited amount of time to design, prototype and test their vehicles. This will be the first World Solar Challenge for [Cambridge University Eco Racing](#), and the team is finalizing the car's design and testing in SolidWorks and Abaqus.

“When you think about it, this is just one big optimization problem to solve,” said Charlie Watt, a fourth year graduate student and Eco Racing Team Leader. “The solar panels we use only generate about 1 kilowatt of power, which is what a hair dryer uses. SolidWorks and Abaqus helped us find the best

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

aerodynamic design to reduce rolling resistance, drag, and overall weight so we could wring the best performance from the battery.”

The team used SolidWorks software to model the chassis with an eye toward slimming down the profile to reduce the drag coefficient while maximizing the solar panel’s sun exposure. The team explored a variety of shapes in SolidWorks to find the fastest solution, while eliminating potentially costly errors such as part interference out of the design before prototyping began. “We were able to complete the design in a virtual environment without expending any materials such as wood, aluminum or carbon fiber, which is a huge advantage with limited time and resources,” said Watt.

Watt used SIMULIA’s Abaqus finite element analysis software to evaluate the realistic stress performance of the solar car’s chassis. The team used the SolidWorks Associative Interface for Abaqus to easily transfer their SolidWorks model to Abaqus FEA to quickly analyze the physical behavior of different materials, with the goal of optimizing weight against performance and cost. “We looked at using aluminum, steel, carbon fiber, bamboo, birch plywood, and PVC piping,” he said. “The analysis results from Abaqus showed us on screen that plywood, for example, wasn’t rigid enough to withstand the speeds. Other materials were either too expensive, or too unknown to pursue further in such a short timeframe. In the end, we went back to aluminum because we’re more familiar with its properties.”

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Hagerman & Company Celebrates 25 Years as Autodesk Value-added Reseller

9 March 2009

Hagerman & Company, Inc. marked its silver anniversary as an Autodesk Value-added Reseller (VAR). Hagerman & Company is a large supplier of manufacturing, architectural, and civil design software, training and consulting services in the CAD/CAM, PDM, and CRM markets. Hagerman markets its products and services primarily to manufacturing firms, the AEC industry, and civil engineering firms. As one of the first resellers to earn Autodesk VAR designation in 1983, Hagerman & Company has maintained a sterling track record of quality customer service and expertise that meets Autodesk's high standards.

"Autodesk has been our most-valued partner for 25 years," said Dennis Hagerman, CEO of Hagerman & Company, Inc. "Providing the design industry's best product set, coupled with a value pricing model has enabled our clients to boost productivity while improving their product development processes."

Hagerman & Company has helped more than 33,000 customers make the most of their Autodesk software investments over the years. That includes the introduction of forward-thinking approaches such as Digital Prototyping, which allows customers to assess and refine the performance and appearance of designs--and can lead to time and money saved, better quality and breakthrough ideas and innovation and building information modeling (BIM), an integrated workflow built on coordinated, reliable information about a project from design through construction and into operations

"From the outset, [Hagerman & Company](#) and Autodesk have shared a vision for technology's potential impact on the business of design and a commitment to put customers' needs front and center," said Steve Blum, senior vice president, Americas sales, Autodesk. "Our shared approach has created a successful, long-term partnership and played an important role in our customers' successes."

Hagerman & Company, Inc. is a Value Added Reseller/System Integrator (VAR/SI) and consultant specializing in improving organizational productivity through the implementation of technology. Over

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the past 25 years it has grown from a small Midwest reseller of manufacturing solutions to a company that provides manufacturing, AEC, and civil solutions to thousands of companies throughout the Midwest, Midsouth, and California. Hagerman & Company is recognized by Autodesk as a Premier Solutions Provider (PSP) - Manufacturing and also as a PSP Subscription Gold Support Provider, the highest level of support recognized by Autodesk.

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Kineo CAM Extends its Partnership with Profactor GmbH

6 March 2009

Kineo CAM announces the signature of a corporate agreement with Profactor GmbH for the delivery of KineoWorks™ automatic path planning library.

Profactor GmbH is an industrial research and technology development company covering industrial solutions in advanced robotics such as inspection, measuring, cooperative and adaptive robotic systems.

Profactor's first project using KineoWorks™ will be shown at Hannover Fair 2009. The system called 3D-Prompt is able to recognize real moving objects and to pick them up from their environment. Profactor will present an industry-oriented solution for the "random bin picking" where the box and the inside objects will be scanned, and the Profactor-3D-Prompt software will recognize the parts.

The automatically computed withdrawal path (extraction / taking) is computed by the KineoWorks™ path planning software from Kineo CAM.

The showcase is controlled by yet another Profactor software which is based on EN 61499 standard for distributed systems and will be presented in Hall 17 Stand B24 at Hannover Messe April 20-24, 2009.

About Kineo CAM

Kineo Computer Aided Motion "Kineo CAM" is the independent software developer of the technology for automatic motion and path planning, KineoWorks™. Specialized in the development of advanced solutions, Kineo CAM provides business solutions to large companies and organizations in the United States, Europe and Japan.

The main market of [Kineo CAM](#) is mechanical Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing. In this area, the large range of solutions, from stand-alone to fully integrated software, enables users to save money, shorten development time and increase quality in Product Design (validation of mechanical mounting/dismounting) and Process (simulation of operations in cluttered 3D environments).

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LEDAS Opens Driving Dimensions Labs

10 March 2009

[LEDAS Ltd](#) launched the Driving Dimensions Labs as a part of its DrivingDimensions.com web site. Driving Dimensions Labs is the space for new technology: here visitors can see some of LEDAS prototypes in action.

"Users of many CAD systems based on history-free modeling still suffer from lack of parametrization", said Dmitry Ushakov, Director of Product Management, LEDAS Ltd. "Driving Dimensions for Google SketchUp was only the first product in the line. Driving Dimensions Labs has been created to share our

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

ideas with the users of other CAD systems. We appreciate any feedback on these prototypes at labs@drivingdimensions.com."

Now Driving Dimensions Labs contains several movies that demonstrate Driving Dimensions prototypes working in different CAD environment. They are not in beta stage, but users can see how the idea of dimension-driven design can be implemented in different CAD.

AutoCAD® still lacks for parametric modification of its drawings (up to 2009 version). Driving Dimensions Labs presents a prototype working in AutoCAD 2007.

Users of Rhino 3D can gain a lot of their time by using a bottom-up constraint-driven assembly design. Forward kinematic animation is only one of the features LEDAS does research when prototyping Driving Dimensions for Rhino 3D.

Please visit <http://DrivingDimensions.com/labs.php> to see the movies demonstrating these prototypes in action.

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NxRev Selects I-Cubed for Windchill® Migration Offering

11 March 2009

Integrated Industrial Information ([I-Cubed](#)), a PTC PartnerAdvantageT Program Platinum member, and [NxRev](#), announced an agreement to jointly deliver PTC® Windchill migration solutions to PTC's North American customer base. NxRev, PTC's top reseller on the west coast, selected I-Cubed to accelerate Windchill adoption with a secure, predictable and easy-to-deploy migration solution, Legend Loader.

"I-Cubed's twenty year track record of delivering quality products and support, combined with their strong PTC relationship, made I-Cubed the obvious choice as our migration partner. We want to offer our customers a complete end-to-end solution for Windchill deployments. Our customers' engineering data is their most precious asset and I-Cubed understands how to transport it with care," says Scott Carmichael, vice president, NxRev.

I-Cubed's migration tool, Legend, solves the problem of moving engineering data from a file system, custom databases, or legacy PLM/PDM systems into Windchill. Legend supports the migration of all MCAD data and non-CAD data that Windchill supports.

Mr. Carmichael adds, "I-Cubed maintains a strong relationship with both our team and the customer. They take ownership of customer problems and work closely with every customer to ensure migration success. With I-Cubed as part of the team, I am confident in our ability to deliver successful migration solutions."

Legend is currently being used by NxRev at a defense contractor customer site to load SolidWorks 2008 data into Windchill 9.0. By partnering with I-Cubed, NxRev was able to meet its mission to the customer and provide the tools that fully integrate PLM into the customer development processes.

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OptiTex Expands Online Access to Features

9 March 2009

OptiTex announced the Beta release of its new website: OptiTex Web Services, for the general public.

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“OptiTex has always maintained a very client-centered focus, and our new Web Services website comes directly from that framework,” states Ran Machtinger, President and CEO of OptiTex, Ltd. “We have the most user-friendly, customizable system on the market, and the OptiTex Web Service site is just as easy to use and always accessible.”

OptiTex Web Services is a new website offering online access to OptiTex and features known products such as an advanced automated Nesting Service using exclusive Marker Making and Nesting algorithm software to generate high-speed nested layouts that minimize fabric waste. OptiTex has also incorporated a complete Data Converting service that rapidly converts CAD files from one format to another in seconds and an Import/ Export Service that supports all other major file formats independent of the original software platform.

OptiTex professional systems are loaded with intuitive features that make it the CAD system-of-choice for educational and training centers as well as top designers and manufacturing plants around the globe. The entire design process takes place in a virtual environment, eliminating waste and speeding the time to market. By taking the next step and bringing these features online, OptiTex is providing customers another accessible venue to utilize OptiTex software.

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Oracle Invests in Partner Growth and Success With Expanded Application Partner Enablement Programs

9 March 2009

Building on its [Partner Enablement 2.0 strategy](#) and commitment to support partner growth and success, Oracle today expanded its Industry Partner Summits and Boot Camp training sessions in North America.

The new sessions offer sales and implementation training to enable partners to stay current on Oracle product roadmaps and maximize their ability to sell and implement joint solutions and achieve customer success.

Today’s announcement represents Oracle’s increased emphasis to educate and train partners to equip them with the knowledge and experience they need to better sell, develop with, or implement Oracle products.

Industry Partner Summits

Oracle’s Industry Partner Summits are sales enablement programs for Oracle’s industry specific partner community to share product roadmaps, strategies, initiatives, tools, and resources.

The Summits, hosted by leaders from Oracle’s Industry Business Units, Product and Strategy teams, and North America Sales and Alliance Executive team, deliver transparency between Oracle and its partner community regarding strategy and vision in each specific industry.

Four Summits have already been held addressing the areas of Consumer Packaged Goods, Finance, Retail and High Technology.

Five new Industry Summits are scheduled in the second half of 2009. They include Industrial Manufacturing/Automotive, Aerospace & Defense, Communications, Healthcare and Life Sciences.

Oracle has also set up groups on Oracle Mix that house blogs and industry discussions for each Industry Summit.

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Boot Camp / Solution Workshop Training Sessions

Boot Camps are training programs developed exclusively for partners that deliver consolidated, concise, intensive, and focused training by specific product area.

Through Boot Camp sessions, Oracle helps partners “jump-start” implementation training and expand capabilities with Oracle’s acquired applications and additional applications beyond core ERP systems.

Complementing premier training by Oracle University, the Boot Camp training program enables partners to find new solution areas where they can provide business benefit to their customers.

Since the announcement of the Boot Camp program last October, 15 application implementation courses for partners have been created and three sessions have already been held in North America – two Boot Camps for Oracle® CRM On Demand and one for Oracle’s Agile Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Implementation Best Practices.

In addition, eight sales and implementation instructor-led Solution Workshops on edge applications have recently been held for North America partners, with additional sessions being planned:

Four on Oracle Master Data Management sales skills,

Two on Agile PLM pre-sales and implementation Best Practices,

Two on Value Chain Planning sales skills and implementation Best Practices, and

One on implementation Best Practices for Oracle’s Demantra.

Supporting Quote

“Oracle recognizes the challenges and opportunities our Partners face in the current economic environment,” said Tyler Prince, Group Vice President, Oracle North America Applications Alliances and Channels. “Industry Partner Summits provide detailed industry strategies, tools and resources; Boot Camps offer in-depth technical skills for key product areas to speed implementation time and ROI for Partners and customers. By increasing our investments in sales and implementation training, we maximize our Partners’ ability to effectively sell and implement joint solutions that deliver business value to customers today.”

Ken Englund, IBM Global Business Services Americas Electronics Industry Leader stated, "Oracle's Partner Summits are an example of Oracle's continuing commitment to their top partners such as IBM. Seeing Oracle leadership present their product and sales strategies for specific industries helps us better understand Oracle's direction and helps us to align our messages. Oracle's High Tech Summit served as a valuable integration point for our planning efforts as we headed into the new year."

Jim Wilson, Practice Director at Innwave Technology stated, "I found the Agile Boot Camp highly valuable. The implementation methodology training was extremely beneficial in planning for customer engagements, and it was great to have instructors that walked the talk and were themselves implementers."

Supporting Resources

[Oracle Partners](#)

[Oracle PartnerNetwork Portal](#)

About Oracle PartnerNetwork

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Oracle PartnerNetwork is a global business network of more than 20,000 companies who deliver innovative software solutions based on Oracle software. Through access to Oracle's products, education, technical services, marketing and sales support, the Oracle PartnerNetwork program provides partners with the resources they need to be successful in today's global economy. Partners who are able to demonstrate superior product knowledge, technical expertise and a commitment to doing business with Oracle qualify for the Certified Partner levels. <http://oraclepartnernetwork.oracle.com>

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SiS Joins Power Forward Initiative To Assist In Delivering Power-Efficient Computing Platforms

11 March 2009

Chipset design company SiS said that it has joined the Power Forward Initiative (PFI) and plans to offer a Common Power Format (CPF)-based design solution for its chipset, motherboard, reference design and systems customers.

[SiS](#) uses the Cadence® Design Systems, Inc. Low-Power Solution. Using this comprehensive approach to low-power design, teams can improve productivity, reduce risk, and achieve superior tradeoff among timing, power, and area requirements.

“As a chipset designer, SiS continuously dedicates itself to using innovative computing technologies to provide more efficiency and convenience to users of electronic systems,” said Nelson Lee, Marketing Director at SiS. “Our participation in the Power Forward Initiative will help us to serve our customers in need of more power-efficient computing platforms.”

“Through its participation in the Power Forward Initiative, SiS hopes to accelerate its customers' migration to more power-efficient design methodologies,” said Pankaj Mayor, group director of Business Enablement at Cadence. “We welcome SiS to the Power Forward Initiative where they can work with industry leaders to deliver high-quality, low-power solutions to customers.”

About Power Forward Initiative

The Power Forward Initiative, which has more than 30 member companies, is an industry initiative sponsored by Cadence Design Systems which has the goal of enabling the design and production of more power-efficient electronic devices. The initiative includes companies representing a broad cross section of the design chain including system, semiconductor, foundry, IP, EDA, ASIC and design services companies. CPF was contributed by Cadence to the Si2 Low Power Coalition in December 2006; CPF is now the most widely-deployed low-power intent standard in the industry and available from Si2. The Initiative has also published A Practical Guide to Low-Power Design – User experience with CPF which is aimed at educating the broad design marketplace in utilizing advanced low-power design techniques. The Guide is available free of charge at <http://www.powerforward.org>.

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solidThinking Adds Javelin Technologies to Growing Roster of Value-Added Resellers

10 March 2009

Global industrial design/styling software company solidThinking, Inc. (<http://www.solidthinking.com>) has signed Javelin Technologies Inc. (<http://www.javelin-tech.com>) to market, sell and support solidThinking in Ontario and the Atlantic Canadian provinces. Javelin Technologies, one of Canada's

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leading supplier of 3D design and manufacturing software and services, is the latest software provider to join solidThinking's growing roster of international value-added resellers (VAR).

"As solidThinking's first VAR in Canada, Javelin Technologies is pleased to empower industrial designers with software that helps them creatively, quickly and cost-effectively materialize their ideas in the digital space," said John Carlan, managing director at Javelin Technologies.

With more than a decade of CAD software expertise, Oakville, Ontario-based Javelin Technologies offers 3D solutions, comprehensive training programs and technical support to customers in a variety of industry segments, helping designers develop innovative products that get to market faster.

"Javelin Technologies is a significant partner win for solidThinking," said Jim Hassberger, solidThinking's vice president of business development and customer relations. "Our agreement expands solidThinking's market presence throughout North America and further positions solidThinking for continued international growth. We are thrilled to be working closely with Javelin, a recognized market leader, to provide industrial designers with the design solutions to fit their needs."

solidThinking's NURBS-based 3D conceptual design software inspires innovation in industrial designers through a number of features including an advanced construction tree history that enables users to change their minds anytime during the design process. It also features simultaneous parameter editing and control-point editing functionalities, a streamlined user interface and a fast rendering engine that produces rich photorealistic images with a wide array of color options, finishes and global illumination. solidThinking is the first and only industrial design software of its kind to run on both Windows and Mac platforms, and is compatible with computer-aided design, manufacturing and engineering (CAD/CAM/CAE) software, encouraging collaboration between industrial designers and engineers during the product development cycle.

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Synergis Launches e-Learning for Autodesk Software Users

9 March 2009

Synergis Engineering Design Solutions, a division of Synergis Technologies, Inc., announces Synergis e-Learning (<http://www.synergislearning.com>), a web-based learning system that gives design engineers access to the latest training videos, tutorials and demos for Autodesk software.

Synergis e-Learning was developed to supplement hands-on training, increasing knowledge retention, while maximizing and protecting the investments made in your Autodesk software and design staff.

"With the current economic conditions, learning is essential for sustainability and professional growth," said Kristen Tomasic, Vice President of Synergis Engineering Design Solutions. "Synergis e-Learning is an affordable solution to help increase the productivity of your design staff with learning videos that can be accessed anytime, anywhere."

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The Board of Directors of MSC.Software Names Ashfaq Munshi Interim CEO and President

12 March 2009

[MSC.Software Corporation](#) announced that the Board of Directors has named Ashfaq A. Munshi interim

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Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company. These actions followed the decision of William J. Weyand, Chairman and CEO and Glenn Wienkoop, President and COO to resign from MSC after four years. The Board of Directors also named current board members Donald Glickman and Robert A. Schriesheim to serve as non-executive co-chairmen, effective immediately.

The Board of Directors has retained a national firm to conduct a search for a permanent CEO. In separating the roles of CEO and Chairman, MSC has further moved its governance structure toward current best practices.

"Ash is a proven execution-oriented software general manager, whose experience includes executive positions at Oracle Corporation, Silicon Graphics and Applied Materials. Ash is also a successful Silicon Valley CEO having founded, managed and sold software business in various areas of supply chain management. He has worked with MSC products since the early 1980's as a customer and in the 1990's in tuning the software for SGI hardware. Additionally, he has worked with many of MSC's customers in the aerospace and automotive industries. He has a passion for MSC's business, and is committed to building strong relationships with customers, employees and shareholders - and has the respect and support of MSC's management team. The entire Board supports Ash in his new role and we look forward to working with him in the coming months. The Board and the Company wish to thank Bill Weyand and Glenn Wienkoop for their services to MSC," said Don Glickman and Rob Schriesheim, on behalf of the entire Board of MSC Software.

Ashfaq Munshi has served as a Director of MSC since September 2006. Earlier in his career he served as a corporate vice president at Applied Materials where he was responsible for software and automation. Previously he was vice president and general manager of the Enterprise Business Unit at Silicon Graphics and prior to that he was director of development and marketing at Oracle. He has an A.B. degree in mathematics from Harvard University.

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Events News

Avatech Solutions Presents Autodesk 2010 Webcasts Series

6 March 2009

Avatech Solutions, Inc. announced a series of free webcasts to explore the technology of the new Autodesk 2010 software.

The Autodesk 2010 series of products allows designs to be visualized, simulated, and analyzed to evaluate "what if" scenarios before anything is built. To help organizations harness the potential of these new digital design tools, Avatech is offering several webcasts focused on implementation strategies.

Attendees will see advances in manufacturing, building, and infrastructure areas, and Avatech will be highlighting newer products like Autodesk Navisworks software which enables building professionals to contribute to a single, synchronized building information model and Autodesk Ecotect Analysis software which helps designers work in 3D, applying all the tools necessary for building performance analyses that enable energy efficient and sustainable designs.

"These webcasts are a great opportunity for design professionals to see how the new tools will expand their organizations' capabilities, accelerate time to market and drive greater efficiencies to deliver cost-savings across the organization," said Bruce White, Senior Vice President of Sales.

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Avatech is presenting over 50 different webcasts beginning on March 24, 2009. A complete schedule can be found at <http://www.avatech.com/events>.

Upcoming Webcasts:

General Design Software

What's New in AutoCAD 2010

Manufacturing Software

What's New in AutoCAD Inventor and AutoCAD Inventor Professional 2010

What's New in Autodesk Vault Manufacturing 2010 (formerly Productstream)

What's New in AutoCAD Electrical 2010

An Overview of AutoCAD Mechanical 2010

An Overview of Autodesk Showcase

An Overview of Autodesk Vault Manufacturing

An Overview of Autodesk Vault Workgroup

Beyond Technology: Process Automation

Civil Engineering and Geospatial Software

What's New in AutoCAD Civil and AutoCAD Civil 3D 2010

What's New in AutoCAD Map 3D 2010

An Overview of AutoCAD Civil 3D

An Overview of AutoCAD Map 3D

AutoCAD Civil 3D Implementation Strategies

AutoCAD Map 3D for Government Users

Building Design and Visualization Software

What's New in AutoCAD Revit Architecture 2010 What's New in AutoCAD Revit MEP 2010 What's New in Autodesk 3ds Max /Max Design 2010 What's New in AutoCAD Architecture 2010 What's New in AutoCAD MEP 2010 An Overview of Autodesk 3ds Max /Max Design An Overview of AutoCAD MEP An Overview of AutoCAD Revit Architecture An Overview of AutoCAD Revit MEP An Overview of AutoCAD Revit Structure Overview of Autodesk Ecotect Analysis Overview of Autodesk Navisworks AutoCAD Revit Implementation Strategies

Visit <http://www.avatech.com/events> to find out more.

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Delcam Italia to Highlight Five-Axis Machining Strategies at MECSPE

12 March 2009

Delcam Italia will highlight the wide range of five-axis machining strategies in the PowerMILL CAM system at the MECSPE exhibition to be held in Stuttgart from 19th to 21st March. The software will be used for a demonstration of the five-axis machining of an automotive component, coordinated by Atlem & Valtec and also featuring technology from Hitachi, Huron, M & H and Siemens.

PowerMILL is already used for many five-axis machining applications including the manufacture of blades, blisks and aerostructures for the aerospace industry, finish machining of ports and other engine components for the autosport sector, and patternmaking and trimming in composites manufacture. Using five-axis machining can significantly reduce the number of set-ups needed to machine many components. It can also be used to give a more efficient cutting angle that will allow more material to be

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removed with each pass. In addition, five-axis operation allows shorter cutters to be used. This reduces vibration, allowing more accurate machining at higher speeds.

PowerMILL offers a broad range of continuous and positional five-axis strategies, powerful editing tools to optimise the efficiency of the process, automatic collision avoidance, and full-integrated simulation to prove out toolpaths on the computer before they are sent to the factory floor. Dedicated modules are available for the machining of engine ports and for the production of blisks and impellers.

PowerMILL offers a variety of methods for controlling the tool axis in five-axis machining. The user can set a specific lead and/or lean angle – the lead angle is measured in the cutting direction; the lean angle at right angles to the cutting direction. This can be done either to access areas unable to be reached with three-axis machining or to give better cutting conditions. Alternatively, the tool angle can be set in an orientation either to or from a point or to or from a line.

Any three-axis toolpath generated in PowerMILL can be converted to a five-axis toolpath by using automatic collision avoidance to change the tool axis when collisions might occur. The software automatically tilts the cutter away from the obstacle by the specified tolerance and then returns the cutting angle to the value set for the overall toolpath once the obstacle has been cleared. Various choices are available to control the direction in which the tool is tilted.

Other options include five-axis trimming and swarf machining. These techniques are used for the finishing of composite components and vacuum formed parts, and for machining pockets in aerospace structures. Five-axis drilling is also supported.

PowerMILL's ability to control point distribution within five-axis toolpaths allows users to take advantage of the improved ability of modern machine tool controls to handle large amounts of data. Increasing the number of points in the toolpath can give more even machining with less vibration and more consistent loading on the tool. Both these improvements give a better surface finish and less wear of the cutter.

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Delcam Italia to Show Complete CAM Range at Eurostampi

10 March 2009

Delcam Italia will demonstrate Delcam's complete family of CAM software for the first time at the Eurostampi exhibition to be held in Parma from 19th to 21st March. The complete range comprises PowerMILL for high-speed and five-axis machining, FeatureCAM for feature-based programming, PartMaker for Swiss-type lathes and turn-mill equipment, and ArtCAM for engraving and routing.

The new release of PowerMILL offer a more complete solution for complex machining operations, together with more control for experienced machinists that know exactly how they wish to machine a particular part. The program also includes a range of enhancements to existing functionality to enable both faster programming and faster machining.

FeatureCAM 2009 also incorporates enhancements across its complete range of functionality. An important focus has been increased options for more complex machines, such as mill-turn equipment, and four- and five-axis mills. This will allow users to tackle more sophisticated parts than could be programmed before. Developments have also continued increase the efficiency of the more fundamental machining operations, including turning and three-axis milling.

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Major highlights of the new release of PartMaker include a revamped and more productive user-interface, improved capabilities for programming directly on solid models and more realistic machine simulation for the increasingly-complex machine architectures of today's multi-axis turn-mill centres and Swiss-type lathes. The enhanced user interface will make PartMaker users even more productive in programming their CNC equipment, while offering new users an even easier to learn, more capable CNC programming platform.

The main emphasis within the latest release of ArtCAM has been on improved strategies for harder materials to enable more efficient and faster engraving of metal tooling. 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. In addition, 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.

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Delcam to Hold Aerospace Seminar at Dormer Tools

9 March 2009

CADCAM developer Delcam is to host a free seminar on Developments in Aerospace Machining at the new Dormer Tools building on the Advanced Manufacturing Park in Sheffield on 26th March. As well as Delcam and Dormer, presentations on recent innovations will be included from DMG, Renishaw, Sandvik and System 3R.

The aerospace industry has always demanded the highest levels of quality and consistency from its suppliers. In the current economic environment, the added requirements for more cost-effective production and shorter lead times have become even more important. To meet these demands, suppliers must ensure that their machining operations are operating as efficiently as possible.

Machining technology has progressed faster than ever over recent years. Developments in machine tools have been accompanied by improvements in all the related equipment, including more sophisticated programming software, cutting tools that can operate at speeds that would have been unthinkable, and faster and more flexible inspection methods.

All of these developments will be covered in this free seminar. Together, the presentations will show how suppliers to the aerospace industry can achieve higher productivity, better quality and faster delivery. The presentations will be followed by a tour of the site, featuring machining demonstrations on DMG equipment.

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Delcam to Show Broad and Capable CAM Range at CIMT

13 March 2009

Delcam will demonstrate the broadest and most capable range of machining software at the CIMT exhibition to be held in Beijing from 6th to 11th April.

As in many other countries, Delcam's initial sales in China were focused on the mould and die industry. However, the company now offers a much broader range of machining options. "With PowerMILL, FeatureCAM, PartMaker or ArtCAM, we now offer a CAM system to machine virtually any product, in

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any material on any type of equipment,” claimed Delcam’s Business Development Manager for China, Joe Zhou. “Recently, we have added dedicated products for the manufacture of dental caps and bridges, and the production of orthotics. No other supplier has such a broad range of software to increase productivity, improve quality and shorten delivery times in so many applications.”

The latest release of Delcam’s PowerMILL CAM software offers more comprehensive strategies for high-speed milling and five-axis machining, plus the introduction of new strategies to provide greater functionality for 2D machining, including 2D cutter compensation, and 2D pocketing and profiling directly from wireframe curves.

An important area for the new release of FeatureCAM is increased support for mill-turn equipment. These machines are becoming more popular because of their ability to complete parts in a single set-up on one machine, instead of having to use multiple set-ups on two or more different pieces of equipment. With FeatureTURN/MILL, both turning features and milling features can be programmed together so that both programming time and machining time can be reduced. Additional post-processors for these types of machine have also been introduced.

The new versions of PartMaker and SwissCAM feature a wide range of improvements including a new, more productive user interface, enhancements to the system’s unique synchronization functionality, plus improvements in 3D simulation and handling of solid models, and 3D surface machining. Delcam PartMaker also has a Full Machine Simulation module, which allows users to view a photo-realistic 3D model of the machine which they are programming.

ArtCAM 2009 continues with the upgrade path for small businesses that want 2D drawing and basic 3D machining but the possibility to move into 3D modelling and machining as their business needs grow. ArtCAM has been particularly successful in the sign making, woodworking and jewellery industries, where it allows users to increase productivity and deliver new designs more quickly

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DP Technology, Creator of ESPRIT CAM, to be a Sponsor and Exhibitor at the 2009 Industry and Innovation Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, March 17-18

9 March 2009

Acting as both sponsor and exhibitor, [DP Technology](#) will exhibit the latest version of its software at the 2009 Industry and Innovation Conference, scheduled to take place March 17-18 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Providing financial support as a sponsor and technical expertise as an exhibitor, DP Technology will display ESPRIT 2009 at the event, where visitors to the ESPRIT exhibit will have access to one-on-one demonstrations of the latest product upgrades and the opportunity to speak to knowledgeable ESPRIT representatives.

Organized by industry publications Today’s Medical Developments, Aerospace Manufacturing and Design, and Today’s Energy Solutions — a trio of magazines produced by GIE Media, Inc. — the annual conference addresses issues related to the aerospace, medical and energy markets, identifies developing areas in manufacturing, and provides creative business solutions and networking opportunities.

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New Wind Energy Solution, LMS Virtual.Lab Aerodyn Wind Loads, to be Presented at EWEC 2009

10 March 2009

LMS announced that it will be participating in EWEC 2009, Europe's premier wind energy event. At EWEC 2009, which attracts leading renewable energy experts from around the world, LMS will present several of its dedicated wind energy solutions for wind turbine manufacturers, including the new LMS Virtual.Lab Motion Aerodyn Wind Loads feature found in its latest release, LMS Virtual.Lab Rev 8B.

Unlike other industries, wind turbine developers face some very particular challenges like aero-elastic wind load modeling, automating numerous and varying load runs and comprehensive pre- and post-processing. To solve this previously, users had to rely on specialized third party software outside the LMS Virtual.Lab environment and the related time-consuming data translations and importation, but thanks to this new feature in LMS Virtual.Lab Rev 8B -- LMS Virtual.Lab Motion Aerodyn Wind Loads, users will be able to reliably predict transient dynamic loads and use them as input for subsequent fatigue-life and radiated noise emission calculations – all from within the LMS Virtual.Lab environment.

An ideal environment for 3D studies with control system functionality, LMS Virtual.Lab Motion can easily be used to create the blade and its structural flexibility and the wind behavioral traits, incorporating the modeling of any other critical elements in appropriate detail, such as gearboxes, bearings and controls. The wind loads themselves are computed using the Aerodyn subroutine for LMS Virtual.Lab Motion. Numerous pre-processing options are available to help create correctly formatted wind input data and include wind behavior traits ranging from turbulent to constant and even IEC wind standards to validate the wind turbine design. Based on this wind information and the blade orientation and speed during each time step, the LMS Virtual.Lab Aerodyn subroutine takes over, calculating the apparent wind speed on the blades and the precise subsequent wind load for each blade section enabling accurate dynamic simulation studies in LMS Virtual.Lab Motion.

“We integrated the Aerodyn functionality used to apply accurate loads on a turbine into our advanced 3D multi-body code to model the entire wind turbine interaction with the wind in a much more scalable way. An easily accessible 3D environment for cross-attribute multi-disciplinary simulations, LMS Virtual.Lab is the only 3D CAE environment that addresses the specific challenges of wind turbine design including precise blade-wind interaction and load cascading thanks to the new Aerodyn Wind Loads feature,” concluded Guillaume Lethé, Junior Product Manager, LMS Virtual.Lab Motion.

LMS International will be present at the European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (EWEC) in Marseille, France from March 16th - March 19th, 2009. Please feel free to visit our stand #1736 in Hall One.

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Simulation Webinar Powers Renewable Energy Projects

10 March 2009

NEi Software (NEi) announced a webinar titled, “Renewable Energy: Engineering Innovation and Reliability Through Simulation” on Thursday, March 26 at 11:00AM EST, 2:00PM PST. Registration is at http://www.neisoftware.com/renewable_energy.

Audience and Webinar Benefits.

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The webinar is intended for designers, engineers and project managers working on renewable energy projects facing the technical and business challenge of a fast track to cost effectiveness and high reliability to compete with entrenched power sources. To achieve this level of engineering performance for wind, solar, wave, and geothermal energy, engineers are turning to analysis and simulation software for a variety of compelling reasons. Simulations strengthen innovation by allowing a comprehensive and critical exploration of alternatives. Parts can be optimized in the design stage saving precious time and money by eliminating rounds in the conventional multiple series of prototypes, tests, and modifications. Computer validation of part performance catches problem areas, saves costly re-designs, and improves quality and reliability. Virtual testing provides the insight for development of more effective and meaningful physical test protocols.

Agenda and Topics

To illustrate these benefits, NEi Software's webinar will perform several types of engineering analyses.

- Stress Analysis of a composite wind turbine blade will illustrate capabilities for modeling orthotropic materials, load application, and options for display of stress and deformation results.
- Vibration Analysis of a turbine tower foundation will be performed with an examination of mode shapes and operational frequencies.
- Bolt Modeling will show how key stress and deformation information can be obtained quickly and accurately for bolted connections and clamping preloads.

In addition to these specific applications, the examples will illustrate the wider principles of structural analysis software and the technical insight available regarding stress, deformation, and vibration characteristics of engineering structures. Further, an understanding will be gained for the methodology and benefits simulation software can provide in other areas of mechanical design in renewable energy like kinematics, impact, fatigue, heat transfer and fluid dynamics.

Femap® will be used as the pre/post processor for model set up and examination of results. NEi Nastran will be used as the solver. The examples will show how Femap with NEi Nastran meets the requirements of realistic and dependable solutions.

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World's Leading Architecture, Engineering, and Research Organizations to Showcase Best in Generative Design at Upcoming SmartGeometry 2009 in San Francisco

12 March 2009

Bentley Systems, Incorporated announced the key speakers and session topics for SmartGeometry 2009. The speakers at this eight-day, five-event program come from leading architecture, engineering, and research organizations around the world. Sponsored by Bentley and hosted by the SmartGeometry Group, the program runs March 25 through April 1 in San Francisco and focuses on new developments in computational and parametric design for the architectural, engineering, and construction community. The session topics address new issues arising from generative technology and the underlying architectural goals and present visions for engineering, energy, innovation, and design. The agenda is detailed at <http://www.SmartGeometryConference.com>.

“In these economically challenging times, there is only one certainty: skills matter,” said J Parrish, a director of SmartGeometry Group and a director at ArupSport. “As a result, knowledge of such critically

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important emerging practices as digital parametrics is vital to the success of not only individuals, but also entire design organizations.”

Added Lars Hesselgren, a director of SmartGeometry Group and research director of Kohn Pederson Fox Associates, “We are privileged to live in a time when all preconceptions of the designing process are disappearing. Complexity is no longer an issue. Design automation is opening new opportunities, but an overall vision for the confluence of digital representation, computational geometry, and digital fabrication is needed to effectively engage this new technology.

“Design tools are as fundamental to the designer as the hammer and saw are to the carpenter. The real tension arrives when the tool utterly changes character, as happens only once in many generations.”

The speakers at SmartGeometry 2009 will share their knowledge of, and vision for, today’s advanced computational and parametric design practices and tools, such as Bentley’s GenerativeComponents. Among these thought leaders are some of the world’s preeminent authorities on the theory and practice of generative design in advanced 3D design applications, including Mark Burry, professor of innovation and director of Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory (SIAL) at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia; Chris Williams, senior lecturer, department of architecture and civil engineering, University of Bath; Saul Griffith, co-founder of Squid Labs and Makani Power Inc., Alameda, Calif.; and Brett Steele, director of the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London.

For details on SmartGeometry 2009, to register, or for an event schedule, visit <http://www.SmartGeometryConference.com>. Those interested in attending can review the presentations from SmartGeometry 2007 and 2008 at the above website.

About the SmartGeometry Group

The SmartGeometry Group is firmly committed to the belief that computer-aided design should lend itself to capturing, expressing, and enriching the geometric relationships that form the foundation of architecture. The group is dedicated to educating the construction professions in the new skills required to effectively use advanced design systems such as GenerativeComponents. The directors of the SmartGeometry Group include Lars Hesselgren of Kohn Pederson Fox Associates, Hugh Whitehead of Foster + Partners, and J Parrish of ArupSport. For more information, visit <http://www.smartgeometry.org>.

For additional information about GenerativeComponents and GenerativeComponents Discovery Subscription program, visit <http://www.GenerativeComponents.com>.

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Financial News

ESI Group 2008/09 Annual Sales: €70.2 Million - Strong Resistance of the Recurrent Installed Base - Operating Margin Impacted by the Fall in the New Business

10 March 2009

[ESI Group](#) announced today its consolidated sales for its fourth quarter and full year to 31st January 2009.

Consolidated annual sales

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In € millions	2008/09	2007/08	Δ % (actual)	Δ % (volume)
<i>Licences</i>	52.6	53.9	-2.4%	-2.6%
<i>Services & other activities</i>	17.6	15.0	+17.4%	+17.5%
Total	70.2	68.9	+1.9%	+1.8%

FY to 31st January

Quarterly sales

In € millions	2008/09				2007/08			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>Licences</i>	10.8	10.5	9.1	22.2	10.4	10.4	9.2	23.8
<i>Services & other activities</i>	3.9	4.1	4.3	5.3	3.1	3.7	3.7	4.5
Total	14.7	14.6	13.4	27.5	13.5	14.1	12.9	28.3

FY to 31st January

Quarterly sales

Sales for the fourth quarter of the Group's 2008/09 fiscal year totalled €27.5 million, down -2.9% in actual terms and down -6.9% by volume (positive evolution of exchange rates). Excluding the new acquisitions of the Vdot team and of Mindware, consolidated since 15th October 2008 and 16th December 2008 respectively, sales would have been down -4.6% in actual terms and -8.7% by volume compared to the same period of the previous year.

For Licences, the drop in activity over the fourth quarter was essentially a result of the substantial fall of -35% in new business associated with the brutal slowdown in investments within the context of the economic crisis. However, the installed base remained stable, and lays witness to the solidity of ESI Group's business model, which is based on annual rentals and leads to substantial repeat Licence

revenue.

For Services, as in previous quarters, organic growth remained buoyant, at +9%. Once external growth is taken into account, Services activity for the 4th quarter of 2008/09 came to €5.3 million, the highest level of quarterly activity ever recorded by the Group.

Annual sales

ESI Group's 2008/09 annual sales totalled 70.2 million euros, up +1.9% in actual terms and +1.8% on a constant exchange rate basis. Given the evolution of the various currencies, the exchange rate situation had a globally neutral effect on the fiscal year as a whole. Excluding external growth, annual sales would have been up +1.2%.

Licence sales totalled 52.6 million euros, down -2.4% and down -2.6% excluding external growth. The +2.3% increase in the installed base resulted in an increase in the rate of repeat business, which remained high at 77% versus 76% the previous year.

Services activity recorded another year of buoyant growth, with sales growth of +17.4%, +14.8% purely organically. Subsequently, the breakdown in activity continued to evolve towards high value-added Services, which now represent 25% of sales.

The breakdown by geographical region was almost unchanged, with 49% of sales recorded in Europe, 35% in Asia and 16% in America. 82% of sales were recorded outside of France.

By business sector, 40% of booked orders came from the automotive sector, 24% from heavy industry, 8% from aeronautics and 6% from defence. This stable split by sector highlights the necessity and advantages of using ESI Group solutions for major car manufacturers and their subcontractors, despite the economic context that is hitting them hard.

Alain de Rouvray, ESI Group's Chairman and CEO, concludes: *“Over the fourth quarter, we noted a sudden fall in activity after a positive first 9 months of the year that saw growth of +8% by volume. The brutal downturn in the economic situation over the fourth quarter resulted in a slowdown in new investments, specifically in Asia, which led to sales below expectations. Given our cost structure, which is virtually unchanged, this slowdown in activity will directly impact our operating profit and will result in an operating margin below our 10% target. However, and compared to the previous year, net profit will benefit from the effectiveness of foreign exchange hedging that we have implemented.*

Beyond the figures themselves, the positive renegotiation of contracts for the annual rental of licences, notably regarding our fourth and most important quarter, highlights the solidity of our business model. Our recurrent installed base at 31st January 2009 was thus slightly up, reflecting the clear advantages our solutions provide to our historic clients, and notably to car manufacturers, whether it be in terms of improving performance or in terms of contributing to innovation.

Lastly, ESI Group also stands out through the solidity of its balance sheet situation, with low debt and again generating significant positive cash at the end of the 2008/09 fiscal year.”

2008/09 annual results will be published on: 29th April 2009 (after market)

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Implementation Investments

Apache and NXP Collaborate to Address 45nm Power Integrity Challenges for Advanced Digital Processor Design

11 March 2009

[Apache Design Solutions](#) announced the collaboration with [NXP Semiconductors](#) on advanced power solutions for the PNX85500 design – the industry’s first digital TV processor manufactured on the 45nm technology. NXP used Apache’s RedHawk power integrity, Sentinel chip power modeling (CPM), and package extraction early in the design flow. By doing this, NXP was able to optimize the power network and I/O pads, so helping to eliminate disruptive late changes to the floorplan, leading to the achievement of a best-in-class design time for the PNX85500. NXP also used RedHawk’s Vectorless Dynamic and decoupling capacitance analysis for accurate power integrity signoff.

“As a leader in advanced digital products for high volume consumer market, our designs need to be First-Time-Right, while controlling the production cost,” said René Penning de Vries, senior vice president and chief technology officer from NXP. “We leveraged Apache’s product maturity, proactive worldwide support, and domain expertise to mitigate design risk and improve overall product quality.”

“We are excited to work with NXP to address the critical power integrity needs of their 45nm designs,” said Andrew Yang, CEO of Apache. “We look forward to further our collaboration on global power and noise integrity challenges for chip, package, and system.”

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Autodesk and Permasteelisa to Streamline Processes for Innovative Curtain Wall Structures

10 March 2009

[Autodesk, Inc.](#) and [Permasteelisa S.p.A.](#) will combine the use of both Autodesk architectural and manufacturing [3D design software](#) and services throughout the global Permasteelisa curtain wall creation process. By integrating this combination of Autodesk technologies into its design and business system, Permasteelisa, a leading operator in design, construction and installation of architectural envelopes, can improve its ability to react to customer demand, as well as focus on increased quality of product and service.

"As the scale and complexity of Permasteelisa projects increase, it is vital that we improve our internal design and business system to consolidate our competitive advantage," said Bert van de Linde, Permasteelisa senior vice president in charge of R&D and managing director Europe, Middle-East. "We are very satisfied to partner with Autodesk as this combination of software and know-how will help us to achieve greater cost efficiency and speed time-to-market in our worldwide business."

The new Permasteelisa Moving Forward system (code-named PMF) is expected to accelerate the company's ability to react to customers from initial inquiry to final installation. The objective is to provide a unified global information system that will further accentuate Permasteelisa's position by providing tools to create innovative products used in the world's most challenging architectural projects.

New Design Platform Integrates Technologies to Streamlines Digital Pipeline

To streamline the flow of digital assets through the organization, Permasteelisa will install the PMF system, which is a custom suite developed together with Autodesk using Autodesk software, including

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Autodesk Inventor, the Autodesk Revit platform for [building information modeling](#) (BIM), and [AutoCAD Mechanical](#). This new design platform will serve 5,000 users in 50 global locations and enable users at up to five sites to work simultaneously on the same project. Autodesk Consulting is further supporting the integration of these design technologies worldwide.

"Competitive differentiation is especially relevant given current economic conditions," said Karsten Popp, Autodesk senior vice president of Worldwide Channels, Sales Operations and Field Marketing. "Autodesk has a unique ability to bring the latest architecture and manufacturing design software and consulting services together for Permasteelisa, to promote more efficient design processes, support faster time to market and increase product quality."

As an example of how the initiative will work, Permasteelisa can design a new curtain wall based on 3D models created in Revit, and then transfer the data to other teams working on materials and manufacturing to create a single 3D digital model in Autodesk Inventor and AutoCAD Mechanical software.

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B. Braun to Deploy Content Management Company-wide Using The Open Text ECM Suite

9 March 2009

[Open Text](#) announced that international medical equipment and services provider, B. Braun Melsungen AG, will deploy a company-wide ECM solution based on the Open Text ECM Suite. The plan represents a major expansion of the company's use of ECM from around 2,000 users currently, to all users globally when the project is fully deployed in about three years.

The key goal of the project is to streamline the management of regulated documents across the entire life cycle and to meet strict, constantly changing legal requirements in many different parts of the world concurrently. B. Braun also expects to benefit from more effective exchange of information through collaboration as well as efficient and controlled access to all process-related company documents.

"B. Braun is in a heavily regulated industry. As such, process efficiency and compliance are among our top business priorities from an IT perspective," said Steffen Epple, Director of the IT Competence Center PLM at B. Braun Melsungen AG. "Our value-added processes rely on the exchange of documents and knowledge. In order to become more efficient and effective, we needed to set up a company-wide, uniform, integrated infrastructure for content management."

Like many life sciences firms, B. Braun is subject to a host of requirements from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and the European Union to obtain approvals for new medical devices. Numerous documents and employees from all over the world are involved in the process of bringing products to market. Being able to orchestrate people, processes and content efficiently is critical to the company's success.

We have closely followed the maturation of the Open Text offering over the last few years and have been extremely impressed, Epple said. None of the other vendors we evaluated were able to offer a platform with comparable integration depth or as broad a functional scope. Open Text also brings a level of expertise and knowledge of our industry that will help ensure the success of this project."

Global Document Repository to Eliminate Content Silos

B. Braun is currently using a document management system from Open Text that supports around 2,000

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users in the area of regulated documents. The company's remaining document inventory is distributed among various databases, file servers or e-mail systems, and must be managed manually by users. Data redundancies and inconsistencies across these silos, as well as performance problems make it impossible to perform company-wide search queries.

Taking advantage of Open Text technology such as Enterprise Library Services, B. Braun will create a central repository for all process-related company documents worldwide. This will be integrated with the Open Text archive for the SAP systems already in place and documents from other systems will also be migrated into the repository as part of the project. Additional solutions from the Open Text ECM Suite will be implemented so that the integrated services for archiving, records management, search and collaboration will be available worldwide.

The first phase of the project, which began in October, is dedicated to managing regulated documents for users in Germany, Malaysia, Spain and the U.S. The main deployment is scheduled for mid-2009 and will enable users to manage both regulated and non-regulated business documents across their entire life cycle, exchange information through forums, blogs and communities, and collaborate on projects in a more structured way. The worldwide roll-out to all users is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

About B. Braun Melsungen

As a worldwide medical equipment and services supplier, B. Braun provides products in the fields of anesthesiology, internal medicine, cardiology, extracorporeal blood treatment and surgery as well as services for hospitals, medical practices and the homecare industry. The daily interaction between the B. Braun products constantly results in new findings that go into product development. With its innovative products and services worldwide, the company helps to optimize workflows at hospitals and medical practices and improve safety, both for patients as well as for doctors and healthcare providers. For the 2007 fiscal year, B. Braun recorded earnings of more than 3.5 billion euro and employs 35,000 employees worldwide.

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Blue Highway Selects Invention Machine Goldfire to Fuel Product Pipeline and Sustain Breakthrough Innovation

10 March 2009

[Invention Machine](#) announced that it has been selected by [Blue Highway LLC](#) to help transform ideas into commercial products that will drive radical innovation in medical diagnostics. A [Welch Allyn](#) company, Blue Highway will primarily use Invention Machine's [innovation software](#) to accelerate and sustain product innovation, deliver the right products the first time, identify new market opportunities and track technology landscape to maintain their competitive-edge.

Blue Highway will also use Invention Machine's Goldfire software platform to design eco-friendly products to help Welch Allyn further expand its European presence. One of the projects is identifying material replacement for Welch Allyn's [3.5 V Diagnostic Otosopes](#) disposable ear specula. Otoscope is an instrument for examining the interior of the ear and doctors dispose the plastic ear speculums after examining each patient. Blue Highway is using Goldfire to investigate the use of glycerol-based biopolymer to design bio-degradable ear specula.

“At Blue Highway our primary focus is on radical and breakthrough innovations,” said Albert Di

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Rienzo, CEO, Blue Highway. “We chose Invention Machine to help triage ideas and adopt best practices from various industries so we can sustain and fuel Welch Allyn’s new product pipeline.”

Blue Highway LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Welch Allyn, a leader in front-line diagnostic healthcare. The incubator was created to drive disruptive and radical innovations that will enable Welch Allyn to fill its product pipelines faster with new technology and drive highly efficient new clinical practices.

Invention Machine’s task-based innovation platform helps sustain and drive every day innovation. Goldfire accelerates innovation initiatives and empower [innovators](#) so they can repeatedly deliver cost efficient, market leading products -- whether it's creating algae-based biofuel, an engine for NASA or radical cardiac stents.

“Global collaboration between corporations and research professionals is key to driving radical and incremental innovation,” said Mark Atkins, CEO and chairman, Invention Machine. “Invention Machine’s innovation software will drive Blue Highway’s sustainable innovation process, underscoring Welch Allyn’s leadership in the industry.”

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Ciba Implements Sopheon’s Accolade® Solution to Help Focus Innovation Investments on Most Promising Projects

11 March 2009

Sopheon announced that Ciba Inc., a leading global manufacturer of specialty chemicals, is implementing Sopheon’s Accolade product portfolio and innovation process management solution. Ciba’s deployment of the Sopheon system is core to a global initiative aimed at improving returns on innovation investments. The software is being used to enhance the company’s capacity to govern its innovation processes and focus resources on high-value product innovation projects. Accolade has been made available to more than 900 individuals on cross-functional teams responsible for product development at Ciba locations throughout Europe, Asia and the United States.

Ciba’s pedigree as an industry innovator began to develop more than two-and-a-half centuries ago when, in 1758, the company was founded as a trader in chemicals and dyes. In the ensuing years, Ciba has been responsible for scientific breakthroughs in areas ranging from high-performance pigments and antimicrobials to chemical agents that keep vehicle coatings from peeling after excessive exposure to sunlight. Today the company focuses on the development and production of specialty chemicals, serving customers in more than 120 countries.

In 2006 Ciba set in motion an enterprise-wide effort called Operational Agenda. Its purpose is to strengthen the company’s growth and profitability. The program is supported by six strategic pillars, including an initiative dedicated to promoting innovation. A principal goal of that initiative is to reduce the overall number of projects in the new-product pipeline and ensure that R&D resources are focused on those opportunities that promise high business returns. It includes Ciba’s implementation of a comprehensive new framework for managing its innovation efforts.

Sopheon’s Accolade solution will serve as the key software component for Ciba’s management of its new innovation system. The selection of Accolade was based on a mix of advantages, including the fact that it could be readily configured to Ciba’s specific requirements and, once in place, was easy to use. The software’s governing capabilities are expected to improve product-development efficiency and

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quality of execution by prompting users to follow prescribed process steps, and by ensuring that they address the right business and technical questions at the right times to optimize the chances of success for projects in the pipeline. Project management will be enhanced by increased transparency as Accolade system managers are able to not only retrieve instant updates on the status of individual projects, but to access consolidated views that allow them to evaluate the cost, value and priority of all the projects in a particular portfolio.

“The introduction of Sopheon’s Accolade system accompanied the rejuvenation of Ciba’s innovation infrastructure,” said Martin Riediker, chief innovation officer for Ciba. “The solution has provided us with a state-of-the-art innovation management system. For the first time, we are able to monitor all aspects of our R&D initiatives and make truly well-informed decisions about which ones to support. As a result, we are in a position to significantly reduce the number of active projects in our development pipeline, and to back the most promising opportunities with more resources. Ultimately, Accolade will also allow us to track and assess the returns on our innovation investments. It gives us the foundation we need to achieve profitable growth from product innovation well into the future.”

Sopheon partners Sopheon Vertriebs GmbH and Sopheon Business Applications GmbH are responsible for the sale, implementation and support of Accolade at Ciba. Dieter Jaeger, chief executive officer of Sopheon Vertriebs GmbH, said, “Innovation has played a critical role throughout Ciba’s history. The company’s current strategic initiative on innovation is a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to innovation management. Sopheon’s software has been characterized by Ciba as ‘the glue that holds it all together.’ With the introduction of Accolade, Ciba is moving the oversight and management of its innovation efforts to a whole new level.”

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ENOVIA: Leading Aquaculture Group Akva Selects Integrated Dassault Systèmes and Microsoft Solution

11 March 2009

Dassault Systèmes ([DS](#)) announced that Norway’s global aquaculture enterprise, Akva Group, will integrate Dassault Systèmes ENOVIA solution with its existing Microsoft Dynamics AX solution. Akva designs, manufactures and services aquaculture systems for land and water based fish farms around the world. The ENOVIA technology will enable Akva Group to synchronize collaborative business practices, business management and expansion across its worldwide facilities.

Implemented by Technia, Dassault Systèmes’ Norwegian business partner, Akva will deploy several ENOVIA products including Designer, Engineering and Program Centrals to manage key business processes, including materials compliance and global IP management. These PLM functionalities in conjunction with Akva’s installed mechanical design system, SolidWorks, and the Group’s Microsoft Dynamics AX ERP system will operate on a Microsoft SQL Server.

Akva Group Chief Operating Officer, Jone Gjerde said, “ENOVIA PLM provides an enterprise wide collaboration platform for our global business and R+D resource, allowing developers from all over the world to work together within a single unified repository for IP retention, change management, quality and release processes. Newly acquired businesses will speedily accord with Akva compliance standards following the introduction of ENOVIA methodologies.”

Mr. Gjerde who previously experienced implementing Global PLM at ABB, added, “Dassault Systèmes ENOVIA was selected by Akva because of its advanced functionality, speedy ‘out of the box’

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configuration, installation and implementation procedures. We expect its very competitive pricing to produce financial payback within 12 months.”

In a bid to sustain world demand for healthy low fat protein without depleting wild fish stocks, and indeed aiding their recovery, fish farms are becoming ever larger and more productive. Akva is the fish-farmers’ one-stop-shop for everything from advanced biomass calculators and Doppler feed sensors, to huge sea lion proof enclosures, ships equipped to clean nets and bring food, and the software and electronics that secure maximum yield.

Mr. Gjerde concluded, “The benefit to Akva of ENOVIA PLM, coupled with Microsoft ERP technology is that it facilitates seamless unification and synchronicity with common business standards across our expanding global enterprise. This positions Akva to capitalize on the increasing demand for aquaculture and fish farms while being extremely efficiently organized and informed.”

About AKVA Group

AKVA group, with its four main brands of aquaculture products is now the world's most recognized brand of aquaculture technology.

The company has more than 25 years of experience in design and manufacturing of steel and plastic cages, work boats, feed systems, feed barges, sensor systems and fish farming software. AKVA provides customers worldwide with the tools to farm fish using cost effective sustainable methods.

About Microsoft Dynamics AX ERP

Microsoft Dynamics AX 2009 is a comprehensive business management solution for mid-sized and larger organizations that works with familiar Microsoft software to help people improve productivity. Microsoft Dynamics AX is built to consolidate and standardize processes, providing visibility across organizations, and simplifying compliance.

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Ford Motor Company Continues Rich History with MSC.Software

9 March 2009

MSC.Software announced that Ford Motor Company has signed a new agreement, extending their 20 year history of engineering simulation and innovation using MSC.Software products.

Under the new agreement, Ford will continue to use both MSC Nastran and Adams as their standard simulation tools allowing them to bring better products to market more quickly, meeting the competitive business demands of the current automotive market.

"We are proud that Ford Motor Company has chosen MSC.Software's simulation solutions to meet their business needs and drive value for their customers," said Bill Weyand, chief executive officer, [MSC.Software](#). "The continuation of their investment in our industry leading technology speaks well to our rich history of simulation innovation and our commitment to meeting evolving market needs."

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IBM and Dassault Systèmes Help European Automaker Create Digital Design Infrastructure to Speed Up Delivery of Fuel Efficient Cars

12 March 2009

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IBM and Dassault Systèmes ([DS](#)) announced BMW's use of a single digital software environment for the design of all BMW engines across its fuel and diesel-powered cars, motorcycles, and its newest line of eco-friendly, hybrid cars including the industry's first hydrogen-powered vehicle.

With the use of CATIA software, a 3D virtual design platform, engineers can consolidate design environments and create a single reference model for the design of all future BMW engines. IBM and Dassault Systèmes [PLM](#) experts have helped the automaker to harmonize and consolidate all design initiatives into a single digital infrastructure that provides the latest technologies to aid in the software simulation, calculation and testing of new engine models.

As industrial sector companies intensify efforts to deliver increased value to customers, they are using smart technology to help launch a new class of products. For example, working with IBM and Dassault Systemes, BMW has developed a series of software design initiatives aimed at equipping new cars with fuel-saving technologies. From designing smaller engines to increasing piston and cylinder performance for better ignition and fuel performance, product lifecycle management software continues to play a key role in the intelligent design of new products.

In the past, aerodynamicists, physicists, and product engineers relied on CAD geometry and manual changes to create new design models. With CATIA, product designers can create multiple engineering applications that significantly enhance a manufacturer's ability to digitally share master versions of an engine or a gear-box design. The use of one digital reference model that can be updated and shared instantly across the globe helps BMW respond quickly to consumer changes prior to signing off on production and shipment plans.

“BMW is in a leadership position to speed up change in the auto industry. With this digital design infrastructure, the company can quickly respond to consumer changes and production demand by having immediate access to global design plans and making those updates digitally so they are instantly shared across global manufacturing sites and with partners in the supply chain,” said Steve Mills, senior vice president and group executive, IBM Software.

Using CATIA software, BMW has shipped 22 new cars with engines that produce less than 140 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per kilometer, an achievement that meets the goals set by Kyoto Protocol participants in 1992 as part of an international treaty on climate change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally.

“We are convinced that the extended deployment of our 3D PLM software across all BMW divisions will deliver quick results for BMW and its customers,” said Bruno Latchague, executive vice president, Dassault Systèmes. “BMW can now streamline all its design and product development activities on a single platform that is easy to share with its suppliers. This reflects an important move in times where return on investment is more critical than ever.”

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IFS Applications to Integrate Business Processes for Global Opto-Electronic Manufacturer

12 March 2009

IFS has signed an agreement with a global opto-electronics manufacturer to integrate business processes in its European sales and service subsidiaries, located in Germany, France, UK, Italy and the Nordic countries. The total value of the order amounts to more than € 1.4 million.

The customer will use the financials, sales & service, distribution, engineering and maintenance

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components from the latest version of the ERP software, IFS Applications 7.5 which will replace the array of different solutions currently being used by the customer at its sites throughout Europe.

IFS was chosen because it offered an agile, completely integrated industry-specific solution with global reach. Other crucial criteria included the integrated sales & marketing component, the ease of integration with Lotus Notes, and the fact that the solution meets the customer's requirements for demo equipment handling with an industry-specific extension for rental/hire purposes.

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Mentor Graphics Precision Synthesis Tool Family Supports Altera's Stratix IV GT and Arria II GX FPGA Devices

9 March 2009

[Mentor Graphics Corporation](#) announced that its Precision® Synthesis family of products supports Altera Corporation's 40 nanometer (nm) Stratix® IV GT and Arria® II GX field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). The Stratix IV GT and Arria II GX FPGAs expand Altera's family of transceiver FPGA solutions to address a wide range of applications. Mentor Graphics Precision Synthesis product offers immediate synthesis support for Stratix IV GT and Arria II GX FPGAs, allowing customers to leverage Altera's latest transceiver technology and quickly achieve design closure.

"Mentor Graphics' software delivers customers the technology necessary to obtain high quality results with our devices," said Danny Biran, senior vice president of product and corporate marketing at Altera Corporation. "With its ability to manage advanced, leading-edge 40nm FPGA architectures, Precision Synthesis is well suited for our portfolio of FPGAs with embedded transceivers."

Stratix IV GT and Arria II GX FPGAs feature integrated high-speed transceivers well suited for a variety of applications such as communications systems, high-end test equipment, and military communications equipment. Altera and Mentor Graphics continue to work closely together to ensure comprehensive design synthesis support for Altera's latest state-of-the-art technology. Mentor's Precision Synthesis support for these devices is available to customers now.

"Altera's FPGAs with transceivers continue to enable the development of next-generation, high-end applications in several markets, including 40-Gigabit and 100-Gigabit Ethernet systems," stated Simon Bloch, vice president and general manager, Mentor Graphics design and synthesis division. "Our commitment to high-performance synthesis for Altera's latest transceiver FPGA products will greatly benefit our mutual customers in developing leading-edge applications for the telecommunications market."

Precision Synthesis: The Centerpiece of Mentor Graphics FPGA Flow

The Precision Synthesis tool forms the centerpiece of the Mentor Graphics FPGA flow. It's the only synthesis tool which offers true push-button, multi-vendor physical synthesis for achieving the best quality of results. With comprehensive language support, including SystemVerilog, advanced ASIC prototyping flow and automatic incremental synthesis, the Precision Synthesis tool is uniquely suited to handle today's high-end FPGAs. The Precision Synthesis tool features design analysis capability, allowing designers to cross-probe between multiple views as well as perform interactive static timing "what-if" analyses. The Precision Synthesis tool reduces design iterations, and enables faster, more predictable completion of designs, while delivering high quality of results.

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NACCO Materials Handling Group Reduces Product Costs with aPriori

9 March 2009

aPriori announced that NACCO Materials Handling Group (NMHG) has achieved significant product cost reductions using aPriori's Product Cost Management software platform. With aPriori, NMHG has increased its ability to drive costs out of its products pre- and post-production using real-time product cost assessments that are generated automatically throughout design, sourcing and manufacturing processes.

“aPriori is helping us to achieve our strategic product cost reduction goals while keeping projects on schedule. Access to real-time ‘should cost’ assessments reduces the number of supplier quotes and allows our employees to evaluate more cost-saving alternatives for each product concept,” said Rick Goldsmith, Manager of Corporate Manufacturing and Tooling at NMHG. “As a result, our employees have used aPriori to re-quote production parts at lower prices and redesign a number of products for more efficient material utilization and manufacturability.”

“Increasing material and energy prices are forcing manufacturing companies to find new ways to drive costs out of their products to keep prices in line with market expectations,” said Stephanie Feraday, president and CEO at aPriori. “Using aPriori in their product development process on a number of key projects has helped NMHG reach its aggressive cost-reduction goals over the past year.”

The aPriori Product Cost Management Platform is the first software solution to provide discrete manufacturers and product companies with real-time, predictive and precise product cost assessments throughout the development and production process. aPriori's cost management capabilities empower organizations to identify quantifiable savings in material, tooling, labor and overhead when evaluating alternative designs, manufacturing processes and sources.

About NACCO Materials Handling Group

NACCO Materials Handling Group, Inc. ("NMHG") designs, engineers and manufactures materials handling equipment for virtually every market niche, including warehouse trucks, counterbalanced trucks and large capacity cargo and container handling trucks. All lift trucks are marketed under the Hyster®, Yale® or Sumitomo-Yale® brand names. NMHG is one of the world's largest lift truck manufacturers. In addition to a worldwide distribution network of independent Hyster® and Yale® retail dealerships, NMHG operates wholly-owned dealerships in certain markets. Based in Portland, Oregon, NMHG is one of the three core businesses in the diversified holdings of NACCO Industries, Inc., a publicly-held company with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio.

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Sapa Selects Siemens PLM Software's Teamcenter as Its Corporate-Wide PLM Solution

9 March 2009

[Siemens PLM Software](#) announced that [Sapa](#), the world's leading producer of extruded aluminum profiles, selected Teamcenter® software as its corporate-wide PLM solution and will deploy 500 seats globally when fully implemented.

“With Siemens PLM Software we see an opportunity to invest in a new enterprise solution for product

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development that will enhance our competitive edge and continue to help further our growth,” said Jörgen Mähler, PDM Lead, at Sapa.

Teamcenter enables Sapa to effectively collaborate by sharing design and product information at distributed design centers all over the world and to manage that data within a single PLM solution.

“The selection of Teamcenter as the corporate-wide PLM solution by an industry leading company like Sapa is a testament to Siemens PLM Software’s ability to develop best-in-class PLM technology,” said Mats Friberg, vice president and managing director, Nordic Operation, Siemens PLM Software. “We look forward to helping Sapa enhance product development capabilities to meet the challenge of turning more ideas into successful products.”

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TATA Autocomp Systems Ltd. Expands its Deployment of Mentor Graphics Electrical Systems Design Tools

11 March 2009

[Mentor Graphics Corporation](#) announced that TATA Autocomp Systems Ltd (TACO) is expanding its deployment of CHS electrical/wire harness design tools. TACO, part of the India-based TATA Group, provides components and design services to the worldwide automotive industry. With several years experience using Mentor Graphics software already accumulated, TACO uses CHS to offer cost-competitive vehicle systems integration and wire harness design services internationally.

Within the CHS product suite, TACO primarily uses the Capital® Harness™ tool, a computer-aided design, engineering and costing application developed specifically for the wire harness industry. This product provides comprehensive harness design capture capabilities, supplemented by a rich array of functionality for automating engineering tasks by intelligently adding value to raw design data. Like all CHS products, the Capital Harness tool is supported by powerful data management, integration and reporting tools. All data is stored within an electrical database to promote maximum re-use, flexibility and consistency.

“CHS is the most powerful vehicle electrical design platform available,” said Sanjay Srivastava, GM, TATA Autocomp Systems Ltd. “Not only does TACO benefit internally from the comprehensive engineering functions, we also find that many of our customers already use CHS. Native design data compatibility, combined with CHS’s comprehensive data exchange and integrity checking capabilities, ensures a very robust environment for design service businesses such as ours.”

“TACO has developed significant expertise with CHS, not only in wire harness design but also by providing electrical design process advice,” said Nick Smith, Business Development Director of Mentor’s Integrated Electrical Systems Division. “Companies such as TACO enhance the value of the software to our customer base by offering expert, cost-competitive services on the international stage.”

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ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. Adopts Altair's HyperWorks Enterprise Simulation Solution for Automotive Chassis Design

12 March 2009

Altair Engineering, Inc. announced that ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. has adopted the [HyperWorks](#) CAE

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platform as an enterprise simulation solution for design, optimization and virtual manufacturing of their automotive chassis components. The flexibility of HyperWorks has proved instrumental in the design of chassis components, subframes and suspension arms in which optimization has been used throughout to improve component performance while maximizing efficient material utilization. ThyssenKrupp Tallent's HyperWorks decision has also allowed them to take full advantage of Altair's HyperWorks Enabled Partner Program. As a new HyperWorks Enabled Community Member, ThyssenKrupp Tallent has access to participating partner solutions including nCode's DesignLife, their preferred fatigue analysis solution, directly from their existing HyperWorks licence pool at no incremental cost. This not only improves operational efficiency through reduced software licensing cost and administration, but also demonstrates the power of the HyperWorks licensing system in a challenging and highly competitive global market. www.enterprisecae.com.

In addition to adopting HyperWorks, [ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd.](#) works closely with Altair ProductDesign, Altair's product development division, to create process templates to automate the design of optimal structures. The result of this cooperation is ThyssenKrupp's unique eDICT system, which, when combined with HyperWorks, has allowed ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. to increase productivity and deliver lighter products to their clients in much shorter timescales.

"We see an increasing need for optimization tools within the automotive industry," said Adrian Chapple, Analysis Supervisor at ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. "Cars have to become lighter due to new laws concerning CO2 emission and the need to reduce fuel consumption. The use of advanced optimization techniques helps to eliminate parasitic mass -- potentially avoiding considerations of exotic materials or processes which may add cost or risk to the program. In Altair, we see a partner that can help us to meet those requests. By using HyperWorks we are able to define an optimized component before we build the geometry of a model in our CAD system. Using this approach we have reduced the mass of certain components by up to 25% compared to a conventional design. We have also benefited greatly from the HyperWorks Enabled Partner Program because it gives us access to additional products at no additional cost and helps us to reduce development time. These benefits we can pass on to our customers."

"Our analysts find the HyperWorks platform is very easy to use and the HyperMesh interface enables them to build a full geometry model up to an initial design," adds Tom Larsen, Design Manager, ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. "In companies such as ours, the design and analysis functions are linked closely together. Where the market demands a quick response to a study and the product requirement is primarily structural, it is important to have the analysis tools that enable the engineer to present a solution, not just a result. Thanks to the ThyssenKrupp eDICT solution, we can look at the entire design and development process, up to checking the feasibility of a design for production, within one software package. The software built around the HyperWorks suite allows us to bring our products to market faster with a 'right-first-time approach'."

"Weight optimization is key in all industries, but especially in the automotive industry where OEMs are looking to optimize every single component in a vehicle to come to the lightest and best possible result," said Maurice Linscott, Regional Director, [Altair](#) Engineering, UK. "With the open architecture of HyperWorks coupled with our partner products in the HyperWorks Enabled Partner Program and the support of Altair ProductDesign, automotive OEMs and suppliers such as ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd. have a complete solution to handle all relevant simulation tasks for developing their products in a timely and cost effective manner."

For more information about the HyperWorks Enabled Partner Program, visit <http://www.hyperworkscommunity.com>.

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Tundra Semiconductor Selects Synopsys as Its Primary EDA Partner

9 March 2009

[Synopsys, Inc.](#) announced that Tundra Semiconductor Corporation, a leader in System Interconnect, has selected Synopsys as its primary EDA partner. The agreement continues a multi-year collaboration that has resulted in the tapeout of multiple chips for leading communications, computing and storage companies. Synopsys has a strong track record helping Tundra control costs by delivering services, IP and tool integration in a customized flow that maximizes engineering productivity.

"During the past four years we have continued to build a successful relationship with Synopsys by partnering on the tapeout of several advanced process technology products," said Ed Vopni, vice president of Engineering and Operations at Tundra. "We chose Synopsys as our primary EDA partner because they are the best vendor to deliver the services, IP, tools and support we need to bring leading-edge PCIe and RapidIO chips to the market. Synopsys' solutions have allowed us to focus our engineering resources on delivering higher-value, differentiated products that solve our customers design needs."

With this latest agreement, Tundra has now chosen products and services across Synopsys' comprehensive portfolio, including Synopsys DesignWare® cores; Synopsys' Galaxy™ design platform featuring IC Compiler place-and-route technology, Design Compiler® synthesis, Galaxy Custom Designer™ mixed-signal implementation, PrimeTime® timing analysis, Star-RCXT™ parasitic extraction, Hercules™ physical verification, DFT MAX scan compression synthesis, and TetraMAX® automatic test pattern generation; and Synopsys' Discovery™ verification platform featuring the VCS®, HSPICE® and HSPICE® and HSPICE® simulators for analog and digital verification.

"In today's challenging business climate, companies are re-evaluating how chips and systems are developed," said Joachim Kunkel, vice president and general manager for Synopsys' Solutions Group. "As the cost of design rises, companies need to focus on developing core competencies and key partnerships to maximize engineering productivity. Synopsys looks forward to continuing to work closely with Tundra to drive process and cost efficiencies as Tundra introduces new technologies at lower geometries."

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Product News

ACUSIM Software & Intelligent Light Offer Custom OEM Version of FieldView™ CFD Post-Processing within AcuSolve™ Solution Environment

11 March 2009

ACUSIM Software, Inc., provider of the AcuSolve™ family of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) solutions, and [Intelligent Light](#), developer of the FieldView™ CFD post-processing and visualization product line, announced the release of AcuFieldView, bringing a new OEM-bundled version of FieldView to the growing CFD market.

"We are excited to be able to offer industrial-strength post-processing capabilities directly from our software through our partnership with Intelligent Light," says Dr. Farzin Shakib, ACUSIM founder and

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president. "FieldView is one of the most widely used and powerful post-processors in the CFD industry. Our customers can now interrogate and visualize complex flow simulations without leaving the ACUSIM product environment, which further enhances our solution."

The addition of AcuFieldView to ACUSIM's product family brings complete CFD capability to ACUSIM customers from pre-processing, through solver solutions, to post-processing. ACUSIM customers now have the ability to review their results, understand meaningful phenomena, and develop presentations for colleagues, management, and customers. The power and productivity of this integrated environment will enable analysts to perform more simulations in less time and deliver reliable, high quality results that inform and support the decision making process.

"Providing FieldView's post-processing capabilities within the AcuSolve solution environment brings tremendous benefits for AcuSolve users," says Steve Legensky, general manager of Intelligent Light. "FieldView's well known ease of use, powerful interrogation capabilities, and best-in-class presentation and visualization tools will enhance their ability to ask and answer complex simulation questions, and then share those insights clearly and effectively. In addition, the data management and workflow support that FieldView offers will assist in reducing turnaround times and increasing efficiency."

[AcuFieldView](#) provides the extensive post-processing and visualization capabilities of FieldView for use exclusively with AcuSolve solution data and with certain limitations in maximum data size and some advanced features. AcuFieldView is immediately available via AcuConsole™, the GUI environment for AcuSolve, at no additional cost. Customers should contact [ACUSIM](#) Software at info@acusim.com for further information and support. Should customers want to purchase the fully featured commercial version of FieldView, it is available with direct customer support from Intelligent Light and their distributors worldwide.

According to Roger Rintala, Intelligent Light strategic marketing manager, the company is teaming with its CFD partners to provide FieldView based post-processing solutions for their customer bases. "These specialized OEM versions of FieldView are intended to provide the basic visualization and automation tools that CFD practitioners need with no additional cost to the end user," Rintala says. "Even though some functionality has been limited or removed when compared to our commercial FieldView offering, these bundled versions maintain all of the performance, reliability, and ease of use advantages that the CFD world expects from Intelligent Light products. They are completely compatible with our commercial product line, and if and when AcuSolve users need to move to fully featured FieldView, their workflow can continue uninterrupted using their existing datasets, outputs, and restarts."

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Bentley Systems' V8i Now Supports 3Dconnexion 3D Mice

2 March 2009

3Dconnexion, a Logitech company, announced that its 3D mice are now supported by Bentley Systems' V8i software portfolio. The portfolio includes MicroStation V8i, MicroStation PowerDraft V8i, and Bentley View V8i. 3Dconnexion 3D mice integrate into the latest features in V8i, including conceptual design and dynamic views, and bring new capabilities for more intuitive interaction and control.

"Collaborating with Bentley Systems significantly expands 3Dconnexion support for solutions in the AEC community," said Dieter Neujahr, president of 3Dconnexion. "Our 3D mice deliver dramatic productivity gains to V8i users by streamlining workflow and increasing design performance. In long-term infrastructure projects that can take years to complete, our 3D mice can accelerate the design,

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visualization and review process, ultimately decreasing time to market.”

Unlike mice confined to motion on one flat plane, 3Dconnexion’s 3D mice enable design engineers to move in all three dimensions simultaneously, using six degrees of freedom. By gently lifting, pressing and turning the controller, users working in V8i can easily navigate 3D objects without stopping to select commands. In addition, an Auto Level View feature minimizes camera tilt to enable an optimal viewing angle for design visualization, and a customized tool bar allows design engineers to control each navigation mode within the application.

“3Dconnexion 3D mice complement the V8i portfolio, which is aimed to bring significant workflow enhancements for intuitive design modeling, streamlined interaction and project design performance,” said Joe Croser, global marketing director, Bentley Systems, Incorporated. “With a consistent user interface across various applications within V8i, 3D mice provide an easy and natural experience for navigating complex infrastructure projects.”

In the V8i platform’s new conceptual design tool, architects and design engineers can easily use 3Dconnexion 3D mice to pan, zoom and rotate to view complex surfaces and solids throughout the form modeling process. Users can also effortlessly move within a scene in the dynamic views feature to render elements and map textures with live views of the model, creating photo-realistic images without stopping to select keyboard commands.

3Dconnexion provides advanced and affordable 3D mice that are supported by more than 130 of today’s leading and powerful 3D applications, including Adobe® Photoshop® CS3 Extended and Acrobat® 3D, CATIA, Google Earth™ and SketchUp®, Microsoft® Virtual Earth™, NX™, Pro/ENGINEER®, Second Life Grid® Platform, SolidWorks®, and all of the top-tier 3D CAD applications. For a complete list of applications supported by 3Dconnexion, visit:

http://www.3dconnexion.com/solutions/cad/all_sup_app.php.

Pricing and Availability

V8i supports 3Dconnexion’s product line on Windows® XP and Vista®. SpacePilot™ (MSRP \$399), SpaceExplorer™ (MSRP \$299), SpaceNavigator for Notebooks (MSRP \$129), and SpaceNavigator Standard Edition (MSRP \$99) are available from major resellers including Amazon, CDW, Dell, and HP as well as directly at <http://www.3Dconnexion.com>.

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CEI Announces More Powerful Version of EnSight Lite

10 March 2009

CEI announced the latest release of its visualization product, [EnSight Lite](#), version 9.0. EnSight Lite is aimed at small- and medium-sized companies, and large companies looking to maximize their post-processing investment across the enterprise.

New improvements to EnSight Lite include: easier to use interface, cutting user time to reach common features; the use of keyframe animations, a method to control a virtual camera for movie sequences; and the ability to work with both 32-bit and 64-bit systems.

EnSight Lite is now much easier to use for those who are interested in exploring their data interactively. It will have twice as many functions tied to the computer's mouse buttons; part highlighting to show which parts are selected; and right-click menus preloaded with context-sensitive menus allowing users

to post-process and visualize a model using only their mouse.

The addition of keyframe animations in EnSight Lite allow the user access to sophisticated motion control and output options for generating animations for either online presentation or video. All keyframe animation functions are controlled through an easy to use Quick Interaction Area, so users can edit their animations on the fly.

Craig Makens, director of sales and marketing at ThermoAnalytics, had this to say about the latest version of EnSight Lite, “It is a great tool for post-processing RadTherm transient images. The new keyframe animation feature allows engineers to generate complex vehicle fly throughs of virtual climate tunnels or natural environment simulations. It is imperative to my work that both RadTherm v9.2 and EnSight Lite v9.0 are available for 64-bit Windows, in order for me to analyze larger file simulations in less time.”

“We are excited to announce these new price and feature points that customers have been asking for. Now that 64-bit laptops and desktops are common, EnSight Lite makes perfect sense for the mainstream engineer, scientist, and researcher. Adding these new features to EnSight Lite gives our customers much more value for their money,” says Darin McKinnis, vice president of sales and marketing at CEI.

EnSight Lite supports every major CAE solver, with more than 60 interfaces for finite element, CFD, structural, crash, dynamics and hydrocode analysis. It runs on 32-bit and 64-bit platforms allowing users to post-process more data faster and works on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux machines.

EnSight Lite version 9.0 is now available and is priced at \$1,600 for a standalone commercial license and \$400 for approved academic institutions. EnSight users can [download](#) the newest version from the website.

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COADE Announces April Release for New PV Fabricator for Automated Deliverables for Pressure Vessel and Heat Exchanger Design

9 March 2009

COADE announced the April release of COADE PV Fabricator, a new software product for the automated production of design and fabrication deliverables for pressure vessels and heat exchangers. The package leverages the existing bi-directional links between COADE PV Elite, for pressure vessel and heat exchanger design and analysis, and COADE CADWorx Equipment, for parametric equipment modeling.

Deliverables generated by PV Fabricator include 2D layout and detail drawings, bills of material tables, nozzle schedules, weld details, title block, nameplate, notes and any other annotation that may be needed for deliverables. PV Fabricator comes with powerful parametric modeling for fast and accurate development of fully editable 3D models of pressure vessels and heat exchangers. From these models, designers can develop complete fabrication deliverables for their pressure vessels and heat exchangers by using the built-in tools that automate the detail production process. These tools can reduce the time required for fabrication deliverables by 80% or more compared to conventional methods of drawing.

When PV Fabricator is linked to PV Elite, the benefits multiply for engineering and design integration, with the ability to deliver an intelligent 3D model from the PV Elite output. This eliminates redundant work and the resulting mistakes that can occur.

Information on PV Fabricator and other COADE products can be found at <http://www.coade.com>.

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COADE CADWorx Plant Now Localized for Japanese Market

10 March 2009

COADE announced that the COADE CADWorx Plant Design Suite is now localized for the Japanese market, the design and engineering software company's latest step in providing Japanese users with the exacting standards that COADE's users have come to expect globally. The development of the Japanese version was spearheaded by COADE Japan, the company's Japanese subsidiary established in 2008 to expand the company's design and engineering solutions and support the growing base of users in the region.

"We are pleased with the outstanding effort and fast turnaround COADE Japan demonstrated on this localization project, especially given that the subsidiary was established just six months ago," explained Thomas J. Van Laan, PE, COADE president and CEO. "We are confident our growing base of Japanese users will benefit tremendously from the efficiencies this localized solution provides," added Van Laan, "and the timing is excellent, as CADWorx has proven to be the right plant design product for these challenging economic times, when people are looking for powerful cost-effective solutions that are easy to implement and that require minimal overhead or maintenance."

Information on these and other COADE products can be found at <http://www.coade.com>.

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Delcam CRISPIN Extends CAD/CAM Range for Footwear

9 March 2009

Delcam CRISPIN has expanded its range of design and manufacturing software for the footwear industry with the launch of a number of new and enhanced products. The company is already the world's largest supplier of CAD/CAM software to the footwear industry – it is the only supplier able to provide a complete solution for the design and manufacture of both uppers and soles.

The most significant new product is TechPac – a 2D system to generate technical packages for footwear designers to supply to their manufacturing partners. TechPac allows designers to specify the manufacturing processes to be used and the sequences of operations to be followed at all stages of the production of the shoe. It will help ensure that the design is produced exactly as specified and to the required delivery schedule.

The system is supplied with pre-defined templates to specify the path for the flow of manufacturing data during production. These templates can be modified by the user to cover any specific requirements of the design and manufacturing companies, or of the particular project. 2D part geometry, models and images can be imported into the documentation from the range of Delcam CRISPIN design software.

TechPac incorporates basic 2D engineering capabilities, plus comprehensive text functionality, with formatting options including font, colour and scale, so that the manufacturing companies can mark up the documents with any comments or queries on the suggested processes. For example, reference lines can be added onto the parts for operations like stitching, skiving and folding, together with images and text on the type of machine to be used.

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All of the documents can be provided as pdf or HTML reports so making it easy for everyone involved in the project to exchange data electronically.

The most important of the new updates is the latest release of the 3D upper design module, ShoeDesign. ShoeDesign provides a comprehensive range of options to develop new designs, either based on an existing last or when creating a completely novel product. The software comes with a wide range of materials, textures and colours, while features like stitching, padding, eyelets and laces can all be included to complete the design.

The main focus of the new version has been on improving the ease of use, so making the software simpler for new users to learn and faster for experienced operators to use. The interface has been revised, in particular to reduce the number of icons on the screen at any one time. In addition, the cursor action has been improved to speed up the drawing of style lines, and the selection of menus and icons.

Handling of textures has also been improved. It has been made easier to edit existing textures, and to drag and drop textures from a texture library onto the various panels of the upper.

The new version of the LastMaker software for last design has also been made easier to use, both for the creation of standard lasts and for the development of bespoke designs. Improved creation and editing tools for cross-sections have been added to allow more specific adjustment to the overall design. Similarly, profile-line editing has been enhanced to make it easier to modify the outline shape of the last. Templates are available for the toe, back-curve and bottom sections of the last, so that these sections can be incorporated into the design more quickly and easily.

The ability has been added to compare scanned foot data with an existing digital last, to help produce a custom-made pair of lasts. Control planes, based on standard foot measurements, have been included, making it simpler to adjust standard last shapes for a bespoke design.

Developments have also been made to the base 2D Engineer package. The main new functionality allows Edge Templates to be appended to a part boundary, allowing dependent margins, makers, stabs and notches to be added after the boundary has been created. In addition, work has continued on many areas of 2D Engineer to make the software faster and easier to use.

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E³.Panel from Zuken: it's a Whole New World with Integrated 3D

10 March 2009

Breaking new ground, Zuken has introduced the first system of its kind for panel design that has integrated 3D functionality. This forms part of Zuken's strategy to break down the barriers for all designers to have access to easy-to-use tools for 3D design functionality. Zuken understands that in complex panel applications where the application is working with multiple layers and/or non standard enclosures where space is limited, it is becoming more and more of a necessity to work in 3D - as a result has focused development efforts on incorporating these capabilities directly within E³.panel.

Outside of Zuken's E³.panel application designing in 3D would involve working with a specialist 3D design tool, requiring specialist knowledge. Neither a separate piece of software or specialist knowledge is now required with E³.panel. Functionality has been incorporated specifically to be easy to use, and deliver only the level of complexity that the panel engineer requires that is intuitive and easy to pick up and work with.

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For further collision checking it is also possible to output data into more advanced 3D mechanical design environments using the STEP (the Standard for the Exchange of Product data) format.

E³.panel is now available for more information <http://www.zuken.com/E3>.

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Exchange Plug-in Updated for Vectorworks 2009 and CINEMA 4D R11

11 March 2009

Nemetschek North America announced that MAXON Computer has updated their plug-in for [Vectorworks 2009](#) and CINEMA 4D R11. This plug-in supports direct file exchange for high-end visualization and allows Vectorworks users to transfer their models to CINEMA 4D for convincing visualizations and animations. It is even possible to make changes to the model after the visualization process has started, as the auto-update feature in CINEMA 4D keeps track of all changes made.

"CINEMA 4D offers Vectorworks users access to world-class animation and rendering effects by the leader in visualization technology," says Sean Flaherty, chief executive officer at Nemetschek North America. "This plug-in gives Vectorworks users a great option to improve the presentation of their designs, no matter what their industry."

"Architects and designers continually need easy-to-use, cutting-edge technology to deliver outstanding results. We are proud to be able to deliver a solution that lets Vectorworks users' work shine in the brightest possible light—an impressive visualization technology," states Harald Schneider, chief technology officer at MAXON Computer. A leading 3D modeling and rendering software specialist, MAXON Computer is also a part of the Nemetschek Group.

The Vectorworks 2009 exchange plug-in for CINEMA 4D is free and available as a download from MAXON Computer's website at http://www.maxon.net/pages/download/plugins_e.html.

MAXON Computer is a developer of professional 3D modeling, painting, animation, and rendering solutions. Its CINEMA 4D and BodyPaint 3D, have been used extensively in the film, television, science, architecture, engineering, and other industries. MAXON has offices in Friedrichsdorf, Germany; Newbury Park, CA, USA; Bedford, United Kingdom; Tokyo, Japan; and Paris, France.

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Fastrak Building Designer v9 Released in the US

6 March 2009

[CSC](#) announced the US release of Fastrak Building Designer v9.0

FASTRAK is a building focused design solution for structural engineers. FASTRAK performs comprehensive steel and composite design based on the 2005 AISC Steel Specification. Complex buildings can be modeled, analyzed, designed and documented for both gravity and lateral loads. FASTRAK delivers maximum productivity while not compromising on flexibility.

We're pleased to announce the latest major update of FASTRAK for the US market, the second in just 12 months. The Fastrak Development Team continues to implement and deliver valuable functionality at an incredible pace. This release is largely based on the valued input and ideas from our collaborators and customers here in the USA.

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Automatic selection of steel joists has now been included.

The criteria of AISC Design Guide #11 have been implemented to automatically assess floor systems for vibration performance.

Auto stud layout has been significantly enhanced for composite beams to include both uniform and freeform stud layouts.

New automated insertion of repetitive beam and joist patterns. Infill beams and joists can be inserted quickly into single or multiple bays within the model based on regular patterns.

A new load type has been added called a varying patch load. Triangular or quadrilateral shaped loads can be defined graphically by any 3 or 4 points.

Increased flexibility in ASCE 7-05 wind loading wizard.

Enhancements to the DXF output.

FASTRAK now supports CIS\2 export.

Functionality continues to be added to the bi-directional integration with Revit Structure 2009 and 2010.

Calculation reports have been enhanced in several areas.

Enhanced gridline manipulation has been included.

Many other minor enhancements have also been incorporated.

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FlowmasterLink for MATLAB V2.0.1

11 March 2009

Flowmaster Limited announced the launch of FlowmasterLink for MATLAB V2.0.1 enabling co-simulation between Flowmaster® V7.6 and The [Mathworks](#) products MATLAB® and Simulink®.

FlowmasterLink for MATLAB is a graphical user interface (GUI) which allows users to connect to and set Flowmaster database, network, analysis and variables for a combined Simulink and Flowmaster co-simulation.

Simulink and MATLAB are commonly used to model dynamic systems such as virtual vehicle, flight simulator and control systems. Interaction of the mechanical systems modelled in Simulink with the fluid systems modelled in Flowmaster improves the understanding of how these systems behave and interact which ultimately contributes to reduced prototype costs and design time.

By co-simulating Flowmaster and MATLAB, information can be exchanged to simulate complex systems interactions. For example a control engineer may use MATLAB/Simulink in the design of a particular controller, whilst a thermal engineer might use Flowmaster to understand how the valve opening, controlled by the controller, affects the flows and heat transfer around a fluid system to optimise its operation. By co-simulating, the effect of the valve opening can be seen on the thermal system, which, may feed back into the control system or feed on to another system such as the mechanical (drive) system.

“FlowmasterLink for MATLAB enables organisations with large multidisciplinary, multifunctional

teams or projects to use a number of simulation tools to build Virtual Prototype models and to perform simulations for interacting mechanical and fluid systems” explains Dr. David Kelsall, Product Manager for Flowmaster Limited.

FlowmasterLink for MATLAB V2.0.1 builds on the previous version to incorporate the additional functionality required for Flowmaster V7.6. This includes login changes to allow the linked Flowmaster process to login to the appropriate database, project and working directory for the Flowmaster network. Additionally, FlowmasterLink for MATLAB updates its support to MATLAB R2008b and Flowmaster V7.6.

FlowmasterLink for MATLAB is available for customers to download from the customer portal at <http://www.flowmaster.com/customer>.

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Geometric Releases DFMPRO Version 2.0 for SolidWorks®

12 March 2009

Geometric Limited announced the release of DFMPRO Version 2.0 for SolidWorks, with enhancements for sheet metal fabrication including assembly support and pre-programmed rules.

DFMPRO is a design for manufacturability (DFM) analysis tool that facilitates quick and upstream manufacturability validation and identification of design aspects that are difficult, expensive or impossible to manufacture. The tool has advanced in-built design rules for validating manufacturing processes like milling, drilling, turning and sheet metal fabrication, and can also be customized to adhere to specific designing rules.

The highlights of the new version include:

New pre-programmed rules for sheet metal fabrication: Users can now validate designs using rules that cover minimum acceptable bend radius, minimum required distances between cutouts, as well as part boundaries and bends. In addition, users can also validate slots for minimum width requirements.

Generate reports as eDrawings® file: With this option, instances violating manufacturing guidelines and related details can now be dynamically viewed offline in 3D

Support for assemblies: DFMPRO rules can now be executed on assemblies thus providing huge savings on execution time. Multiple parts in an assembly can be validated using a single run of the software.

Support for feature count and parameters calculation: Within the DFMPRO customization framework, a simple macro is provided, which will generate feature count and parameter information along with gross part parameters for models in a tabular format. Using this data, individual users can create their own template to perform simple manufacturing cost calculations using solid models.

DFMPRO helps user with:

- Early prediction and prevention of production problems or manufacturing inefficiencies
- Evolution of optimal design and product quality

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Automation of manufacturability review process

Reduction of lead-time by reducing backtracking and design iterations

A scalable framework for manufacturability knowledge capture and reuse

For further details and a free 15-day trial version, please visit: <http://dfmpro.geometricglobal.com>

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Lectra Offers Innovative Approach to the Development of Upholstered Furniture

9 March 2009

Lectra announced the release of the latest versions of DesignConcept Furniture (V2R2) and Formaris® Furniture (V6R1), specially developed for the furniture and upholstery industries.

The first CAD solution specifically created for the upholstered furniture sector, DesignConcept Furniture (V2R2) enables prototyping and product development specialists to explore a variety of designs and considerably accelerate their time-to-market.

With this advanced solution, the virtual prototyping process becomes completely integrated. The software deals with 3D modeling from sketches—a major breakthrough in CAD—and the preparation of cutfiles, as well as the development of technical briefs for upholstery (stitching, assembly, bill of materials, coding, etc.).

One of this version's most innovative new features is an automated marker-making module that allows material consumption and associated costs to be calculated during the design phase. Depending on the production methods used, this can be very early on in the development process. Through this module, the impact on material consumption and sewing lengths of any modification to a style can be gauged in real time. With Lectra's new DesignConcept Furniture offer, costs are no longer an inevitable and uncontrollable result of decisions made but can be managed and anticipated.

“We have developed these new versions in order to offer an unprecedented approach to product development, one that gives designers more options in their decision-making process by providing them with improved visibility over the financial implications of their choices,” said Daniel Harari, Lectra CEO. “This means they can make a more direct contribution to their company's performance.”

Moreover, DesignConcept Furniture can be used to manage all the information needed to produce industrial briefs required to manufacture new models. It handles everything from the technical and assembly instructions to the digital creation of cutting templates and the overall production plan.

Lectra engineers have responded to recent changes in the furniture market by developing features that accelerate the decision-making process. These functions help users address customer demand for an increased number of models and enable them to stand up to the fierce competition they receive from low-cost countries. With DesignConcept Furniture, designers can propose up to five times more virtual models than was previously possible. Simulation tools enable them to explore more ideas and access information regarding quality and cost control.

DesignConcept Furniture is an invaluable tool for the whole-process management of every component needed to manufacture a new model—from the wooden frame to the mechanical features, wadding, foams, fabrics, and leathers. The solution also reduces development time and costs by enabling users to create new models in virtual 3D, starting with a simple sketch and finishing with the creation of its

physical prototype.

“We recently presented two of our models made using DesignConcept Furniture at a trade show held in Brussels, and we were very satisfied with the end result. The efficiency of DesignConcept Furniture in 3D is really impressive. Our pattern templates made with this solution are 100% accurate, something that is noticeable from the very first physical prototype. We no longer have flaws to correct, and quality has improved. Problems with fabric stress which can occur in a manual development process have been eliminated—all such problems are corrected on-screen when the virtual model is being ‘fine-tuned.’ DesignConcept Furniture gives us greater precision, and the result is an improvement in the quality of our products. We have been working with Lectra since 1990, and we are very satisfied with their solutions and consultancy services. Lectra’s teams know our industry well, and our relationship with them is excellent. We can really trust Lectra,” said Pierre Wegnez, Head of Design, Research, and Development, Mobitec (Belgium)

Formaris® Furniture (V6R1): a major advance in template production

In addition to the launch of DesignConcept Furniture (V2R2), Lectra also presents Formaris® Furniture (V6R1), its pattern-making solution specially developed for the preparation of template cutting and industrialization for fabric and leather upholstered furniture.

Formaris Furniture reduces the pattern development phase while enabling users to produce more variants and ensure perfect product quality.

Using a digitized or 3D prototype (created with DesignConcept Furniture), upholstery specialists can check pattern assembly by simulating stitching operations. They can also quickly adapt the shapes of patterns to the properties of material used (fabrics, leathers) and upholstery constraints, in order to improve the quality of the end product.

Formaris Furniture includes three new breakthrough features. The solution provides pattern-makers with significantly improved ergonomics to facilitate their work. It also reduces the risk of human error, specifically through automated updates of measurement tables which ensure more accurate information for the production of templates. Finally, users benefit from a highly flexible and productive tool for interactive modifications of models through dependency links between patterns. Furniture companies can now offer a complete range of products (armchairs, two- or three-seat sofas, etc.), while considerably reducing their time-to-market.

By combining these two solutions, [Lectra](#) proposes an exceptional and comprehensive offer, which allows upholstered furniture professionals to manage product development with incomparable quality, from the first sketch to final product manufacturing, while shortening lead times.

Like all new Lectra solutions, DesignConcept and Formaris are compatible with the Microsoft’s Windows Vista operating system.

In line with Lectra’s customer support strategy, these solutions are accompanied by a range of high value-added professional services provided by Lectra's business and solutions experts.

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LEDAS Takes 3D History-Free Parametric Design to the Next Level by Releasing Driving Dimensions 1.0 Plugin for Google SketchUp

12 March 2009

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LEDAS Ltd released version 1.0 of its Driving Dimensions plugin for Google SketchUp, a free 3D modeling software application. The plugin offers parameterization tools, which considerably reduces the time required to make parametric changes to the existing 3D models and opens new modeling capabilities for SketchUp users.

Version 1.0 supports all basic types of driving dimensions: edge length, arc/circle radius, distance between vertices/edges/ faces, and angle between edges/faces. Any number of driving dimensions can be resolved simultaneously to define the geometry of a model under design. Driving dimensions can be set manually or automatically with the help of the original inferred dimensions mechanism. The parametric design available for all SketchUp users with Driving Dimensions plugin is history-free: any existing model can be modified independently of its design history. The plugin is available for free downloading at www.DrivingDimensions.com.

Since October 2008 four preliminary versions of this plugin with incrementally extended functionality have been tested by more than 5,000 SketchUp users from 95 countries worldwide. LEDAS has received significant feedback through different user communities; here are just a few responses:

"an interesting concept", "an easy-to-use plugin", "really useful, I sketch models and then I can scale them accurately", "it solves the major reason I didn't use SketchUp ", "I've been waiting for this since the first time I used SketchUp".

"We are completely satisfied with user activity during the test period", said Dmitry Ushakov, Director of Product Management, LEDAS Ltd. "Several important suggestions made by our users have already been implemented in version 1.0 or will be implemented in the forthcoming versions later this year.

Developing a software solution that so many people are looking for is a great responsibility, but also a great pleasure for our team. We hope to continue fruitful collaboration with our users."

One of the key new features of version 1.0 is the Inferred Dimensions functionality. After activation in the Options dialog it will automatically add inferred driving dimensions when using such built-in tools as Rectangle and Push/Pull. These inferred dimensions do not differ from ones created manually and can be easily edited or removed. Users who create parametric models from scratch will save a lot of design time using the inferred dimensions mechanism. A detailed tutorial on using inferred dimensions is available at <http://www.DrivingDimensions.com>.

Driving Dimensions 1.0 features a significant redesign of the GUI elements (icons, cursors, dialogs), which now look similar to the ones built in SketchUp. One of the new buttons added to the Driving Dimensions toolbar allows users to update the values of existing driving dimensions by remeasuring the corresponding geometric entities, while another new button opens the Options dialog, where Driving Dimensions creation and update modes can be switched. Driving Dimensions 1.0 is based on LGS 3D 1.5 geometric solver that runs 30% faster on typical update scenarios than the previous version 1.4.

Driving Dimensions 1.0 for SketchUp is shipped in two versions: free or professional. The free version is not intended for commercial purposes and does not allow users to add more than twenty five driving dimensions to the same model. However, any model created with the Driving Dimensions 1.0 Pro version (\$45 per single user license) can be viewed and edited parametrically with the free version – independently of the number of driving dimensions used. Both versions are fully compatible with SketchUp 6, Pro 6, 7, and Pro 7 running on Windows 2000/XP/Vista.

"Driving Dimensions for SketchUp is only the first step on our way to new markets", said David Levin, CEO and founder of LEDAS Ltd. "We have been in the service-oriented market for CAD/PLM/ERP software development for ten years, offering our LGS (LEDAS Geometric Solver) as well as our

competence in performing unique mathematics-intensive software outsourcing projects.

Recently, we have decided to turn directly to the end users by providing world-class parametric technologies integrated into popular 3D modeling software for a reasonable price.” Some examples of integration of Driving Dimensions into different CAD systems (including AutoCAD and Rhino 3D) can be found in Driving Dimensions Labs at <http://drivingdimensions.com/labs.php>.

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. More information about Driving Dimensions portfolio of applications can be found at <http://www.DrivingDimensions.com>.

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New DFMA® 2009 Software from Boothroyd Dewhurst Targets Environmental Compliance

11 March 2009

Boothroyd Dewhurst, Inc. has added new design-for-environment tools to DFMA® 2009, the latest version of its Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA®) software. Both modules in the integrated DFMA suite—DFA Version 9.4 and DFM Concurrent Costing® Version 2.3—have been updated.

The new release offers engineering teams the ability to assess the environmental impact of their products; a program to estimate the cost of machining a batch of parts when using a devoted machining cell; and the option of running a quick machining estimate as well as the existing full analysis feature.

“We are responding to a number of market trends and user requests with this new release of our DFMA software,” said Dr. Winston Knight, senior vice president at Boothroyd Dewhurst, Inc. “Manufacturers are increasingly aware that addressing the environmental impact of their products will soon be a requirement for entry into major markets.

Designers can now select the best materials for greener products, even as they innovate with DFMA to build more performance into efficient, leaner designs.”

Identifying Cost Drivers in Manufacturing

DFMA 2009 software guides engineers through simplification of a product design, then estimates assembly labor and part manufacturing costs. The software identifies the major cost drivers associated with a wide range of choices for part manufacture and finishing.

This quantitative, multidisciplinary approach to cost assessment helps companies create innovative, high-quality products that are more economical to manufacture. “Downstream” cost reduction for the extended organization is a considerable side benefit: When products have fewer parts, companies can streamline suppliers, inventory, shipping and digital archives. When products are easier to manufacture,

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companies can improve factory output and overall resource use.

To register for a March 18 Webinar about DFMA 2009, [click here](#).

Design for Environment

Meeting the needs of an increasingly eco-conscious marketplace, DFMA 2009 allows product designers to conduct an environmental assessment: During the concept stage, they can evaluate the impact of material selection as well as account for the end-of-life status of their product.

The analysis prompts designers to select from the DFMA database the materials they prefer to use or avoid, then reveals the proportions (by weight) of those materials in the product. It also estimates and designates the proportions of product that go to different end-of-life destinations, including reuse, recycling, landfill and incineration. These measures help manufacturers meet such requirements as the European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) regulations.

For more information on DFE, [click here](#).

Cell Machining Process

With DFMA 2009, designers now can estimate the cost of machining a batch of parts in a dedicated machining cell. They also can choose and calculate various cell arrangement scenarios for maximum efficiency.

The software uncovers hidden costs of labor and machine idleness and can assess the time needed to complete entire manufacturing runs at different production volumes.

For more information on machining cell capabilities, [click here](#).

Quick estimate

The DFM Concurrent Costing Version 2.3 software in DFMA 2009 now offers two types of machined/cut-from-stock analyses: a traditional full analysis and a quick estimate.

The quick estimate can approximate part cost with little effort. By automatically selecting suitable machine tools, this analysis saves time, especially for a designer with limited knowledge of certain machining processes.

For more information on quick estimates, [click here](#).

Using DFMA 2009

The new release is easy to customize: Engineers may install their own cost model for a manufacturing process into the DFM Concurrent Costing software.

DFMA 2009 can now read SolidWorks geometry information directly; third-party software is no longer necessary.

DFMA software operates in Microsoft® Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows XP and VISTA.

About Boothroyd Dewhurst, Inc.

Boothroyd Dewhurst, Inc. was the first company to commercialize Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA) methodologies and software tools, which make it possible to evaluate, estimate, and reduce the manufacturing cost of a product in the design phase through product simplification and cost estimation. Hundreds of Fortune 1000 companies, including Dell, John Deere, Harley-Davidson, and Whirlpool, use DFMA to cut the costs of their manufactured products and achieve design innovation in their markets. The company was founded in 1983. For more information about DFMA software,

workshops, consulting services, and international conferences, contact Boothroyd Dewhurst, Inc., 138 Main Street, Wakefield, RI 02879, USA. Tel. (401) 783-5840. Fax (401) 783-6872. Web site: <http://www.dfma.com> E-mail: info@dfma.com.

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NX and Pro/E Data Can Now be Used Seamlessly Within CATIA V5

6 March 2009

Theorem's Multi-CAD V5 product removes both the cost and the complexity of working with both CATIA V5 data and non CATIA data on a single project. Allowing the operator to access the data from within CATIA, it removes the headache of importing data from UGNX and/or Pro/E into CATIA by eliminating the translation bottlenecks that add costs to both new and evolving product designs.

Multi-CAD reduces design costs by enabling the CATIA V5 user to incorporate non-CATIA V5 parts and assemblies, simply, within the CATIA V5 environment. This approach contrasts favourably with the traditional, time- intensive and costly process of translating non- CATIA V5 data to CATIA V5 using a standard such as STEP AP203, or a direct database translator.

A major drawback with the above processes is recognising when a design change takes place in non-CATIA V5 data, and managing the process of updating the CATIA V5 representation to take into account the changes once the initial translation process is completed. A further issue is that the designer has no control over when the data is translated, if it is carried out as a separate process.

Theorem's Multi-CAD V5 solution overcomes these problems, enabling CATIA V5 users to incorporate non-CATIA V5 parts and assemblies within the CATIA V5 environment - without external translators. Working within CATIA V5, the user simply selects the "Insert" tab at the top of the CATIA screen and moves to the "Existing component" selector on the ensuing drop down menu.

This is pure CATIA V5; no new interface, and nothing new to learn. However rather than selecting an existing CATIA design, the user selects a non CATIA V5 part or assembly; this then appears on the CATIA V5 design tree.

What has actually happened is that the "Insert existing component" command has not only selected the non-CATIA V5 part/assembly, but it has also run the Theorem Multi-CAD V5 application, which has drawn the data into the CATIA design tree. The speed of modern hardware and the reliability of the Theorem software mean that the user doesn't even know that a translation has taken place. This is true interoperability in action.

Multi-CAD V5 is not only easier to use and more cost effective, it is also much more secure than a traditional 'translate and import' process, in which there is never a link between source and translated files.

This separation between CATIA V5 and imported, non- CATIA V5 data, when employing external translators, has always been a major problem for users, in that any changes to the non-CATIA V5 data would not be updated in the CATIA V5 design. However, with Theorem's Multi-CAD product, CATIA V5 maintains and manages the links with the original files. Consequently, if there are changes within the non-CATIA V5 components or assemblies, these will be automatically reflected in CATIA V5 itself.

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Remcom Licenses Siemens PLM Software's D-Cubed 2D DCM

10 March 2009

[Siemens PLM Software](#) and Remcom, Inc. of State College, Pennsylvania, a market leader in the field of electromagnetic simulation software, announced that Remcom has licensed the [D-Cubed](#)TM software component product 2D Dimensional Constraint Manager ([2D DCM](#)) and incorporated it into the latest release of its flagship product, XFtdt[®] Release 7.0 (XF7).

XFtdt provides engineers with design, simulation and analysis tools for modeling the electromagnetic characteristics and effects of a variety of devices including antennae, microwave circuits and wireless communication devices. Among a wide range of enhancements, XF7 has introduced significant improvements in its CAD modeling capabilities, including a new parametric sketcher that is based on the D-Cubed 2D DCM.

“The D-Cubed 2D DCM was integrated with XF7 to enable our customers to more productively create solid models, whether building new parts, or editing features in imported parts,” said Bradley Flubacher, Senior Software Engineer at Remcom. “We selected the D-Cubed 2D DCM because it was clearly the most credible option in the market. The D-Cubed 2D DCM’s status as the industry-standard sketching engine, coupled with an excellent support service and the stability of Siemens PLM Software as a component supplier, ensure market-leading value for Remcom and our customers.”

“As the world’s leading supplier of geometric constraint management technology and components, our software solutions – such as the D-Cubed 2D DCM product – are used in most of the leading mechanical CAD, CAM and CAE software applications available today,” said Joan Hirsch, vice president of Product Design Solutions, Siemens PLM Software. “Remcom is now among the first electromagnetic simulation software suppliers to license the D-Cubed 2D DCM product, and the latest example of the ever broadening appeal of our [PLM Components](#) family of solutions.”

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Synopsys DesignWare USB 2.0 nanoPHY and PCI Express 1.1 PHY IP First to Achieve Compliance in UMC's 65-Nanometer Process Technologies

10 March 2009

Synopsys, Inc. announced that the DesignWare[®] USB 2.0 nanoPHY IP and PCI Express[®] 1.1 PHY are the first IP cores to achieve compliance in UMC's 65-nanometer (nm) SP and LL process technologies. Passing compliance testing helps ensure interoperability and reduces risk for designers incorporating complex, high-performance interfaces into their system-on-chips (SoCs). As the only IP vendor to provide complete IP solutions for USB 2.0 and PCI Express - consisting of digital controllers, PHY and verification IP - Synopsys continues to demonstrate technology leadership by delivering high-quality, silicon-proven IP solutions that are proven to be compliant with the standard specifications.

The DesignWare USB 2.0 nanoPHY IP is designed for a broad range of high-volume mobile and consumer applications where the key requirements include minimal area and low dynamic and leakage power consumption. In addition, the DesignWare USB 2.0 nanoPHY IP has built-in tuning circuits designed to enable quick, post-silicon adjustments to account for unexpected chip/board parasitics or process variations, without having to modify the existing design. This allows designers to increase yield and minimize the cost of expensive silicon re-spins.

The DesignWare PHY IP for PCI Express substantially exceeds key PCI Express 1.1 specifications in

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jitter, margin and receive sensitivity, thus delivering a design that tolerates process, voltage and temperature variations. Embedded high-speed mixed signal IP, such as a PCI Express PHY, can pose significant testing challenges in terms of development time, coverage, and equipment cost. With the DesignWare PHY IP for PCI Express, at-speed production testing can be conducted on a pure-digital tester by using the supplied ATE test vectors for full compliance eye-mask testing. This eliminates the need for expensive test equipment, enabling designers to speed development time and lower costs. Furthermore, the advanced built-in diagnostics capabilities provide customers with an on-chip sampling scope for quick debug of the SoC.

"As a leading provider of connectivity IP, we remain steadfast on delivering IP that helps designers implement the latest technologies while minimizing risk," said John Koeter, vice president of marketing for the Solutions Group at Synopsys. "Achieving compliance for the DesignWare PHY IP in popular process technologies such as UMC 65-nanometer gives designers confidence that the IP being integrated will function precisely to the standard and is proven interoperable with other devices."

Availability

The DesignWare USB 2.0 nanoPHY and PCI Express 1.1 PHY for the UMC 65-nm SP and LL process technologies are available now. In addition the DesignWare SATA PHY, DDR2/DDR PHY, and DDR 2/3 Lite PHY are also available in the UMC 65-nm process technologies today. For more information on the DesignWare Mixed-Signal IP solutions, please visit <http://www.synopsys.com/designware>.

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VX Evolution; Slash Manufacturing Costs and Design Time

11 March 2009

VX Corporation announced VX Evolution, a new way to see CAD/CAM.

In these lean economic times, it is vital to stay competitive and put into action time-saving technology that doesn't cost a lot and is quick to implement.

VX has done this with the creation of VX Evolution. First, users can anonymously download the foundation product, VX Innovator with a free automatic 30-day license. Second, using the VX learning system, Show-n-Tell, users can learn and experiment on their schedule and at their own pace. VX Innovator comes pre-loaded with beginner tutorials, plus users can access the free on-line learning center. Finally, VX Innovator is a fully-expandable product that can grow to meet user needs.

This new process eliminates the barriers to learning and reinforces best design and manufacturing practices. Essentially, VX has made engineering solutions more accessible, so that designers and machinists can enjoy designing better products, working effortlessly with imported files and machining with optimal efficiency. VX Evolution places the control in the user's hands allowing anyone to learn new concepts at their own pace. If they need it, users can get the full backing of incredible support through anonymous live-chat or web meetings.

Users will find that VX Innovator is a feature-rich product that can be expanded as needs change and grow. VX is a single-solution provider with the capability for hybrid modeling, reverse engineering, class-A surfacing, mold & die and manufacturing in an accessible, learnable and reliable package. This is truly, high-end CAD/CAM within reach. Users can get their free download at <http://www.vx.com>.

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