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Acquisitions

Rand A Technology Corporation to be Acquired by Ampersand Ventures

14 August 2007

Rand A Technology Corporation operating as RAND Worldwide™ ("Rand" or the "Company") and funds managed by Ampersand Ventures ("Ampersand"), a leading private equity firm, announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement ("Agreement") for Ampersand's funds to acquire Rand. All dollar amounts are in Canadian dollars.

Under the terms of the Agreement, a new acquisition company controlled by Ampersand's funds will acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Rand for a cash purchase price of \$2.10 per common share, amounting to total consideration of approximately \$43 million. The \$2.10 per common share consideration represents more than a 50% premium over the \$1.39 closing price for Rand common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Monday, August 13, 2007.

The acquisition of Rand is to be carried out by way of a statutory plan of arrangement under the Business Corporations Act (Ontario) (the "Arrangement") and will require the approval of Rand shareholders at a special meeting expected to be held in October 2007. The Arrangement will be subject to the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by holders of Rand common shares represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting, as well as by a majority of the votes cast by such shareholders, excluding certain interested management shareholders. A management information circular setting out the details of the Arrangement is expected to be mailed to Rand shareholders in September 2007. The Arrangement will also be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, as well as certain other customary conditions described in the Agreement.

A Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Rand, comprised of independent directors, reviewed

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the Arrangement in consultation with its legal and financial advisors. CIBC World Markets Inc. acted as financial advisor to Rand and has provided an opinion to the Special Committee and the Board of Directors advising that the consideration to be offered under the Arrangement is fair, from a financial point of view, to Rand shareholders. The Special Committee unanimously recommended the approval of the Arrangement to the Company's Board of Directors. The Rand Board of Directors determined that the Arrangement was in the best interests of Rand and its shareholders and the Board unanimously recommends that Rand shareholders vote in favour of the Arrangement.

"After careful consideration, the Rand Board of Directors concluded that this is the right transaction for Rand and our shareholders," said Brian Semkiw, Rand's Chairman of the Board of Directors. "We believe this transaction represents good value to our shareholders, who are getting an attractive premium for their shares." Shareholders may obtain a copy of the Agreement, management information circular and other meeting materials when they become available at www.sedar.com.

Second Quarter Results

Rand also announced its financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2007. Revenue for the three months ended June 30, 2007 was \$26.0 million, up 7.4% from the second quarter of 2006, with revenue from the IMAGINiT business at \$20.9 million, an increase of 11.5% from the second quarter of the prior year. Negative EBITDA for the quarter was \$2.1 million, compared to positive EBITDA of \$0.6 million in the second quarter of 2006. The Company incurred a net loss from continuing operations of \$2.3 million or a net loss per share of \$0.11 for the quarter, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$0.5 million or net earnings per share of \$0.02 in the second quarter of the previous year. Net loss for the quarter was \$2.6 million resulting in a net (basic) loss per common share of \$0.13, compared to net income of \$0.06 million or net earnings per share of \$0.00 in the second quarter of the previous year.

The Company will release its full financial results for the second quarter in a press release later today. The Company's unaudited consolidated financial statements as at and for the three month period ended June 30, 2007, together with the accompanying Management's Discussion and Analysis of such financial results, will be available at the Company's website <http://www.rand.com/> and at <http://www.sedar.com/> today.

About Ampersand Ventures

Ampersand, founded in 1988 as a spin-off of PaineWebber, is a leading private equity firm dedicated to building equity value through active collaboration. Ampersand has raised limited partnerships with a cumulative capitalization exceeding \$800 million to pursue a stage-independent investment strategy across a broad range of industry sectors, including manufacturing software, health care technology, and industrial products. Ampersand has been an active investor in companies in the CAD/CAM/CAE/PLM community, including Moldflow.

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CIMdata in the News

Ask the Expert: Make-to-Order Integration

9 July 2007

CIMdata Director of Research, Ken Amann, in *Managing Automation's* [Ask the Expert](#) column

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addresses the question: What is your opinion on SAP's MTO/MTS concept? If it is necessary to create integration between an ERP and a PLM system, shall the MTO/MTS concept be reflected on PLM?

Ken's answer:

SAP's MTO (Make to Order) and MTS (Make to Stock) concepts fit within their overall approach to ERP and manufacturing, in which they provide different approaches for different industries and business models. MTO and MTS are two approaches that address different types of models. SAP is integrating MTO and MTS within the overall planning, execution, forecast, and logistics processes as well as providing linkage to the engineering and design functions. This enables companies to be more flexible and adaptable in their overall business. MTO and MTS are primarily ERP functions. While they can be performed within that domain, they are impacted by engineering changes to the products to be made to order and made to stock. The normal integration of PLM with ERP that includes change management should support the MTO/MTS requirements.

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CIMdata in the News “Digital Mock-Up Grows Up”

June 2007

“Digital Mock-Up Grows Up” in *Automotive Design and Production* focuses on the relevance of digital mock-up (DMU), the computerized version, the 3D visualization, of parts and assemblies. DMU tools let users visualize, animate, dimension, manipulate, explode, fly through, cut away, and check the clearance and interference of part and assembly designs and much more.

In this article John MacKrell, senior consultant at CIMdata offers this insight on DMU:

One of the more important changes, says John MacKrell, senior consultant at the Ann Arbor-based research firm CIMdata (<http://www.cimdata.com/>), has been in moving “DMU out of the CAD environment, making it available to users who do not have a CAD system. This decoupling allows us to do a couple of really neat things.” First, whole new classes of users—non-CAD users—now have access to DMU capabilities. Second, it speeds design analysis. “Sometimes it’s good enough just to assign constraints and play with the model completely CAD-neutral environment without having real, honest-to-God analysis going on in the background.” Third, decoupling lets users apply DMU capabilities to part and assembly files created by different people on different systems—in a single environment, namely DMU. It also opens DMU to a wide variety of enterprise systems.

For further information, please read:

[Digital Mock-Up Grows Up](#)

(Automotive Design and Production, June 2007)

By Lawrence W Gould, Contributing Editor

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CIMdata in the News “Suggested Reading”

16 August 2007

CIMdata Director of Research, Ken Amann in *Managing Automation's Ask the Expert* column, answers

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the question of “I work for a PLM VAR but do not have much direct industry experience of design and manufacturing. Are there any books or articles you can direct me to to learn about basic best practices, e.g. in some of your answers you refer to where and in what phases of design to get part numbers or things like releasing and revising designs and assemblies, master BOM's etc?”

Ken's answer:

Here is a good book to start with: *CMII for Business Process Infrastructure*, by Vincent Guess. (Find it [here on Amazon.](#))

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Reminder to Vote on the CIMdata Opinion Poll about the Current State of PLM Education

August 2007

To vote, please visit <http://www.cimdata.com/research/polls/polls.php>

The results of these polls are tabulated as you vote. The results are completely anonymous. If you are currently logged in your vote will not be connected to your personal information in any way. CIMdata respects your privacy and no personal data will be transferred as a result of voting in these polls.

If you have a suggestion for a poll you'd like to see contact us at info@cimdata.com.

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Company News

ALGOR, Inc. Opens New Office in North Carolina

14 August 2007

ALGOR, Inc. announced the opening of a new office in Stanley, North Carolina, located approximately 17 miles northwest of Charlotte.

"We are excited to open our new North Carolina office," said ALGOR Vice President of Operations Teresa Anania. "Establishing this base of operations will allow us to expand and enhance our sales and support services to customers in the mid-Atlantic region."

ALGOR's finite element analysis (FEA) software features an easy-to-use single user interface, [FEMPRO](#)[®], which provides direct CAD/CAE data exchange and full associativity with most CAD solid modelers. This allows engineers to choose the analysis tools they need, giving them access to ALGOR's wide range of [simulation capabilities](#) including linear and nonlinear static stress, Mechanical Event Simulation (MES) with linear and nonlinear material models, linear dynamics, steady-state and transient heat transfer, steady and unsteady fluid flow, electrostatics, fatigue, piping and full multiphysics.

To contact the ALGOR North Carolina office, call 1.704.822.1898. For more information about ALGOR software, contact an ALGOR account manager or visit our web site – <http://www.algor.com/>.

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Bentley Publishes 'Best Practices for Using Software in Structural Engineering'

16 August 2007

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Bentley Systems, Incorporated announced the publication of “Best Practices for Using Software in Structural Engineering,” a 61-page collection of articles and case studies on topics ranging from implementation strategies to analysis approaches and integration with Building Information Modeling (BIM).

Commenting on the new collection, Santanu Das, vice president, Bentley Structural Engineering Group, said, “The past 20 years have seen major advances in structural engineering and design. But the door is just opening to integrated engineering analysis and design with CAD- or BIM-based modeling, layout, and documentation systems. These remarkable innovations will take the structural engineering and design professions to an entirely new level of capability. Our best practices collection provides valuable insight into these exciting developments.”

The best practices collection includes how-to and in-depth technical articles that will help structural engineers and designers improve the quality of project deliverables and streamline workflows. Among these are:

“Integrated Engineering” – A look at how completely integrated solutions, including structural analysis and design, deliver dramatic productivity increases.

“Your Command: Open Architecture Allows for Software Customization” – A discussion of new technology that provides an open architecture environment, allowing structural engineers to customize their graphical environments as well as their analysis and design workflows.

“A Three-Dimensional Displacement-Based Co-Rotational Beam-Column Finite Element for Distributed Plasticity Analysis of Frame Structures” – The approach proposed focuses on beam columns with open-walled doubly-symmetric I-shaped cross sections.

“Simple-Made-Continuous Bridge Cuts Costs” – Cost-effective detailing was only one of the advantages of a simple-made-continuous weathering steel girder bridge in New Mexico.

“Educating Tomorrow’s Structural Engineers” – The author contends that in today’s technology-dependent world, the body of knowledge needed by American engineers extends well beyond what a bare-bones four-year degree program can provide.

The collection also includes a variety of case studies. Each illustrates the use of, and benefits gained from, best practices and advanced software technologies in real-world structural engineering projects. Examples include:

“Where Music and Math Meet” – In this study, BIM helps an innovative school breathe new life into learning and the community.

“Structural Surgery” – Maintaining a functional facility during this challenging construction project at the oldest hospital in the United States was a top priority.

“BIM With a View” – Marriott International turned to 3D BIM for the design of a waterfront hotel in order to eliminate interference issues during construction.

“Courting Public Sentiment” – This U.S. courthouse visually marries design and respect for the justice system.

“Weald and Downland Open-Air Museum” –The Open Access Building Conservation Workshop, Demonstration Area, and Museum Store that make up the national center for the conservation and study of traditional timber-frame buildings in England are housed in an innovative greenwood structure.

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“Pall Mall Residential Development” – Constructed in a U shape around a central courtyard, the Pall Mall residential building is one of the tallest in Liverpool, England.

To access “Best Practices for Using Software in Structural Engineering,” go to http://www.bentley.com/bp_voli. To learn more about Bentley’s comprehensive structural solutions, visit <http://www.bentleyswinningteam.com/>.

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INCAT® Autodesk® Instructor Led Distance Learning: Personalized Technical Training Via the Internet Enhances Expertise, Maintains Productivity

15 August 2007

Studies show that manufacturing organizations struggle with the issue of keeping technical employees current in their training and the lost productivity related to that employee training. The Internet-based INCAT Autodesk Instructor Led Distance Learning (ILDL) program is designed to address this issue - enhancing the skills of technical employees without removing them from critical project work for up to three or four days at a time by offering training in half-day sessions held at their own workstation.

"INCAT leverages the latest technology to bring the most effective training programs to the mechanical engineering and design industry through ILDL," said Daniel Miles, Technical Director - INCAT General Manufacturing Solutions Group. "ILDL simulates a traditional classroom environment but, because it is Internet based, the training eliminates employee travel time and expense and provides more flexibility in scheduling."

An added benefit of training via ILDL is that detailers, designers and engineers may train part-time, keeping their skills current while still generating revenue for the company, Miles added.

"ILDL is more cost-effective for the client because it keeps employees in the office and working at least half the day," noted John Haupt, INCAT Director - Education Services. "We've responded to the market and moved classes to the Internet to accommodate our customers' business needs."

INCAT delivers ILDL through collaboration solution software from Elluminate™, a leading provider of distance learning solutions for real-time organizations. This Internet-based learning mimics the experience trainees receive in a traditional classroom setting with one exception -ILDL provides a true one-on-one training experience. The instructor can monitor each trainee individually or simultaneously with others training at other sites. The ability to of the instructor to monitor each student's screen keeps trainees on track and avoids mis-steps.

When students need additional attention, they can enter a "break-out" room and work individually with an instructor in private, in a session that does not interrupt or delay the class in progress. Additionally, students may choose to share their work and engage in discussions with fellow trainees - just as they would in a live classroom.

The success of ILDL from INCAT is proven in companies from a wide variety of industries. "I like the fact we can have people from all over the country in the same class," said Mike Cole, of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Chris Prince, of MAHLE Engine Components in Muskegon, Mich., said, "I liked the fact no travel and I could check my e-mail and not miss anything."

"Productivity is the key to competitiveness," noted Miles. "Our ILDL clients find that leveraging this

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method of training keeps their employees ahead of the technology curve and gives their company an edge over its competitors."

For more information about the INCAT ILDL program for Autodesk, including downloads, a list of available classes, fee structure and registration information, go to <http://www.incat.com/ILD.L>.

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Intergraph Consulting Celebrates 20 Years of Innovation and Growth in Hyderabad, India

17 August 2007

Intergraph Consulting Private Ltd., based in Hyderabad, India, is celebrating 20 years of innovation and growth.

A pioneer among software development firms within India, the facility has experienced exceptional growth throughout its history. In just the last three years, the company has expanded its staff of software developers, certification teams, and product support personnel, which include M Techs and Ph.D.s from the country's leading engineering colleges, at an annual growth rate of more than 30 percent.

From developing geospatial software used by India's Ministry of Defence to protect the nation, to next generation 3D plant and marine design software used by process, power, ship and offshore companies globally, Intergraph Consulting plays a key role in developing Intergraph's software applications.

"We are deeply proud of the contributions Intergraph Consulting has made to our organization and Intergraph's customers over the past 20 years," said Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President Reid French. "We look forward to further expanding our software development capacity within India to support Intergraph's continued growth and to providing our employees here with the exciting new career opportunities that this growth affords."

Intergraph Consulting Private Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Intergraph Corp.

For more information about Intergraph Consulting and employment, please contact Cheryl Gabell by e-mail at cheryl.gabell@intergraph.com or by telephone at +91 040.27905378.

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Microsoft Joins Velocity Series Consortium

15 August 2007

[UGS PLM Software](#), a division of Siemens Automation and Drives ([A&D](#)), announced Microsoft as the newest partner in the UGS Velocity Series™ Consortium, an Asia Pacific initiative aimed at stimulating the use of PLM technology among small- to mid-size manufacturing companies.

The Velocity Series Consortium helps mid-market manufacturers drive innovation using PLM software running on efficient, optimized hardware and networking platforms. Microsoft joins existing consortium partners – UGS PLM Software, HP and Intel – to make PLM technology easier for mid-market companies to acquire, deploy and maintain.

UGS Velocity Series is a comprehensive, preconfigured portfolio of digital product design, analysis, manufacturing process and data management software for the PLM mid-market. All applications are built on the Microsoft Windows® platform, allowing easy integration into customers' existing IT architecture, minimizing overhead support costs and maximizing ease of use. For example, UGS

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Teamcenter™ Express is built on Microsoft standards such as Windows Server® 2003 operating system and SQL Server™ 2005 database software.

“UGS PLM Software and Microsoft have a long-standing commitment to deliver innovative PLM solutions that meet the demands of our joint customers,” said Benoit van Thienen, general manager, Small and Mid-Market Solutions and Partners Group, Microsoft Asia Pacific. “Microsoft is pleased to join the other Consortium partners in a collective effort to reduce the cost of entry for new PLM customers. Mid-market manufacturers can leverage the power of the UGS Velocity Series and support from Consortium partners to transform their process of innovation.”

Microsoft’s addition to the UGS Velocity Series Consortium strengthens its existing partnership with UGS PLM Software, which entails the integration of its solutions onto Microsoft’s business application management platform.

“In order for mid-size manufacturers to innovate, the development of a PLM strategy focused on speed to market is essential,” said Hans-Kurt Lübberstedt, senior vice president, Asia Pacific, UGS PLM Software. “The Consortium is dedicated to providing PLM to mid-size companies with a lower cost of entry and ownership as well as a strong return on investment. Microsoft understands the needs to lower costs while delivering top line revenue growth. Both UGS PLM Software and Microsoft will collaborate on sales and marketing activities. The acquisition costs for PLM solutions are expected to be lowered by the Consortium through software and hardware pricing offers targeted at mid-market manufacturers.”

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New Large-Scale Grant Project Planned: The ProSTEP iViP Association Focuses on Integration

16 August 2007

"There are any number of good ideas, concepts and solutions relating to every aspect of virtual product development out there – what now has to be done is to bring all these together to create a whole", says Professor Martin Eigner, chairman of the ProSTEP iViP Association and chair of Virtual Product Development (VPE) at the University of Kaiserslautern. The ProSTEP iViP Association is focusing on integration rather than joining the trend toward verticalization, i.e. the solution of individual problems, being followed by a number of grant projects.

The research institutes organized under the roof of the ProSTEP iViP Association want to create a new large-scale grant project. The aim of this project is the integration and availability of methods and IT solutions for the efficient realization of high-quality, innovative products in global product development processes. It is important that companies are prepared for rapidly changing market requirements, more complex products as a result of increasing variance and multi-disciplinarity, and more complex processes due to closer integration within the supplier chain.

The feedback of information from the entire lifecycle of a product into the early phase of the product development process plays a pivotal role, especial with regard to quality. What is at stake is not only safeguarding the future and the sustainability of product development but also the protection of investments.

"The fact that users, IT vendors and research institutes are working together within the ProSTEP iViP Association makes us unique. We must exploit the synergies that result from this collaboration to initiate new developments that are relevant to industrial practice", stated Eigner. "And the time is ripe for a big step forward. We must set out on new paths. And not only in the direction of standardization and more

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efficient utilization of IT. We ourselves must also provide impetus for IT innovation. This type of grant project provides an opportunity to all those involved.”

The planning for this project was launched several months ago. Initial talks with representatives from the Project Management Agency for Production and Manufacturing Technologies (PFT) at the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and representatives from industry have already been held.

The vision and objectives of this new research project will be presented to a wide audience for the first time at [ProSTEP iViP Science Days](#), which is being held 25 and 26 September in Bremen. Under the ProSTEP iViP Science Days motto "Integrated Engineering - From Patchwork to Network", 150 representatives from science and industry will discuss the latest developments regarding product data management, process management and project management. The software company SAP is the sponsor of this year's event. ProSTEP iViP Science Days is held every two years. You will find details of the program of presentations and workshops in the Internet at <http://www.prostep.org/en/events/sdays2007/program/070925.htm>.

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Sescoi Appoints New Indian Distributor for WorkNC

10 August 2007

Sescoi has expanded its coverage in India by establishing a distribution agreement with Pune based CAD-CENTRIC for WorkNC.

CAD-CENTRIC is part of the Electronica Group which has 9 manufacturing plants, in India and China, as well as 36 sales offices which distribute its products in 45 countries worldwide. Group products include cutting tools, EDM and ECM technology, and plastic molding machinery, netting it an annual turnover in excess of \$86 million. CAD-CENTRIC itself has a team of 27 engineers, an ultra-modern machine shop, and offers design services for jigs and fixtures, plastic injection molds, and press tools as well as 3D model digitizing, reverse engineering, product styling and rapid prototyping. The company's experience and important presence in the Indian market make it an ideal distribution partner for Sescoi's WorkNC CAM/CAD system.

Also based in Pune, Sescoi India Pvt Ltd is well placed to provide technical support to CAD-CENTRIC, enabling it to offer service to customers. This will enable customers to achieve maximum productivity and efficiency from WorkNC. Sescoi already has high profile customers in India, including Bharat Forge, the flagship company in the \$1.25 billion Kalyani Group and Sermo PM India. Sermo is a key part of the ARRK Corporation, and has grown into one of the world's largest toolmakers with an annual turnover of 50 million euros and a workforce of 600, at eight sites across Europe and Asia.

Sescoi has achieved its success through 20 years of developing and supplying software products for engineering companies around the globe. WorkNC G3, the new generation of its CAM/CAD system, will bring the advantages of a new integrated and ergonomic interface, and advances in 3-axis and 5-axis machining technology to companies in the subcontinent.

Bruno Marko, chairman and founder of Sescoi said, “Working in partnership with CAD-CENTRIC will be beneficial to both of our companies as well as to end users in India. Combining our powerful WorkNC CAM/CAD system with the skills and experience of CAD-CENTRIC's engineers will ensure that customers see some real productivity improvements and achieve maximum return from their machining investments.”

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SigmaQuest Names Mark Anapolsky Head of North America Sales

15 August 2007

SigmaQuest™ Inc. announced the appointment of Mark Anapolsky to Head of North America Sales. Reporting to CEO, Nader Fathi, Mark brings more than twenty years of sales management, sales and marketing experience in the software industry to SigmaQuest.

Prior to SigmaQuest, Mark held senior management positions with several leading software companies including Infor (Enterprise Application Company), RightNow Technologies (Software as a Service CRM), Systems Software Associates (SSA) and Clear Cross, Inc. At SSA, Mark was instrumental in securing several multi-million dollar contracts with global accounts. Before SSA, Mark was the Western Region Sales Director at Synon where he successfully launched the Applications Division. Mark attended California State University, Sacramento with a concentration in accounting and management information sciences.

SigmaQuest Inc. is an on-demand software company whose solutions provide insight and actionable information to ensure product and process integrity, by collecting, controlling and analyzing quality data throughout the product lifecycle. Its solutions enable global enterprises, such as OEMs that design, manufacture and service a broad array of products containing electronic components, to help deliver lower warranty costs, improve product quality and increase customer satisfaction. SigmaQuest's suite of products consists of Manufacturing and Test Insight, Supplier Quality Insight and RMA Insight, all of which are offered in an OnDemand, real-time environment.

The company is headquartered at 400 N. Wolfe Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. It can also be reached at 408-524-3180, <http://www.sigmaquest.com/>.

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3D CAD Downloads Drive Purchases and Supplier Selection

15 August 2007

Catalog Data Solutions ([CDS](#)) announced the results of a user survey conducted for [J.W. Winco, Inc.](#) CAD download customers.

J.W. Winco Inc. provides a comprehensive selection of quality metal and plastic, metric and inch size standard machine components and assembly hardware. These modernly designed, ergonomically shaped standard components bring a 21st century look, function and feel to customer equipment.

As one survey responder, Daniel M Smith of the Goodrich Corporation said, "I am a designer, and I dictate where the parts are purchased from. If you have the CAD model I want, you get the sale. It is just that simple."

"Since implementing the CDS CAD solution in February of 2006, we are already seeing an average of over 850 downloads/month from our 18,000 CAD model library," said John Winkler, J.W. Winco CEO, Office of the President. "We and CDS wanted to find out what those CAD download customers thought - our survey revealed many terrific insights and we're delighted to share some of these:"

- 96% rated the usability of the JW Winco E-Store and 3D-CAD acceptable or better.

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- On average designers said that nearly half of downloaded 3D-CAD models result in at least one order for that part.
- 3D-CAD models save design time for 95% of designers (on average over ¾ hour per model and 9% of their total annual design time).
- For 94% 3D-CAD model downloads help ensure design accuracy and minimize CAD errors.
- For 82% downloadable 3D-CAD models get their designs to market faster.
- 75% thought that 3D-CAD model downloads are important, very or extremely important in their selection of a supplier.
- If a vendor doesn't offer 3D-CAD downloads - at least 40% of designers will search for an equivalent part from another vendor that does offer CAD downloads.

"This very positive customer feedback is gratifying for J.W. Winco and CDS," said John Major, CEO Catalog Data Solutions. "87% agree or strongly agree that 'offering downloadable CAD models online will become essential' for the manufacturing industry. This is more irrefutable evidence that online 3D-CAD models are a vital sales and marketing tool for all industrial suppliers and distributors. By providing downloadable 3D CAD models of products, industrial suppliers save design engineers valuable time and make it easier for their products to be selected over competitors' products. In return their parts are 'locked and loaded' into new designs, and enjoy sales in proportion to the sales success of those designs. The first step is to get downloadable part models online in multiple CAD formats, the second to ensure they are easily found - both by specification/attribute-based catalog search on your web site and in design engineering portals. This is the best business-to-business (B2B) ecommerce lead generation available for industrial suppliers - the process reaches the true decision maker, the design engineer, ahead of the traditional buying process - and buyers rarely change what the engineer has spec'd."

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Xilinx Leads Teams with EDA Leaders to Tackle Ultra High-Capacity FPGA Design Verification

14 August 2007

Xilinx, Inc. announced a collaboration with leading EDA companies to address the challenges of ultra-high capacity FPGA design verification. Xilinx engineers will be joined by Cadence Design Systems, Inc. , Mentor Graphics Corporation, and Synopsys, Inc. to define and implement new verification flows to maximize productivity and quality of results for ultra high-density designs targeting today's 65nm FPGAs as well as new and emerging FPGA architectures. The collaboration will focus on expanding coverage, improving simulation runtime, and reducing verification time in an environment that allows designers to achieve aggressive design goals. Major releases of these tools and methodologies are expected in the first half of 2008.

"With the growing complexity of today's 65nm FPGAs, verification has become a major time consuming portion of the FPGA design flow," said Bruce Talley, vice president of the Design Software Division at Xilinx. "By collaborating with the industry's leading EDA providers, we can develop solutions to address the challenges faced by our customers at 65nm and beyond."

Xilinx introduced the industry's first 65nm FPGAs. Shipping since May of 2006, the Virtex™-5 FPGA platform includes devices with up to 330,000 logic cells, 10 Mb on-chip memory, 1,200 I/Os and a host

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of additional hardened intellectual property (IP) blocks. Ongoing growth trends in FPGA architecture present escalating challenges for logic designers with increasing density points and capabilities across a wide range of application domains. The companies will work together to build upon existing technologies to develop next-generation verification solutions, enabling system designers to streamline the verification process.

"Joining with [Xilinx](#) in this effort helps ensure we are creating verification technology needed for today's complex devices," said Mitch Weaver, corporate vice president and general manager for Advanced Verification Systems at Cadence Design Systems, Inc. "Leveraging Cadence's proven leadership in simulation and functional verification, we can bring proven technology and methods to the ultra-high capacity FPGA user community."

"Today, FPGA verification flows rival advanced verification flows for complex ASICs and SoCs," said Robert Hum, vice president and general manager of Mentor Graphics Design Verification and Test division. "A focused effort on verification will bring the latest technology such as assertions, transaction-level modeling, clock domain crossing, formal verification and others to the FPGA designer."

"Synopsys is committed to delivering verification solutions that provide high performance and quality of results," said Manoj Gandhi, senior vice president and general manager, Verification Group, Synopsys. "By participating in the ultra high-capacity verification collaboration with Xilinx, we are able to align our efforts to bring innovations to market quickly for our mutual customers."

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Events News

Americas' SAP Users' Group Partners with SAP to Deliver Preeminent Business Operations Event

14 August 2007

The Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG), the world's largest customer-run community of SAP professionals, is collaborating with SAP to host four focused events September 19-21 at the San Francisco Marriott in San Francisco.

These concurrently running events, expected to attract more than 1,200 attendees, will bring together the combined resources, talent, and knowledge of SAP and its user group community, to deliver a comprehensive program complete with technical educational sessions, networking, and vendor exhibitions. By combining their knowledge and experiences, ASUG will increase the opportunities for its members to interact in a more meaningful and value-added manner with SAP, while creating a strong focus on user needs and issues. In an effort to help ensure attendees make the most of their time, customers that register for one event are able to attend sessions at all four.

"ASUG is committed to bringing our members the highest quality education and actionable information that attendees can use to make a real difference in their organization," said Rodney Masney, ASUG President. "These events offer a flexible format that allows attendees to make the most of their time out of the office and tailor an agenda that is just right for their company and individual needs."

Attendees will learn from more than 225 SAP users and SAP experts who will share their success stories around topics such as ERP upgrades, integrated supply chain, RFID, Supplier Relationship Management, managing projects, EH&S, lowering maintenance costs, and SAP's Perfect Plant for Lean

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Planning & Operations. The Washington Post and General Mills, Inc. are just a few of the SAP customers who will share their experiences at this preeminent event opportunity.

“Realizing operational excellence in an environment where globalization, regulatory compliance, and cost containment continue to expand is more challenging than ever,” said Harald Stuckert, senior vice president and general manager of the Product and Technology Unit (PTU) SCM, PLM and Manufacturing, SAP Americas, Inc. “Our customers represent the leading organizations in their respective industries and we are thrilled to have many of them joining us in San Francisco to share their experiences and advice on leveraging SAP solutions and best practices with attendees.”

Motivational speaker, Bill Butterworth, will provide the Closing General Session Keynote at the event. As one of the most sought after speakers in North America for the past 20 years, Mr. Butterworth will share his insights on using balance to achieve long term success and how to embrace change.

For complete conference information and to register, visit <http://www.asug.com/2007SanFranEvents>. ASUG members and all licensed SAP customers and partners are encouraged to attend.

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Delcam to Show New Five-Axis Machining Options at Great Lakes Event

13 August 2007

Delcam will demonstrate new options for five-axis machining in the latest versions of its PowerMILL and FeatureCAM CAM software during the [Great Lakes](#) show to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from September 18th to 20th.

This new exposition and conference, organised by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers will showcase innovations and emerging technologies to help advance the manufacturing community in the Great Lakes Region. The two Delcam programs contribute to higher productivity by giving users an ability to program equipment for milling, mill/turn, turning or wire EDM.

The most significant of the new five-axis options in PowerMILL (booth 632) is a powerful tool-axis editing function that allows the user to select any region of a toolpath and redefine the tool-axis vectors within that region. This ability will allow users to optimize cutting conditions, in particular to give faster machining, and to avoid any sudden machine tool movements that could result in a poor surface finish.

New automated functionality has also been added for much faster programming of the five-axis machining of blisks, blades and impellers. Swarf machining has been improved by the addition of an option that forces the toolpaths to follow the surface internal lines where possible. This approach can be used to give smoother motion of the machine tool and more precise control of the cutting conditions.

Improvements in simulation and verification include the ability to rotate the ViewMILL machining model both during and after the simulation. In addition, the user interface has been streamlined so that both cutting tool simulation and machine tool verification can be controlled from a single toolbar.

Five-axis simultaneous milling capability is now available in Delcam FeatureCAM (booth 613) for the first time, offering a variety of methods for controlling the tool axis. The user will be able to set a specific lead and/or lean angle. 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.

Many three-axis toolpaths generated in FeatureCAM are now able to be converted to a five-axis

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equivalent by using automatic collision avoidance to change the tool axis. The software will automatically tilt the cutter away from the obstacle by the specified tolerance and then return the cutting angle to the value set for the overall toolpath once the obstacle has been cleared. Various choices will be available to control the direction in which the tool is tilted.

Other new options include five-axis trimming and swarf machining. Five-axis drilling will also be supported. This new functionality, coupled with the advanced feature recognition in FeatureCAM, will make it possible to create drilling programs in seconds even for multiple hole types and sizes.

FeatureCAM 2008 also features numerous smaller enhancements and speed-ups, plus new and updated post-processors, in particular for turn-mill equipment, including the Mazak Integrex, Daewoo Puma and Nakamura-Tome machines.

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Delcam to Show World's Most Comprehensive CAM Range in Canada

16 August 2007

Delcam will demonstrate the latest versions of its CAM programs PowerMILL, FeatureCAM, PartMaker and ArtCAM on booth #4138 at the [Canadian Manufacturing and Technology Show](#) to be held in Toronto from 15th to 18th October. Together, these programs comprise the world's most comprehensive collection of CAM systems, giving Delcam the ability to provide solutions to any company looking for a programming system to manufacture any type of product on any type of machine tool. The Show will also give Delcam the opportunity to build on the success of its recently-opened office in Toronto.

The PartMaker range, acquired by Delcam in June of 2006, will be shown on a Delcam booth in Canada for the first time. PartMaker pioneered the use of CAM for Swiss-type machine tools with its patented Visual Programming Approach for multi-axis lathes with live tooling. The software provides substantial gains in efficiency to programming on Swiss Turn machines with its ability to synchronize multiple operations.

The recent release of FeatureCAM, Delcam's feature-based machining software, includes major enhancements to the software's automatic feature recognition, plus additions to its range of 3D machining options to improve calculation speeds and surface finish. In addition, FeatureCAM 2008 offers support for continuous five-axis machining for the first time. This can be used either to access areas unable to be reached with 3-axis machining or to give better cutting conditions. Other new options include 5-axis trimming, swarf machining and 5-axis drilling. The new functionality, coupled with the advanced feature recognition, makes it possible to create drilling programs in seconds for multiple hole types and sizes, oriented in a variety of directions.

The latest release of PowerMILL will include a new automated programming functionality for the machining of blisks and impellers. This new functionality will typically cut down programming time of many hours into 30 minutes because the roughing toolpath (to remove the bulk material), and the finishing toolpaths (for the blade and the hub), are produced in a single calculation. A warning is given automatically if the cutter chosen for roughing will not remove sufficient material so that finishing can be undertaken safely.

The most important recent enhancement in ArtCAM Pro's machining is a new 3D offset strategy that gives a much better surface finish with harder materials. This will be especially useful when machining

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production tooling from ArtCAM designs, such as dies for greeting cards, and when engraving decorations created in ArtCAM into moulds for plastics. A new Machining Wizard has been added that simplifies the setting-up of multi-axis machining of complex models. In addition, a new option allows models to be sliced into layers that can be machined individually and then assembled into the complete part.

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DVCon 2008 Announces Call for Paper, Panel and Tutorial Proposals

14 August 2007

The 2008 Design and Verification Conference (DVCon), sponsored by Accellera, is now accepting paper, panel and tutorial submissions.

DVCon 2008 will be held February 19-21, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Jose, California. "DVCon has grown to become the premier conference for design and functional verification," commented Stephen Bailey, 2008 General Chair. "Attendance at DVCon 2007 exceeded all expectations and we anticipate continued attendance growth this year. DVCon is the place to learn what is new in methodology, tools and technology for addressing design and verification productivity and quality." For more from the General Chair, please visit <http://www.dvcon.com/about.html>.

Of special interest to the DVCon Technical Program Committee for the 2008 conference are topics such as: low-power design and verification, formal verification, multi-clock verification, design and verification case studies, verification and design release management, functional coverage and verification data management, verification methodology and testbenches, verification IP development, and appropriate academic and research information. More detailed information can be found by visiting <http://www.dvcon.org/>.

Paper and special session proposals are due September 19, 2007

Abstracts for paper and special sessions must be submitted on-line at <http://www.dvcon.org/>.

Special sessions may consist of embedded tutorials of one to two hours in length or may be focused on a specific topic with a list of invited papers/presentations relevant to that topic.

Panel proposals are due September 19, 2007

DVCon is looking for high energy creative panels. Proposals are due September 19.

To submit a panel idea, please submit an abstract and a list of panelist candidates via email to Kathy Embler at MP Associates at kathy@mpassociates.com.

Sponsored tutorials are due October 3, 2007

A limited number of sponsored tutorials will be also available. Proposals are due October 3. To submit sponsored tutorial ideas, please contact Kathy Embler at MP Associates at kathy@mpassociates.com.

DVCon is sponsored by Accellera. Accellera is an industry consortium dedicated to the development and standardization of EDA languages, methods and formats, including design and verification languages. For more information about Accellera, please visit <http://www.accellera.org/>.

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Infor User Conference Gives Manufacturers Strategies for Success in Global Economy; More Than 200 Sessions Offered To Help Manufacturers Improve Performance

15 August 2007

Infor announced it will provide more than 200 educational sessions that address the challenges and trends facing today's manufacturers at the company's global annual user conference, Inforum 2007, to be held September 9-12 at Las Vegas' Sands Expo and Convention Center. Infor industry experts, partners and manufacturing customers including Eaton Corporation, Barry-Wehmiller Companies Inc. and Schrader Bridgeport, among others, will present their best practices and case studies for improving performance with Infor's business-specific solutions.

Kevin Piotrowski, director of industry and product marketing for Infor, will share industry expertise Tuesday, September 11 as part of "Globalization: The Impact on the Lean Enterprise." The session will discuss how discrete manufacturers can capitalize on burgeoning growth in the global marketplace and will demonstrate through real world examples proven strategies for success.

"Globalization is a reality of the world we live in and enterprising manufacturers are embracing operating overseas as an opportunity to dramatically grow their businesses," said Piotrowski. "Inforum is the perfect venue for these companies to collaborate with some of the industry's leading experts and discover how they can improve operational efficiencies to surge ahead of the competition."

Inforum offers hundreds of educational sessions for improving business processes and maximizing the built-in functionality of Infor's industry-leading, business-specific solutions such as Infor ERP LN, Infor ERP SyteLine, Infor ERP Visual, Infor ERP XA and Infor SRM SupplyWEB. Session topics include "Strategic Market Driven Investments," "Value Stream Mapping," and "Maximizing Your IT Investment". In these sessions, attendees will interact with Infor experts to examine strategies to address their most critical business needs.

Manufacturers from the high-tech and electronics, industrial equipment and machinery, metal and plastics fabrication, textiles, oil and gas, and aerospace and defense industries will present on topics including "Achieving High-Availability," "Excellence in Operations Management" and "Avoiding Implementation Pitfalls."

Inforum 2007 offers networking opportunities such as ConnectAtInforum.com, a business matchmaking tool to help customers connect with like-minded peers prior to and during the conference, and Enterprising Square, a dedicated space organized into Infor solution communities to encourage idea sharing between Inforum activities.

Beginning in August, attendees can create a conference agenda using a new tool, U-Builder, on Inforum2007.com. U-Builder enables attendees to customize their schedule based on personal interests, allowing them to plan and organize all of their conference activities and manage conflicts.

Inforum 2007 is expected to attract customers and partners from around the world who come to learn about new business opportunities, collaborate on Infor's business-specific solutions, and get the latest story on the product roadmaps for their solutions. Infor Discrete sessions are part of hundreds of educational sessions on topics such as best practices, tips and techniques, product seminars, business strategy, and industry trends. For more information on Inforum 2007, please visit

<http://www.inforum2007.com/>.



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Omnify Software Announces West Coast Customer Symposium

13 August 2007

Omnify Software announced that the company will be hosting its first annual Silicon Valley Customer Symposium in Palo Alto, CA on August 14th. The symposium is a customer-focused event that includes a comprehensive review of Omnify Empower, the company's next generation PLM platform, directly from Omnify's CTO, Chuck Cimalore. Empower, based on Microsoft's .NET Framework, features new functionality including Project Management, Quality Management, and a Training Monitor that extends the capability of the PLM system and improves visibility to all aspects of product design and development.

"This event is the result of our strong customer-focused philosophy," says Omnify CTO Chuck Cimalore. "We have a growing number of customers in the western U.S., and this is a great opportunity for them to be able to see an in depth product overview of Empower as well as learn how other customers are successfully leveraging the Omnify PLM solution."

In addition to the Omnify Empower presentation, attendees will hear from Fred Garderes, director of Supply Chain Management for Crystal Technology, a Palo Alto-based manufacturer of oxide crystals that are used for applications in electronics, optics and acoustics. Garderes will present a business case study emphasizing the value of product lifecycle management, their Omnify implementation and a roadmap for successful product development and distribution.

For additional information on the Silicon Valley Customer Symposium, contact Alaine Portnoy at 978-988-3800 or alaine@omnifysoft.com.

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Product Designers around the World to Explore SolidWorks 2008 During Seminar Series Hosted by VARs

13 August 2007

WHO: SolidWorks Corporation along with its global channel of authorized resellers.

WHAT: SolidWorks® 3D CAD software resellers will conduct hundreds of seminars around the world for SolidWorks users and non-users to demonstrate the productivity-boosting enhancements in SolidWorks 2008 and showcase other SolidWorks products.

DETAILS: Discovery Days seminars allow non-users to see how they can explore different product development approaches and design better products. SolidWorks users can attend What's New sessions to learn about recent enhancements to SolidWorks' product. Other seminars offered by resellers feature a range of topics including new enhancements in PDMWorks® and COSMOSWorks®, as well as tips and tricks for working in both 2D and 3D. Resellers are also hosting seminars that focus on new product design challenges and solutions for different industries, including machinery, medical, and electro-mechanical.

WHEN: The seminars run from August through October.

WHERE: Resellers around the world are hosting these seminars. Interested prospects and SolidWorks customers can visit the SolidWorks 2008 launch site for more information (<http://www.solidworks.com/pages/launch2008/>) or contact a local authorized SolidWorks reseller.

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A series of podcasts featuring SolidWorks 2008 beta users discussing the software's benefits will be available Sept. 1 at the Web site (<http://www.solidworks.com/pages/news/MediaPcasts.html>).

SolidWorks 2008 launch event primary sponsors include NVIDIA (Platinum), and Adobe, Dell, i get it, and Microsoft (Gold).

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Financial News

Ansoft Corporation Revenue Increases 15%; Net Income Increases 69%

14 August 2007

Ansoft Corporation announced financial results for its first quarter of fiscal 2008 ended July 31, 2007.

Revenue for the first quarter totaled \$19.9 million, an increase of 15% compared to \$17.3 million reported in the previous fiscal year's first quarter.

Operating income for the first quarter was \$5.2 million representing an 84% increase when compared to operating income of \$2.8 million in the previous fiscal year's first quarter.

On a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, net income for the first quarter was \$3.9 million, or \$0.15 per diluted share, representing a 69% increase when compared to GAAP net income of \$2.3 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share in the previous fiscal year's first quarter.

GAAP net income for first quarter includes employee stock-based compensation expense of \$0.2 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share. This compares to employee stock-based compensation expense of \$0.6 million, or \$0.02 per diluted share in the previous fiscal year's first quarter.

Additionally, GAAP net income for both the current and previous year's first quarter includes acquisition related amortization of \$0.3 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share.

During the current quarter, the Company repurchased 853,632 shares of its common stock.

"We are pleased to report strong revenue and earnings growth for the first quarter," said Nicholas Csendes, Ansoft's President and CEO. "For the next fiscal quarter, we anticipate continued revenue growth of around 10-15%."

For further information regarding risks and uncertainties associated with Ansoft's business, please refer to the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" section of Ansoft's SEC filings, including, but not limited to, its annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2007 and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, copies of which may be obtained at Ansoft's website at <http://www.ansoft.com/about/investor/index.cfm>.

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Aspen Technology Announces Date of Fiscal 2007 Fourth-Quarter Financial Results Release, Conference Call and Webcast

13 August 2007

Aspen Technology, Inc. announced that the company will release financial results for its fiscal 2007 fourth quarter, ended June 30, 2007, after the U.S. financial markets close on September 12, 2007.

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In conjunction with this announcement, AspenTech will host a conference call and webcast on September 12, 2007, at 4:45 pm (Eastern Time) to discuss the Company's financial results, business outlook, and related corporate and financial matters. The live dial-in number is (877) 239-3024, conference ID code 12769903. Interested parties may also listen to a live webcast of the call by logging on to the Investor Relations section of AspenTech's website, <http://www.aspentech.com/corporate/investor.cfm>, and clicking on the "webcast" link. A replay of the call will be archived on AspenTech's website and will also be available via telephone at (800) 642-1687 or (706) 645-9291, conference ID code 12769903 through September 19, 2007.

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Autodesk Reports Record Revenues of \$526 Million

16 August 2007

Autodesk, Inc. reported record quarterly revenues of \$526 million, an increase of 17 percent over the second quarter of the prior fiscal year. Second quarter net income was \$92 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share, on a GAAP basis and \$108 million, or \$0.44 per diluted share, on a non-GAAP basis. Net income in the second quarter of the prior year was \$87 million, or \$0.36 per diluted share on a GAAP basis, and \$96 million, or \$0.39 per diluted share on a non-GAAP basis.

"During the second quarter, we executed extremely well -- driving widespread adoption of our 3D and 2D tools, continuing to increase new seat revenue, and increasing sales and emerging economies," said Carl Bass, Autodesk president and CEO. "We have been able to grow significantly by addressing our customers' competitive challenges. Our numbers demonstrate that we continue to win market share as our revenues have increased significantly faster than our competitors. As a result, we are again raising our guidance for fiscal 2008, to reflect our confidence in our financial performance for the remainder of the fiscal year."

Operational Highlights

Autodesk's performance in the second quarter was driven by strong increases in revenue from model-based 3D and 2D vertical design products, revenue in the emerging economies, and revenue from new seats.

The Company's model-based 3D products and 2D vertical products continue to increase their market penetration. As expected, the changes in dealer incentives implemented in the first quarter of fiscal 2008 are increasing focus on selling model-based 3D and 2D vertical products.

Combined revenues from the Company's model-based 3D products, Inventor, Revit and Civil 3D software, increased 34 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$122 million and comprised 23 percent of total revenues. In total, Autodesk shipped more than 39,000 commercial seats of 3D in the quarter including 21,000 seats of Revit, 11,000 seats of Inventor and 7,200 seats of Civil 3D. Revenues from 2D vertical products increased 22 percent compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2007.

Once again, emerging economies contributed robust growth in revenues. Revenues from the emerging economies in Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America increased 37 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$82 million and represented 15 percent of total revenues.

Revenues from new seats increased by 17 percent compared to the second quarter of last year. Revenues from new seats of Revit and AutoCAD Mechanical were particularly strong, increasing 56 percent and 54 percent, respectively, compared to the second quarter of last year.

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Upgrade revenue and maintenance revenue from subscriptions combined increased 16 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$178 million. Maintenance revenue from subscriptions increased 27 percent compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$132 million. Deferred maintenance revenue from subscription increased \$12 million sequentially and \$100 million compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2007. Total upgrade revenues decreased 7 percent compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2007, as expected. Crossgrade revenue, which is included in total upgrade revenue, increased 29 percent over the second quarter of last year.

Other Financial Highlights From the Quarter Ended JULY 31, 2007

- Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities were \$827 million.
- Total backlog increased \$15 million sequentially to \$433 million. Deferred maintenance revenues from subscription increased \$12 million sequentially to \$356 million. Unshipped product orders increased \$2 million sequentially to \$21 million.
- Channel inventory decreased slightly from April 30, 2007, and was below the normal range of three to four weeks.
- DSO was 48 days.
- Capital expenditures were \$11 million.
- \$84 million was received from employees for the issuance of 5.2 million shares under employee stock plans during the quarter
- 7.1 million shares were repurchased for \$325 million under the Company's previously existing share repurchase plan. 9.2 million shares remain under the share repurchase authorization.
- There were approximately 229 million total shares outstanding and 243 million diluted GAAP basis shares outstanding and 244 million diluted non-GAAP basis shares outstanding in the second quarter.
- Revenues in the Americas increased 16 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$195 million.
- Revenues in EMEA increased 17 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$204 million.
- Revenues in Asia Pacific increased 18 percent over the second quarter of fiscal 2007 to \$127 million. Revenues in Japan increased 5 percent compared to the same quarter of last year.

Business Outlook

The following statements are forward-looking statements which are based on current expectations and which involve risks and uncertainties some of which are set forth below.

Third Quarter Fiscal 2008

Net revenues for the third quarter of fiscal 2008 are expected to be in the range of \$530 million to \$540 million. GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$0.34 and \$0.36. Non-GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$0.47 and \$0.49 and exclude \$0.11 related to stock based compensation expense as required by SFAS 123R and \$0.02 for the amortization of acquisition related intangibles.

Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2008

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Net revenues for the fourth quarter are expected to be between \$575M and \$585M. GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$0.42 and \$0.44. Non-GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$0.52 and \$0.54 and exclude \$0.08 related to stock based compensation expense as required by SFAS 123R and \$0.02 for the amortization of acquisition related intangibles.

Full Year Fiscal 2008

For fiscal year 2008, net revenues are expected to be between \$2.14 billion and \$2.16 billion. Full year GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$1.48 and \$1.52. Non-GAAP earnings per diluted share are expected to be in the range of \$1.87 and \$1.91 and exclude \$0.29 related to stock based compensation expense as required by SFAS 123R, \$0.04 reimbursement to employees for tax issues arising from the voluntary stock option review and \$0.06 for the amortization of acquisition related intangibles.

Earnings Conference Call and Webcast

Autodesk will host its second quarter conference call today at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The live announcement may be accessed at <http://www.autodesk.com/investors> or by dialing 800-638-4817 or 617-614-3943 (passcode: 94897365). An audio webcast or podcast of the call will be available at 7:00 pm EDT at <http://www.autodesk.com/investors>. This replay will be maintained on our website for at least twelve months. An audio replay will also be available for one month beginning at 7:00 pm EDT by dialing 888-286-8010 or 617-801-6888 (passcode: 38088167).

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Endeca Reports Record Q2, First-Half Revenue

13 August 2007

[Endeca](#) announced that it achieved record revenues with 83 percent year-over-year revenue growth in the second quarter -- the company's 18th consecutive quarter of year-over-year revenue growth. Revenue for the first half grew 87 percent compared to the first six months of 2006.

“The first half saw high levels of activity across all of our target markets and verticals. In addition to continued growth in our historically strong verticals such as retail, manufacturing, and media and publishing, we’re seeing increased demand from financial services, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, and the Federal government,” said Steve Papa, chief executive officer of Endeca. “We’re also seeing a shift in the market toward the adoption of a common information access platform and infrastructure to solve a variety of challenges. This is leading to increased demand from existing customers as well as larger, enterprise-wide engagements with new clients.”

Q2 2007 Highlights Include:

Signed dozens of new customers and expanded the use of the Endeca Information Access Platform within the installed base: Key wins included many market leaders and respected organizations such as BMG Direct, the US Department of Justice, Emap Consumer Media Limited, the Home Depot, IBM, LexisNexis, Scripps Networks, the US Air Force, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Unveiled the next generation of Guided Navigation® experience with native 64-bit release of the Endeca Information Access Platform: Introduces the most significant enhancements to Endeca's

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signature Guided Navigation experience since it was first unveiled in 2001. Native 64-bit support is designed for extreme scalability and superior performance.

Attracted more than 500 attendees to Endeca Discover 2007, the company's fifth annual user conference: The event focused on new classes of applications that hold the potential to fundamentally change the way organizations increase revenue, reduce costs, and streamline operations by informing the daily decision making of thousands of employees and millions of customers.

Announced the 2007 Endeca Navigator Award winners recognizing innovative, pioneering applications of information access technology to solve critical business challenges: 2007 winners include Buzzillions, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Emap plc, Harris Corporation, LexisNexis (a division of Reed Elsevier), Marriott International, and Nike.

Introduced the first information access developer community, the Endeca Developer Network (EDeN™) at Endeca Discover 2007: EDeN encompasses new community-building initiatives and networking vehicles and is designed to facilitate open communication and collaboration among Endeca's customers, partners, and the Endeca team.

Unveiled the Endeca Design Collaborative: New consulting group brings together the best practices of the global Endeca community with usability and human-factors design expertise to deliver a variety of services designed to accelerate user adoption and maximize the business benefits of applications that feature an adaptive user experience.

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RAND Worldwide™ Announces Second Quarter 2007 Financial Results

14 August 2007

Rand A Technology Corporation, operating as RAND Worldwide™ (“Rand” or the “Company”) announced financial results for the three and six-month period ended June 30, 2007.

Q2 2007 Highlights

- Revenue increased to \$26.0 million, up 7.4% from \$24.2 million in Q2 2006
- Revenue from the IMAGINiT business was \$20.9 million, up 11.5% from Q2 2006
- Negative EBITDA1 was \$2.1 million, compared to positive EBITDA of \$0.6 million in Q2 2006
- Net loss from continuing operations was \$0.11 per share, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$0.02 per share in Q2 2006
- Completed sale of European PLM operations in Finland and Denmark
- Completed CADVisions acquisition, subsequent to quarter end
- Agreement to acquire the Company by Ampersand Ventures for \$2.10 per share (see separate press release dated August 14, 2007)

Consolidated Financial Highlights see http://www.rand.com/1/pdfs/news/RND_Q2_2007_FINAL.pdf

Financial Review

Revenue for Q2 2007 was \$26.0 million, a 7.4% increase from \$24.2 million in Q2 2006. This increase was driven primarily by additional revenue from IMAGINiT. Revenue from IMAGINiT was \$20.9

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million, an increase of 11.5% from Q2 2006, while revenue from RAND PLM was \$5.1 million, a decrease of 6.9% from Q2 2006. IMAGINiT generated 80.3% of revenue in Q2 2007, up from 77.3% of revenue in Q2 2006. Rand generates approximately 80% of its revenue in foreign currencies and as a result of the year-over-year impact of those currencies relative to the Canadian dollar, revenues were negatively impacted by approximately \$0.3 million for the quarter.

Driven by 20.0% growth at IMAGINiT, revenue for the year-to-date (“YTD”) period ended June 30, 2007 was \$59.1 million, up 14.4% compared to the same period last year. For the first half of 2007, the year-over-year impact of foreign currencies relative to the Canadian dollar positively impacted revenue by \$0.3 million.

Rand’s gross margin was 47.1% in Q2 2007, compared to 56.3%, in Q2 2006. The primary cause for the decline can be attributed to the margin drop within IMAGINiT North America as a result of incentive changes implemented by Autodesk earlier in the year. During the quarter, gross margin for IMAGINiT was 39.3%, and for PLM was 78.7%. Sales of lower margin 2D products continue to put near-term pressure on IMAGINiT’s overall gross margin percentage. 3D products earn a higher gross margin percentage for the Company than 2D products, and also attract incremental services revenue.

Rand’s gross margin for the first half of 2007 was 46.7% compared to 52.8% for the first half of fiscal 2006. Gross margin for the YTD period was impacted by the same factors described in the prior paragraph.

Q2 2007 operating expenses were \$13.5 million or 52.0% of revenue, compared to \$12.7 million, or 52.4% of revenue in Q2 2006. The increase is primarily due to corporate costs associated with the Ampersand transaction, as well as increases in employee benefits and occupancy.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$27.8 million, or 46.9% of revenue compared to \$24.3 million, or 47.0% of revenue for the same period last year.

Rand recorded negative EBITDA of \$2.1 million in Q2 2007, versus positive EBITDA of \$0.6 million in Q2 2006. EBITDA was impacted primarily by the changes within IMAGINiT described above, combined with higher overall operating expenses. For the first half of the year, Rand recorded negative EBITDA of \$1.4 million versus positive EBITDA of \$2.3 million last year.

Net loss from continuing operations in Q2 2007 was \$2.3 million, or a net loss per share of \$0.11 for the quarter, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$0.5 million, or net earnings per share of \$0.02 in the second quarter of the previous year. The decrease was primarily driven by the items mentioned above. YTD, net loss from continuing operations totalled \$1.7 million, or a net loss per share of \$0.08, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$1.9 million, or net earnings per share of \$0.09 per share, in the same period last year.

Net loss for Q2 2007 was \$2.6 million resulting in a net (basic) loss per common share of \$0.13, compared to net income of \$0.06 million, or net earnings per share of \$0.00 in the second quarter of the previous year. Net loss for Q2 2007 included the items noted above, as well as a loss from discontinued operations of \$0.3 million. Net earnings for Q2 2006 included a loss from discontinued operations of \$0.4 million. YTD, net loss totalled \$2.2 million, or a net loss per share of \$0.11, compared to net earnings of \$1.2 million, or net earnings per share of \$0.06, in the same period last year.

At June 30, 2007, the Company had cash and cash equivalents totalling \$10.6 million compared with \$13.4 million at December 31, 2006.

Acquisition, Divestiture, and Additional Event Updates

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On May 15, 2007, RAND Worldwide completed the sale of its wholly-owned subsidiaries in Finland and Denmark, which represented the majority of the Company's European PLM operations. The divestiture is expected to result in annual cost savings of approximately \$1.0 million. RAND has retained a presence in Europe by continuing to manage its remaining divisions.

On July 5, 2007, RAND Worldwide completed the acquisition of CADVisions, Inc., a Dallas Texas based leading provider of Autodesk software and associated training, consulting and support services.

On August 14, 2007, the Company entered into a definitive agreement with funds managed by Ampersand Ventures ("Ampersand"), a leading private equity firm whose limited partners include some of the leading financial investors in private equity, whereby a new subsidiary of Ampersand would acquire all of the outstanding shares of the Company at a price of \$2.10 per share pursuant to a plan of arrangement under the Ontario Business Corporations Act. The transaction is subject to the customary conditions, including shareholder approval at a special meeting of the shareholders expected to be held in October 2007 and approval of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter. However, there can be no assurances that the proposed transaction will be completed at that time or at all. Prior to completion of the transaction, the Company will conduct its business in the ordinary course consistent with past practice.

Management's discussion and analysis, consolidated financial statements and notes thereto for Q2 2007 can be obtained today from RAND's corporate website at <http://www.rand.com/>. The documents will also be available at <http://www.sedar.com/>.

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Valor Concludes Another Quarter of Record Revenues

13 August 2007

Valor Computerized Systems announced its financial results for the period ending June 30, 2007.

Revenues in the first six months of 2007 accumulated to \$20.9 Million, an increase of 18.7% as compared to \$17.6 Million in the first half of 2006. Revenues in the second quarter of 2007 accumulated to \$10.6 Million, an increase of 14.8% as compared to \$9.2 Million in the parallel period of the previous year.

The net profit in the first half of 2007 accumulated to \$1.68 Million, a decrease of 3.7% as compared to \$1.75 Million in the first half of 2006.

EBITDA was \$2.3 Million in the first half of 2007 – an increase of nearly 20% as compared to \$1.9 Million in the first half of 2006.

EBIT was \$1.5 Million in the first six months of 2007 – 3.9% more than in the first six months of 2006 at \$1.4 Million.

We successfully met our goals for the quarter across the Design, Fabrication and Assembly markets," said Ofer Shofman, Valor's President and CEO. "We acquired new customers, increased our penetration into existing accounts, and continued to develop the momentum that was built during the previous quarter with the launch of our new products and technologies."

"I am especially pleased with our results in the Far East, where we have been working in the past quarters to build a strong and professional local team, with considerable industry experience. These investments are now paying off, and we see our business in the Far East region growing nicely." He

added.

“During the first quarter of 2007 we launched vPlan - the award-winning process engineering platform,” said Shofman. “In Q2, customers that have been evaluating the product saw real value in it and decided to invest in it and incorporate it into their production processes. This further strengthens our perception of vPlan as a winning product that is ready to deliver the revolutionary new technology that the market so desperately seeks. We expect to see growing demand for our other products as well. Overall, I’m very pleased with our performance so far, and I am looking forward to the next quarter,” Shofman concluded.

The complete financial report can be downloaded from the Investor Relations Section on the Valor corporate website: <http://www.valor.com/>.

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Implementation Investments

AREVA Transmission & Distribution Product Line Primary Distribution Systems Agree Global Six-Year E³.series Software Deal with CIM-Team and Zuken

31 July 2007

CIM-Team and parent company Zuken have signed deals to supply E³.series software to AREVA Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Product Line Primary Distribution Systems (PDS). The roll out of E³.series software has begun with full adoption in Germany, France and the UK, with further global expansion planned for the near future. This is estimated to result in the purchase of up to 160 licenses during the course of the initial six-years of this partnership.

AREVA T&D Product Line Primary Distribution Systems is rolling out E³.series software with the objective of having a global approach to ECAD that will enable them to standardize their processes, while allowing for a degree of localized flexibility, drive down costs and allow them to design anywhere and manufacture anywhere. Mr. Pfitzenmaier, PDS Director Sales & Engineering Process, explains what this will mean for the Product Line. “This globalized approach to ECAD using E³.series will reap many productivity savings; this not only helps increase efficiency at the design stage, but also provides the extra design and parts information that allows us to refine our production techniques.”

Working with people from Zuken, CIM-Team and a reseller, AREVA T&D completed localized benchmarking exercises in Germany, France and the UK during the first half of 2005. This was preceded by a common benchmark in June 2005, when the final decision was made to select E³ over competitor solutions. The deciding factors for selecting E³ came down to the solution’s flexibility, ease of use, integration simplicity, and functionality that would allow a multi-user approach with a shared database for all designs and associated parts and components.

“I can see so many benefits and am really looking forward to experiencing the massive money saving benefits that implementing E³.series software will deliver to our design process.” said Mr. Pfitzenmaier.

“We needed a solution that would allow us to work faster and more efficiently while guaranteeing high quality. The technological superiority of E³.series will deliver this, plus so much more,” He added.

Together, E³.panel and E³.schematic work hand in hand to provide a comprehensive solution for placement and wiring of devices in panels on mounting plates. AREVA T&D Product Line Primary Distribution Systems will be using these two tools in combination with customized add-ons for

designing low voltage transmission and distribution equipment.

For more information on E³.series visit Zuken.com/e3 or CIM-TEAM.de/e3

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B. Braun Melsungen AG Selects Open Text's Livelink ECM for 11,000 Users of SAP® Applications

14 August 2007

Open Text™ Corp. announced that international medical equipment and services provider B. Braun Melsungen AG has selected Open Text to help it meet compliance and governance requirements and will implement Livelink ECM - Document Management for use with SAP® solutions company-wide. The large scale deployment will span the company's 11,000 users of SAP applications and help provide legally compliant archiving of SAP data and documents.

B. Braun chose Open Text for the proven scalability and efficiency of Livelink ECM, Open Text's strategic relationship with SAP AG and the positive experience as an existing Open Text customer. B. Braun has been using Web content management solutions from RedDot, Open Text's Web Solutions Group, since 2005.

"During the course of expanding our implementation of SAP applications worldwide, we identified a need for an archiving solution. We also wanted to ensure that the archiving solution we implemented would be a seamless extension to our future, group-wide enterprise content management infrastructure," said Karl-Heinz Low, CIO of B. Braun Melsungen. "We have selected Open Text as our strategic supplier for expanding our ECM platform group-wide because of its comprehensive product offering."

B. Braun provides products worldwide for anesthesiology, internal medicine, cardiology, extracorporeal blood treatment and surgery, as well as services for hospitals, medical practices and the homecare industry. B. Braun's products and services generate ongoing information exchanges resulting in findings that aid in product development. Its innovative products and services help to optimize workflows at hospitals and medical practices and improve safety for patients, doctors and healthcare providers. For the 2006 fiscal year, B. Braun Melsungen recorded earnings of more than (euro)3.3 billion and has 32,000 employees worldwide.

"B. Braun Melsungen demonstrates what we are seeing from many of our customers: A desire to integrate their critical SAP application-based systems with a larger ECM strategy to better manage increasingly complex information and compliance demands," said John Wilkerson, Executive Vice President of Global Sales, Services and Support at Open Text. "This drive among customers has been the foundation of our strategic relationship with SAP. For organizations with SAP applications, Open Text combines both the expertise and solutions to make us the vendor of choice to bridge structured and unstructured information."

Open Text is an SAP Software Partner with solutions that have achieved SAP Certified Integration. The companies have shared two decades of partnership and co-development. As a result of this cooperative relationship, Open Text, which acquired IXOS in 2003, is the market leader in document management, document archiving and data archiving for SAP solutions. Broad-based and industry solutions let enterprises create, access, manage and securely archive all content for SAP solutions - both data and documents - to address stringent requirements for risk reduction, operational efficiency and IT consolidation.

In May, SAP and Open Text announced that SAP would resell archiving and complementary document

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management solutions from Open Text (<http://www.opentext.com/news/pr.html?id=1879>). Open Text also recently introduced Livelink ECM™ - Records Management for use with SAP applications (<http://www.opentext.com/news/pr.html?id=1872>). For more information about Open Text's relationship with SAP and the company's solutions for use with SAP applications, go to: <http://www.opentext.com/sap-partner>.

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CENIT Receives Significant Order in the US

15 August 2007

In 2006, CENIT's Executive Board put the focus on internationalization generating the necessary investments. Now, the decision was met with success in the US: an American supplier for Boeing and EADS Airbus placed a million-euro-order with CENIT. This lucrative order, which will date to 2008, is promising to have an announcement effect within the American supplier sector. "For years, CENIT has been considered a reliable and competent Product Lifecycle Management partner to EADS Airbus Group and the respective European suppliers. Obviously, our expertise and know-how has not gone unnoticed overseas", stresses Kurt Bengel, Member of CENIT's Executive Board. He adds: „ We are confident, that this service and consulting order will have a significant effect within the US aerospace industry, thus leading to further orders.

Today, CENIT has 18 employees in the US. In the first quarter of 2007, they have generated revenue of €2.6 million and operative returns of €0.4 million. " We have taken into consideration the entrepreneurial risk involved and do now receive the reward for our decision. Our focus is on the further growth in the US, thus successfully developing a very important market", explains Christian Pusch, Speaker of CENIT's Executive Board.

The order placed by the Boeing- and Airbus-supplier mainly includes services in the digital development and manufacturing sector as well as the henceforth necessary data exchange for the so-called Product Lifecycle Management strategy.

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Georg Fischer Automotive Standardizes Data Visualization and Communication with SpinFire Professional

15 August 2007

[Actify Inc.](#) announced that Georg Fischer Automotive AG, a European technology and market leader in the areas of casting for the automotive industry, will be standardizing its design data communications and visualization with SpinFire Professional throughout the company. Georg Fischer Automotive has been using SpinFire Professional successfully for 6 years at various factories. As the company has grown over the years Georg Fischer's design communication and visualization needs have also grown. Due to the benefits they have received from using Actify's visualization solution it was an easy decision to expand and standardize on Actify's solution throughout the company in 13 locations and 5 countries.

"We have decided to use SpinFire Professional as the central data visualization and communication solution in order to achieve higher investment security and reduce costs," Uwe Kruse, CIO of GF Automotive explained. "With SpinFire Professional, we can increase collaboration in the design process and shorten development cycles, while improving quality and customer satisfaction."

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Actify's partner Infotech Enterprises GmbH, the German subsidiary of the global IT Services company Infotech Enterprises Ltd., India, which specializes in Engineering Design Services (EDS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and IT Services, is actively supporting Georg Fischer Automotive in the implementation of the project. By analyzing the needs of each location, Infotech Enterprises has been able to identify the exact communication and visualization solution needed to support the design process in the most efficient way.

SpinFire Professional is gaining more and more importance as it is being used as a company-wide collaboration tool, and not only in engineering. Its usage spans across various departments, such as sales, marketing, logistics, purchasing, key-account management, quality management, and assembly. With Actify's compressed .3D format, the relevant data can be easily and securely made available, throughout the organization and to external partners, without requiring the knowledge, or use, of a CAD system. Thus, the company can reduce costs in product development, purchasing, tender preparation and production, as well as in sales and marketing, while increasing productivity.

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Manila Water Chooses Bentley's WaterGEMS V8 XM Edition

13 August 2007

Bentley Systems, Incorporated announced that [Manila Water](#), one of the largest water and wastewater service providers in the Philippines, has selected WaterGEMS V8 XM Edition, Bentley's water distribution modeling solution, to manage the water network serving more than five million people in the East Zone. This area includes eastern Metro Manila and portions of Rizal province.

Commenting on the company's decision to adopt WaterGEMS V8 XM, Abelardo P. Basilio, Manila Water's network planning manager, said, "We were impressed by WaterGEMS' ease of use, data management tools, and integration with various platforms. These features will help us minimize duplication of work while allowing the Technical Support Services department, including the GIS group, and the Water Supply department to leverage data from Manila Water's various existing data sources." WaterGEMS V8 XM will enable Manila Water's staff to exchange data among MapInfo, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, and existing water models.

WaterGEMS V8 XM's four interchangeable platforms (stand-alone, AutoCAD, ArcGIS, and MicroStation) and automatic model building tools make it easy for users to create a new model or update an existing one. Said Basilio, "With our plan to expand the service area into the northern, southern, and eastern sides of the concession area, our engineers will need to add many new sectors to the water model. WaterGEMS' modules, such as TRex for automated elevation node assignment and LoadBuilder for automated geospatial demand allocation, will be a big help in this effort, which will require regular updates to our water model." The TRex, LoadBuilder, and Thiessen Polygon Creator tools are all included in WaterGEMS V8 XM and can be used from any of its four platforms.

Engineers at Manila Water will also use WaterGEMS V8 XM to create a master plan through the year 2020 for the distribution network. In addition, they plan to eventually link the model to the utility's live SCADA system for operational purposes.

For more information about WaterGEMS V8 XM Edition, visit <http://www.bentley.com/en-US/Products/WaterGEMS>.

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Radio Flyer Uses SolidWorks Software to Reinroduce Classics

13 August 2007

[Radio Flyer](#), the 90-year-old company famous for every kid's red wagon, is using SolidWorks® software to continually design better versions of timeless products and to launch new products that improve on the status quo.

For example, the Chicago company used SolidWorks 3D CAD software and COSMOSWorks® Designer analysis software to design, analyze, and refine numerous iterations to produce its recently re-launched Inchworm – a childhood classic with a new, safer bounce-and-go mechanism.

The company also used SolidWorks and COSMOSWorks on My First Scooter, the most stable juvenile scooter on the market. The new foldable toy has two wide-set front wheels for stability and a tapered platform that, unlike other scooters, ensures the child's foot clears the back wheel with each kick. COSMOSWorks Designer helped the company determine the optimum design of the blow-molded platform for strength and rider comfort.

“We couldn't imagine doing our work without SolidWorks, which lets us quickly develop, prototype, and optimize sophisticated designs – like the shape of the handlebars or the action of the bounce-and-go – then rapidly complete them,” said Tom Schlegel, Radio Flyer's vice president of product development. “If our founder Antonio Pasin, who hand-built wagons in his cabinet shop, could see us churning out exciting new toys using high-tech tools like SolidWorks software, I know he'd be very proud.”

Radio Flyer uses SolidWorks software's surfacing capabilities to cost-effectively design shapely parts – a tricycle saddle, for example – that in the past would be painstakingly hand-carved and patterned prior to molding. Manufacturing partners in China use SolidWorks software for collaboration with Schlegel's team in Chicago. Radio Flyer is using PDMWorks® data management software to control file versions as the company adds designers and engineers to its growing team. Schlegel credits SolidWorks' ease of use and his reseller's proven training techniques for quickly making new employees productive on SolidWorks.

“Even a firmly established company like Radio Flyer with timeless product lines needs to constantly reinvent,” said Rainer Gawlick, vice president of worldwide marketing for Solidworks. “That means listening to the market, testing ideas, and continuously designing better products.”

Radio Flyer works with authorized [SolidWorks](#)' reseller [CATI](#) for ongoing software training, implementation, and support.

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Right Hemisphere and PROSTEP Implement Automated 3D Communication Solution at Continental Automotive Systems

14 August 2007

[Right Hemisphere](#) and PROSTEP AG announced that the Continental Automotive Systems Division -- one of the world's leading system suppliers of vehicle safety, comfort and drive technology -- has completely automated its parts documentation process using a solution integrated by Darmstadt PROSTEP AG and based on 3D Adobe® PDF® and Right Hemisphere Deep Server™ software.

In order to make it easier for employees from non-technical divisions to access 3D product data, the specialists at PROSTEP implemented a solution at Continental Automotive Systems that automatically

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converts models from the CATIA® computer-aided design (CAD) format into the lightweight Universal 3D (U3D) format. This 3D data is then published together with product data from Continental Automotive Systems' SAP PLM system as 3D PDF documents.

"We needed an efficient and automated way to make 3D data available to our employees in departments beyond engineering and, at the same time, we needed to simplify the filing of data in our SAP system," said Joachim Schemainda, head of the Central Standardization unit at Continental Automotive Systems. "The technology from Right Hemisphere offers us an efficient and cost-effective solution with which we can convert native, large-volume CAD data into predefined 3D PDF documents that each client computer in our network can deal with."

The 3D communication solution was implemented by PROSTEP AG, a company that has been working closely with Continental Automotive Systems for years on successful data integration and communication projects.

The Darmstadt integration specialists also handled the integration of the Right Hemisphere solution with the SAP PLM system at Continental Automotive Systems. This integration makes it possible to read metadata via XML from SAP and to merge it with lightweight U3D models in templates. The 3D PDF documents are then saved again into the SAP PLM system so that employees can open and view the documents using Adobe® Reader® software.

"Like many other automotive suppliers, Continental Automotive Systems is faced with multiple challenges including growing product complexity, increasing volumes of non-uniform 3D CAD data and the need to provide easy access to that data in order for employees to efficiently collaborate with their counterparts in development, production, operations and maintenance," explained Michael Lynch, CEO of Right Hemisphere. "Right Hemisphere's solutions completely automate the processing, merging and preparation of native CAD data into 3D PDF documents. These capabilities save our customers from repeated entry of this information and help them to get the most out of their intellectual property."

About PROSTEP AG

PROSTEP AG is an integration specialist in the field of product data integration. The company offers its customers -- among them leading multinational companies -- the integration of CAD, PDM and supplier communication in order to allow for e-engineering to become reality. The PROSTEP group currently employs more than 260 workers in Germany, France and the U.S. Their turnover for 2006 was about 21.7 million. In addition to the company headquarters in Darmstadt, PROSTEP has branch offices in Berlin, Bexbach, Hamburg, Hannover, Lyon, Munich, Stuttgart, Troy (Michigan), Wolfsburg and Wuppertal.

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Volkswagen Standardizes Development on MSC.Software's Multi-Discipline Simulation Tool, MD Nastran

13 August 2007

MSC.Software announced that German development sites of one of the leading European automotive manufacturers, Volkswagen, have begun implementation of MSC.Software's multi-disciplinary solution, MD Nastran in their simulation environment.

The deployment of MD Nastran will create a fully harmonized simulation environment for Volkswagen that extends from the European headquarters in Wolfsburg, to other German development sites in Kassel

and Braunschweig.

Volkswagen has enjoyed a long-standing development relationship with MSC.Software and chose MD Nastran as the path forward from their currently deployed MSC.Software solutions including Adams, SimDesigner and the custom simulation data management environment CAE-Bench. By combining the core functionality of MSC Nastran, Marc and Adams, MD Nastran allows manufacturing customers to address a broad set of multi-disciplinary engineering applications with higher accuracy and more reliable performance predictions. Integrated solution technology was a key factor in the Volkswagen decision, with routine analysis applications in statics and dynamics, also being extended to nonlinear standard load-cases in automotive development. Furthermore, as Volkswagen realized, an enterprise environment deployed across a number of production sites extends the pure technology benefits onto a much wider commercial scale.

"MD Nastran provides Volkswagen with the right combination of functionality and business value," said Dr. Malte Lewerenz, Manager of Simulation for Volkswagen AG. "By using MD Nastran, Volkswagen will not only harmonize the simulation environments at our German development sites, but will provide our engineers with the technology potential for future process innovations and optimization."

"Since its introduction in 2006, the acceptance of MD Nastran has extended well beyond the realm of the early adopters and multi-discipline simulation is rapidly becoming a cornerstone technology in automotive OEMs and their suppliers throughout Europe," said Amir Mobayen, senior vice president, MSC.Software EMEA operations. "More and more of these companies are recognizing that the enterprise simulation capabilities of MD Nastran provide technology and business benefits to enhance their capacity for innovation and as well as their competitive edge."

More information regarding MSC's products and services can be found at <http://www.mscsoftware.com/>.

About Volkswagen

The Volkswagen Group with its headquarters in Wolfsburg is one of the world's leading vehicle manufacturers and the largest car producer in Europe. The Group has a global workforce of nearly 325,000 (at Dec. 31st, 2006). In 2006, the eight Group brands delivered 5.734 million (2004: 5.243 million) vehicles to customers in over 150 countries around the world. Group sales revenue increased to 104.875 billion euros in 2006 (2005: 93.996 billion euros). The net earnings totaled 2.749 billion euros (2005: 1.120 billion euros). The Group operates 44 manufacturing plants in eleven European countries and a further seven countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. Employees around the world produce more than 21,500 vehicles or deal with vehicle-related services on every work day. The Volkswagen Group comprises the brands Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, Skoda, Commercial Vehicles, Bentley, Bugatti and Lamborghini.

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Product News

BlueCielo Releases InnoCielo Publisher & Publisher Framework 2007

15 August 2007

BlueCielo ECM Solutions (formerly Cyco Software announced that it has released InnoCielo Publisher 2007 and InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 – the latest versions of the optional Publisher add-on for

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its ECM solution InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise – which automate the rendering and publishing of engineering content in various formats.

Engineering content is in continuous change. Drawings, data, technical asset information, related files and other documents are created, updated, reviewed, released, revised and archived. At certain points in their lifecycle engineering documents must be handed over to other departments within the organization, or stakeholders outside the organization. In many companies this is a cumbersome, manual or unstructured process.

In the publishing process engineering documents are converted into readable formats, replacing outdated copies and stored in systems where other people can find and access the information. InnoCielo Publisher 2007 and InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 make it possible to automate such rendering and publishing processes, triggered by predefined document lifecycle events or on an ad-hoc basis.

BlueCielo's Publisher module is used together with InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise by companies such as Areva T&D Systems, Huntsman, Johnson Controls, Pfizer and Siemens in energy/utilities, manufacturing, oil and gas, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and other vertical markets.

"InnoCielo Publisher is a useful extension to InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise which we currently use to manage about 280,000 technical documents. InnoCielo Publisher provides us with a standard approach to the high volume printing of our project documentation and integrates with our system to produce neutral PDFs for easy distribution," comments Alan Painter, business manager – secondary systems of AREVA T&D Systems, an industry leader in solutions for energy transmission and distribution. "With InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise at the front end, InnoCielo Publisher operates invisibly in the background and sends our publishing requirements to our servers in a wholly automated process, cutting out the need for manual, time-consuming effort."

"InnoCielo Publisher and InnoCielo Publisher Framework make it much easier for organizations to distribute information to departments outside of Engineering in neutral, accessible file formats. Approved documents are also available to collaboration partners at the right time through the right medium," adds Martijn Janmaat, BlueCielo president and CEO. "With the entire information exchange process being automated, companies will experience benefits such as shorter turnaround times, greater efficiency and better protection of their intellectual property if external parties are involved."

BlueCielo offers the choice between InnoCielo Publisher, a low-priced standard publishing solution and InnoCielo Publisher Framework, a flexible and customizable publishing solution:

InnoCielo Publisher 2007

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 is the new standard version of the Publisher. Its main features:

Rendering modules

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 can render any format files for which printer drivers are available.

Native AutoCAD rendering

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 can render AutoCAD files to PDF, DWF or to multi-sheet DWF formats using native AutoCAD plot functionality.

Native Autodesk Inventor rendering

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 renders Autodesk Inventor files to PDF using native Autodesk Inventor print functionality.

Publishing modules

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 comes with standard modules for publishing to InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise, the file system and to SmartZIP.

InnoCielo Publisher 2007 comes complete with one standard rendering module (AutoCAD Plot, AutoCAD Publish to DWF, Inventor to PDF or Default Printer Driver) and three standard publishing modules (to InnoCielo Meridian Enterprise, the file system and SmartZIP). Additional modules are available at added cost. Custom-built modules cannot be used with InnoCielo Publisher 2007.

InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007

InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 is the new customizable version of the Publisher. It includes all the above features of InnoCielo Publisher 2007, and additionally supports the use of custom-built rendering and publishing modules.

Like InnoCielo Publisher 2007, InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 comes complete with one standard rendering module and three standard publishing modules. Additional modules are available at added cost.

Customers who have an earlier version of the Publisher are entitled to InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 with any standard modules they are currently using. Customers can continue to use their existing customized modules.

Pricing and other information on InnoCielo Publisher 2007 and InnoCielo Publisher Framework 2007 can be found at <http://www.bluecieloecm.com/products/icp>. You can also call (800) 323 2926 ext 111 (Toll-free from USA), +1 404 634 3302 (Americas) or +31 (0)70 413 3700 (EMEA).

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Cadence and Mentor Graphics Deliver Interoperability with Open SystemVerilog Verification Methodology

16 August 2007

[Cadence Design Systems, Inc.](#) and [Mentor Graphics Corp.](#) announced that they will standardize on a verification methodology based on the IEEE Std. 1800™-2005 SystemVerilog standard. The Open Verification Methodology (OVM) will deliver a tool-independent solution for designers and verification engineers that promotes data portability and interoperability. It delivers on the promise of SystemVerilog with established interoperability mechanisms for Verification IP (VIP), transaction-level and RTL models, and full integration with other languages commonly used in production flows. The OVM will include a robust class library and be available in source code format.

Cadence and Mentor have contributed both technology and resources to develop the foundation of the methodology and the libraries. The methodology will be made available under a standard open-source license, Apache™ License, Version 2.0.

Accelerating SystemVerilog adoption

“The OVM solves one of the biggest issues facing SystemVerilog adoption today,” said Robert Hum, vice president and general manager of Mentor Graphics Design, Verification and Test Business Unit. “Customers seek confidence that their investments in verification will be reusable in the future. Having a methodology that works on a number of widely installed simulators and verification tools provides the

confidence to move to SystemVerilog.”

The OVM and supporting class library include the foundation-level utilities necessary for building advanced object-oriented, coverage-driven verification environments, and reusable VIP in SystemVerilog. The OVM reduces the complexity of adopting SystemVerilog by embedding verification practices into its methodology and library. The OVM will significantly shorten the time it takes to create verification environments, easily integrate verification IP and ensure code portability and reuse.

“With today’s devices becoming more and more complex, engineers are under increasing pressure to speed deployment of verification methods,” said Moshe Gavrielov, executive vice president and general manager, Cadence Verification Division. “With the OVM, Cadence and Mentor are delivering an efficient SystemVerilog-based tool-independent solution to help solve our combined customers’ key design challenges. The industry as a whole will benefit with a much higher degree of interoperability, verification IP development and reuse, and ease of integration.”

Open source licensing simplifies IP development and distribution

Unlike some alternatives, the OVM library will be open source, SystemVerilog IEEE-1800 compliant, and portable to any simulator supporting that IEEE standard. Under the terms of the Apache 2.0 license, it will also be easy for users and IP developers to re-ship the OVM code or derivatives and get support from multiple EDA vendors.

“The industry is clearly embracing SystemVerilog for functional verification, and this is further accelerated with an open source methodology that offers increased interoperability within the EDA ecosystem,” said Sanjay Srivastava, President and CEO at Denali Software. “Portability is key, and the OVM addresses this with multi-vendor support. The OVM and libraries are appealing to our broad verification IP customer base, and we will rapidly foster the transition to the OVM through our existing support for SystemVerilog and AVM. We’ve made a significant investment to develop a leading-edge SystemVerilog flow for our own design IP products, and will leverage the OVM to further enhance our SystemVerilog leadership.”

“The OVM offers exactly what we have been looking for: a single open, robust, and interoperable verification methodology,” said Predrag Markovic, President of HDL Design House in Beograd, Serbia. “This greatly simplifies our development and support processes and will speed up the delivery of VIP and verification environment components to our customers. Customers will now benefit from plug-and-play verification IP. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Built-in support for transaction-based modeling and system-level verification

The OVM supports a unique mix of RTL and transaction-level abstractions for SystemVerilog and other high-level languages that support system-level design and verification. The next generation of system-on-chip (SoC) design is already increasing customer demand in the area of transaction-level modeling and verification. This growing demand will include the need to combine software-based simulation, hardware-based verification platforms, and established transaction-level interface standards.

“Doulos is committed to being the premier supplier of education for the OVM as the demands of complex SoC design strain alternate verification technologies,” said Robert Hurley, CEO Doulos. “The commitment from Cadence and Mentor to offer an open verification methodology rooted on IEEE 1800 with transaction-level modeling support that is interoperable amongst EDA tools and supports interoperable VIP will be matched by our commitment to support customers globally with training to

allow them to get the most out of the OVM.”

Availability

A preliminary release of the OVM is slated to be available for selected customers in Q3 2007. A production release that includes the methodology and supporting library is scheduled to be available in Q4 of this year. Additional functionality is planned for 2008. Cadence and Mentor have collaborated to ensure that the OVM will run on their simulators, and will enable backwards compatibility with their existing environments, AVM from Mentor Graphics, and Incisive® Plan-to-Closure Methodology (URM module) from Cadence.

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CAMcenter GmbH Certified in the ESPRIT CAM Center Program

14 August 2007

DP Technology, maker of ESPRIT announced that German ESPRIT reseller CAMcenter GmbH has become a certified member of DP's ESPRIT CAM Center Program.

The ESPRIT CAM Center Program is a certification earned by ESPRIT resellers who have proven to provide the highest level of commitment to ESPRIT customers. This program identifies those leading resellers who have demonstrated success with their customers and it provides new customers with a recognizable authorized source for ESPRIT software and service.

CAMcenter GmbH, which has operated as an ESPRIT reseller since 1999, employs a staff of 12 and provides support for German customers from its largest office, in Nidderau. In addition to customer support, CAMcenter GmbH offers a variety of training courses, including standard and specialized training, individual training and workshops, said Susanne Greger of CAMcenter GmbH.

Customers interested in viewing the standard training schedule are encouraged to visit <http://www.camcenter-gmbh.de/schulung/schulung.htm>. Customers seeking international support from CAMcenter GmbH are advised to call +49 700 CAMcenter, or 0049 0700 226236837.

ESPRIT CAM Center benefits End Users

For Customers, the ESPRIT CAM Center will mean having a local identifiable authorized source for ESPRIT software and service. These ESPRIT CAM Centers are part of a world-wide reseller network and support structure designed to consistently provide superior service regardless of the end user's location.

New Business Opportunity for CAM Resellers

In order to address the significant increase in demand for the ESPRIT CAM software, DP Technology also announces the expansion of its world-wide reseller network. Under this new program, resellers can quickly build a profitable ESPRIT business by benefiting from the existing brand awareness and by receiving significant sales and marketing support directly from DP Technology.

This new program falls on the heels of a significant product expansion for ESPRIT and the recent launch of ESPRIT 2008. Prospective CAM Center resellers can contact DP Technology for further information and qualification requirements, or come see them Sept.17 – 22 at EMO 2007, Hannover, Germany, Hall 6, booth H18.

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CoCreate Announces OneSpace Modeling Is Certified for Windows Vista

15 August 2007

CoCreate Software, Inc. announced that CoCreate OneSpace Modeling has received the Certified for Windows Vista logo.

By meeting the standards of the Certified for Windows Vista logo program, CoCreate's OneSpace Modeling delivers better performance and enhanced security on PCs running the Windows Vista operating system. CoCreate OneSpace Modeling will now carry the Certified for Windows Vista logo, and deliver a premium Windows Vista experience.

By achieving the Certified for Windows Vista status, CoCreate OneSpace Modeling:

- Is independently tested for compatibility and functionality on Windows Vista-based PCs.
- Provides enhanced security by implementing Microsoft security guidelines.
- Meets privacy standards set forth by the Anti-Spyware Coalition.
- Installs cleanly and helps eliminate unnecessary reboots.
- Ensures compatibility with 32-bit and 64-bit editions of Windows Vista.

Only Certified for Windows Vista software and devices have undergone Microsoft compatibility tests for ease of use, better performance, and enhanced security on PCs running the Windows Vista operating system.

"Microsoft is pleased that CoCreate has earned the Certified for Windows Vista software logo for OneSpace Modeling," said Dave Wascha, director of Windows Client Product Management at Microsoft Corp. "This highlights CoCreate's commitment to providing its customers with higher quality applications that deliver a more secure and compatible experience with Windows Vista."

"CoCreate's participation in the Certified for Windows Vista program indicates our full commitment to deliver a superior 3D product development experience with the latest Microsoft technologies. Our customers are now primed to enjoy the benefits of the latest Windows operating system," said William M. Gascoigne, [CoCreate](#) CEO.

The Certified for Windows Vista version of OneSpace Modeling will be available with the pending release of version 15.50 for the 2007 CoCreate OneSpace Suite.

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DP Technology Releases ESPRIT 2008 CAM Software

17 August 2007

[DP Technology](#) announced the release of ESPRIT 2008, the latest version of its flagship CAM software. This new software release includes new productivity enhancing technology for CNC programmers of mills, lathes and wire EDM machines. The new 2008 version addresses the growing needs of ESPRIT's existing users, the demands of the latest generation of machine tools, and new cutting-edge manufacturing techniques.

With this new version of ESPRIT, DP Technology celebrates the 10th anniversary of the current generation of the ESPRIT CAM system, which was originally introduced to the market in 1986. This

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continuous evolution of ESPRIT has offered users significant advancements every year since its introduction. Advancements available within this latest release include turning stock automation for lathes, EDM machine specific machining technology, improved 3D machining performance, open pocket milling, expanded CAD to CAM feature exchange (FX), enhanced KnowledgeBase machining (KBM) functionality, and B-axis turning for 5-axis mill-turn machines. ESPRIT 2008 is designed to run on both the Microsoft Windows XP and Microsoft Vista operating systems.

Increased Performance for Milling

The new open pocket feature and open pocket machining cycles in ESPRIT 2008 combine to offer greater machining flexibility and improved cycle times when machining pockets with a combination of open edges and closed walls. These new machining cycles will allow the tool to hang partially over the open edge to improve the edge finish and provide a more constant cutter load throughout the cutting cycle.

Numerous other additions and enhancements were made to ESPRIT in support of improving the productivity of both the milling programmer and milling machine tool. They include faster calculation times for building 3D toolpath, new adaptive facing machining cycles offering dramatically improved cycle times, an all new operation manager that simplifies the CNC programmers' job of organizing machining processes and cutting tools, and new feature groups that allow the programmer to more easily manage the machining conditions for a collection of similar part features.

Improved Productivity for Turning

The new 2008 stock automation technology allows ESPRIT to maintain awareness of the state of lathe stock at all times during the machining process. After each turning operation is created, ESPRIT will update the stock to reflect the actual remaining material based on the machining cycles and cutting tools used. This stock automation capability allows ESPRIT to automatically manage lead-in and lead-out distances and moves, and eliminates the possibility of gouging material or crashing tools, resulting in improved quality of the part program and significantly reduced programming time and effort.

Increased performance and productivity for the lathe programmer are available with the new features in ESPRIT 2008, including new threading cycles with a database of standard thread dimensions, a new cutoff cycle with greater tool control, flexibility for a larger variety of cutting tools, improved material removal and machine simulation for more realistic computer based dry-runs, and the ability to handle an even larger variety of machine configurations (spindles and turrets) in support of today's advanced multi-tasking and mill-turn machine tools.

New B-axis Turning Cutting Cycle

The new B-Axis contouring cycle in ESPRIT 2008 is designed specifically to achieve higher performance levels from multitasking machines by fully utilizing the rotational capabilities of the B-axis. While traditional lathe contouring cycles rotate the B-axis once at the start of the cut, the innovative B-Axis contouring cycle allows for dynamic, continuous rotation of the B-axis throughout the cut as the tool follows inner and outer contours without stopping for tool changes. This allows a single tool to reach areas that would otherwise be inaccessible due to the tool's geometry. Utilizing the new B-axis finishing cycle reduces the number of cutting tools required, and the number of tool changes, resulting in a smooth and stepless surface and, ultimately, a significant savings in both time and money.

Expanded Control for Wire EDM

ESPRIT 2008 has been updated to support the latest machines and cutting technology for Charmilles,

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Fanuc, Mitsubishi, ONA and Sodick wire EDMs. This includes all-new “technology pages” (dialogue boxes) for 2-axis and 4-axis cutting for each manufacturer. Each machine-specific technology page includes the machine-specific terminology and technology settings for the given EDM machine manufacturer, and a direct interface into the machine’s technology database.

Among new key functionalities in 2008 is a new rotate entry point strategy for EDM operations, which gives the user the option to alternate the start point on profiles that have multiple cutting passes. This option is designed to be used when cutting a die on which the programmer wants to avoid having the wire start at the same position on each cut, thus diminishing the “witness” entrance line.

KnowledgeBase Machining in ESPRIT 2008

ESPRIT FX, feature exchange, has been enhanced in 2008 to improve the direct exchange of the part geometry and the CAD feature tree. Using the CAD feature tree inside the ESPRIT CAM system makes the programming process faster and more accurate because the CNC programmer has a more accurate description of the work piece to be machined. For 2008 the ESPRIT KnowledgeBase manager has been simplified to provide greater ease of use. The KnowledgeBase user interfaces have been centralized in one location to make it easier to manage all of the data in the database. The single, consistent user interface allows users to access all the data from one central location, such as the processes, materials and cutting tools, and context-sensitive commands are available with a right-click of the mouse.

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FreeDesign Inc. Releases FreeDimension 1.2

14 August 2007

FreeDesign Inc. announced the release of FreeDimension1.2, now available at <http://www.freedesign-inc.com/>. The improved version is the second update of the modeler since FreeDimension's debut in November. Along with FreeDimension1.2, the company unveiled two optional modules that offer FreeDimension users a full array of professional design tools.

The breakthrough technology of FreeDimension allows designers freedom to stylize 3D models intuitively, unburdened by the need for complex tools to create curved surfaces. With an easy user interface, the modeling technology expedites what used to be the most difficult task in 3D models - the molding of naturally looking organic shapes, ergonomic surfaces, and rich three-dimensional textures.

Version 1.2 of FreeDimension, like its previous version, is compatible with SketchUp Import and Export, and also outputs data into commonly used .OBJ, .POV and .STL formats. In addition to refinement of the software's general functionality, FreeDimension1.2 contains new architecture to add on options according to the specific needs of users.

One optional module is an IGES/NURBS export capability, which allow FreeDimension-generated models to be passed to any CAD system that can accept IGES input or NURBS surfaces.

FreeDesign also offers a second module called Professional Tools, a comprehensive set of design commands that further the practicality of easy shape generation of FreeDimension. With Professional Tools, users can manipulate, combine, and analyze freeform surfaces. Highlights of the Professional Tools module include:

Inspection Renderers -- A variety of rendering styles provide several different ways to view your model to help to analyze subtle shape variations and imperfections.

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Reference Curves and Reference Surfaces -- These 'helping' lines and surfaces are tools, which can be used to more easily manipulate segments of a design model.

Mass Properties Tool - With Professional Tools, users can instantly calculate the volume and surface area of a body.

Curve Construction Surface -- Freestanding curves can be controlled by its projection onto a plane.

In the introductory period, FreeDesign offers FreeDimension1.2 for \$495, and each of the new modules for \$295 through download from the company website. FreeDimension1.2 bundled with both of the module packages will be available at a special price of only \$795 for a limited time, and includes a free upgrade to FreeDimension 2.0 when released next year.

"Our first release of FreeDimension was essentially a baseline tool which lets anybody simply design," says Dick Sowar, CEO of FreeDesign Inc. "It brought the emphasis back on spontaneous creativity, and ushered in a new era that does not require complex skill sets for 3D creation. Now with the addition of export compatibility and Professional Tools, FreeDimension becomes a highly effective application for everyday design tasks."

FreeDimension is based on the patented N-Sided Surfacing (NSS) technology, which frees users from quadrilateral surfacing technologies like NURBS and Bezier surfaces. The NSS technology allows FreeDimension to present a curve-based interface to the user that closely mimics a pencil-and-paper method of design, giving designers more freedom in generating 3D shapes for new product, virtual gaming, and entertainment applications.

All FreeDimension products are available for immediate download at <http://www.freedesign-inc.com/>.

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Geometric Releases “eDrawings RapidFire Lite” Version 5.3

14 August 2007

Geometric Software Solutions announced the release of “eDrawings® RapidFire Lite” version 5.3.

The major enhancements in this release of eDrawings RapidFire Lite include:

- Support for STEP Files
- Support for IGES Files
- Improved User Interface for ease of use.

eDrawings RapidFire Lite provides an easy to use and convenient solution for collaboration and viewing of STEP, IGES & STL files. With eDrawings RapidFire Lite you can convert the STEP, IGES and STL files to eDrawings for sharing, review and markup. Please visit the eDrawings publisher website at <http://edrawings.geometricsoftware.com/> to download a free 15-day trial version of eDrawings RapidFire Lite.

For pricing and purchase details, please contact: ed.sales@geometricsoftware.com.

About eDrawings Publishers

eDrawings Publishers are also available for NX®, CATIA V5®, Pro/ENGINEER®, Autodesk Inventor®, SolidEdge® and SketchUp®.

With eDrawings Publishers you can:

- Generate ultra compact eDrawings with compression up to 95% as compared to the original CAD file
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- Manage, track, and merge comments from various team members
- Share design data with password protected and self-extracting eDrawings
- Measure the geometry in part, assembly, and drawing files when dimensions are absent
- Disable measurement feature to protect sensitive design data
- Examine internal details of parts and assemblies with dynamic cross sectioning
- Hide/ Show and Move components for improved understanding of the assembly structure.

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Noran Engineering's NEiFusion Sets Precedents for Use of Virtual Testing at the CAD Design Stage

14 August 2007

Noran Engineering, Inc. (NEi) announced major enhancements in NEiFusion, its simulation product targeted for use early in the design process. In addition to a 3D parametric geometry engine for easy model creation and Nastran solvers for accuracy, NEiFusion V1.2 contains two examples of highly sophisticated simulation tools that have been specifically configured for use at the CAD design stage from a cost, time, and ease-of-use standpoint. One is the Automated Impact Analysis (AIA) Wizard and the other is Optimization Analysis.

AIA, which can also perform virtual Drop Tests, uses a simple input form to define projectile initial velocity and acceleration while the NEi Nastran solver automatically sets up the surface contact and calculates the time steps needed to capture an accurate nonlinear transient event simulation. The tool has a wide range of application possibilities from consumer portable electronic products to medical and military devices.

For Optimization Analysis, NEi in partnership with Red Cedar Technology employed the Hierarchical Evolutionary Engineering Design System (HEEDS) to create a tool that can assign design objectives to minimize, maximize or target parameters like geometric data, weight, eigenvalues, stress, and temperature. In practice, Optimization may reveal innovative solutions that proved difficult to find because the design space was complicated and highly interrelated, a typical scenario that occurs in designing high strength to weight components.

Dave Weinberg, CEO of NEi, summarized the value of the new technology “NEiFusion is all about being relevant to today’s product development teams. The pressure is constantly on to design faster, better, cheaper. But how do you do that? One way is to change the “make and break” methodology that consumes so much time and money in prototypes, testing and redesign. Our answer is a simulation tool that efficiently and affordably substitutes up-front virtual testing and provides affordable and usable optimization at the CAD design stage.”

The link to the NEiFusion V1.2 webpage is <http://www.nenastran.com/NEiFusionV12>.

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PDXpert PLM Software Now Available in Chinese Language

14 August 2007

Active Sensing, Inc. (ASI) announced the release of PDXpert® PLM product lifecycle management software in Simplified Chinese.

PDXpert PLM product lifecycle management software has attracted strong interest from companies in world manufacturing powerhouses China and India. With the addition of a Chinese version, PDXpert PLM now supports two of the fastest-growing markets for product lifecycle management software with their preferred local language versions. "We're pleased to be introducing a localized version of PDXpert PLM software to China," said Charles Lu, President of Beyond Source, Inc. "Chinese manufacturers have been seeking a complete, easy-to-use PLM solution at an affordable price, and we think PDXpert PLM hits the market sweet spot."

PDXpert PLM software has been designed to address growing companies' product data management processes: it's simple to use and flexible to apply while improving data accessibility and security. PDXpert PLM software provides comprehensive PLM capabilities: document and part definition, bill of materials (BOM) management, engineering change forms with approval workflow, and electronic data library. Its rich client includes advanced features like free-form text searches; category-based item numbering; drag-and-drop construction of bills of materials and change forms; unique undo/redo editing; user-defined custom properties; and easy data export.

Outside of China a complete single-user PDXpert PLM system is just US\$999, and volume discounts can reduce the cost to as little as US\$499 per user; annual maintenance contracts are optional. Yuan prices within China are comparable. PDXpert PLM software is available now in English at the <http://www.buyplm.com/> website. The Chinese version may be obtained by contacting Beyond Source, Inc. at their website: <http://www.beyondsource.cn/>

About Active Sensing, Inc.

Since 1994, Active Sensing, Inc. (ASI) has been providing affordable product management solutions for manufacturing companies around the world, from start-ups to the Fortune 500. ASI strives for a no-hassle PLM experience with fully-functional evaluation systems that can be downloaded and tried prior to purchase; published prices and discounts; choice of perpetual or subscription licenses; simple installation; and straight-forward application administration and simple user interface. For more information, please visit their website <http://www.buyplm.com/>, send an email inquiry to SalesInfo@ActiveSensing.com or, in the U.S., call toll-free 1-800-9-BUY-PLM (international: +1-805-504-9536).

About Beyond Source, Inc.

Beyond Source, Inc., based in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, is an ASI authorized reseller for China. Beyond Source, Inc. offers PLM installation, configuration, data migration, and training services to product manufacturers throughout China. For more information, please visit their website <http://www.beyondsource.cn/>, send an email inquiry to SalesInfo@BeyondSrc.com or call +86 (020) 3938-8396.

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Silver Creek Systems and Endeca Unveil DataLens Foundry for Endeca IAP, Announce Reseller Deal

15 August 2007

[Silver Creek Systems](#), a pioneer and leader in enterprise product data integration solutions, and Endeca Technologies, Inc., an enterprise information access software company, announced the immediate availability of DataLens™ Foundry for [Endeca](#), a new software module for the Endeca Information Access Platform (IAP) that automatically extracts and standardizes all product data characteristics from one or multiple sources for use in information-access applications. The companies also announced a new reseller agreement that will give Endeca the ability to sell the DataLens Foundry directly to new and existing customers. The DataLens Foundry is available immediately for Endeca customers and prospects.

Aimed at retailers, manufacturers, distributors, and other enterprises that deal with large quantities of heterogeneous product information, the DataLens Foundry for Endeca module is designed to work with product catalogs, product information management (PIM) systems, master data management (MDM) systems, and other product-data repositories. Utilizing Silver Creek's DataLens System, the module extracts and normalizes attributes and characteristics from product data and feeds them directly into the Endeca IAP, where they can be used to optimize Endeca's signature Guided Navigation® experience. This is especially important in business-to-business eCommerce, eProcurement, online retail, and supply chain visibility applications where successful discovery of products – by functional requirements, characteristics, and specifications – has a direct impact on revenue, costs and profit margin.

“By teaming up with best-of-breed partners like Silver Creek, we can continue to focus our research and development on our core assets while simultaneously addressing specialized data management challenges facing retail, manufacturing, and distribution enterprises,” said John Andrews, director of applications marketing for Endeca. “It's a winning strategy for accelerating innovation and ensuring that our clients can quickly take advantage of the very best technology solutions on the market.”

Martin Boyd, VP of marketing for Silver Creek Systems, adds, “Our DataLens System changes the economics of standardizing product data for search or any other data-integration task. Integrating it directly into the Endeca platform to combine great data with great information access is a powerful solution that is unique in the market. We already have customers using our combined solutions and the value for customers is clear.”

The DataLens Foundry for Endeca module delivers automated data cleansing and standardization, removing the significant time, manual effort and resources traditionally used to clean “dirty data.” Its patented semantic technology standardizes and normalizes such items as terms/spelling, abbreviations, units of measure, color shades, unique and range values, and defaults for missing values, enabling users to find products more easily.

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UGS PLM Software Expands Velocity Series Channel

14 August 2007

[UGS PLM Software](#), a division of Siemens Automation and Drives ([A&D](#)), announced that GrandTech CG Systems Inc. and CADMEN Group's Flowmen Technology Company Ltd. are now members of its Global Channel Partner Program and are authorized to sell the company's UGS Velocity Series™

solutions in Taiwan.

“Taiwan’s mid-size manufacturers have always been the moving force of the local economy,” said Hans-Kurt Lübberstedt, senior vice president, Asia Pacific, Siemens UGS PLM Software. “Facing constantly changing and complex product development processes, they have to make good use of PLM tools and build their procedure knowledge bank so that R&D personnel can quickly obtain the necessary information. This enables them to compete with their larger counterparts around the world.”

“We are glad to welcome GrandTech and Flowmen, two powerful names in the industry, as partners. We believe that their professionalism and technical service capabilities will bring high-quality and cost-effective PLM solutions and services to Taiwan’s growing businesses,” added Lübberstedt.

“Taiwan’s mid-markets understand the role of product launch timing in shaping their market competitiveness,” said Peter Hung, general manager of Grandtech CG Systems. “Thus, lower-cost PLM systems such as UGS Velocity Series allow them to upgrade product development flows, while at the same time improving the relevant management qualities of product development lifecycles. By obtaining distribution rights for UGS Velocity Series, we can provide, through many years of experience in drawing and multimedia, an excellent tool for PLM for local manufacturing industry growing businesses.”

Nerow Yang, Chairman of Flowmen Technology, noted that in the face of global competition, the manufacturing industry has to confront the issues of how to carry out product innovation and joint development so as to shorten product lifecycle, two factors that determine a company’s continued survival. “Our participation in the UGS PLM Software’s channel program will undoubtedly boost our expertise and operations advantages in R&D services and consultant work as we offer low-cost, high-efficiency PLM solutions and services to mid-size manufacturers in Taiwan. Flowmen has already integrated UGS Velocity Series solutions with various types of CAE-optimized design analysis solutions in an effort to provide the industry with the most beneficial integrated R&D platform and tools,” added Yang.

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Zuken Supports Arria™ GX FPGAs from Altera

14 August 2007

Zuken, the engineering consulting company, is providing a helping hand to designers adopting the latest technology, by offering free simulation design kits to assist with the integration of Altera Corporation’s new Arria™ GX FPGAs onto printed circuit boards (PCBs).

The Arria™ GX FPGAs, Altera’s new low cost, transceiver-based devices are ideal for - cost-sensitive high-volume applications where the technology is moving very rapidly with short design cycles, such as communications, computer, storage and industrial. Zuken is quick to provide users of its enterprise-wide advanced packaging and PCB design environment, CR-5000, with simulation design kits that enable rapid and easy adoption of the devices.

An extensive set of topology templates makes routing to JEDEC-defined signaling standards such as SSTL 1.8V a straightforward process. The kit makes it easy to compare real-board performance against the theoretical ideal, using waveform and eye pattern analysis, in addition to simulation models. To assist in electromagnetic compatibility, it also allows users to view results in both time and frequency domain, displaying both voltage and current. Importing the design kit is straightforward: the user simply

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visits Zuken's support website, LinkZ, and clicks to download.

Free downloads are available for Zuken customers with a LinkZ login. Visit <http://www.zuken.com/linkz>

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