

Press Release

Allgaier, AutoForm and Tebis are Tackling Challenging Market Demands with an Innovative Approach

Zurich, Switzerland, September 01, 2008: The die-making industry is facing almost impossible challenges with ever shorter delivery times and more and more competitive prices. The limitations given by traditional methods, have forced Allgaier to explore new options. As a result, AutoForm Engineering GmbH and Tebis AG are supporting Allgaier to implement an innovative approach in order to meet the challenging market demands.

Part modifications or problems during the tryout phase due to springback effects are daily routine in the die-making industry. They result in higher costs and only become visible late in the tooling development cycle, by trial and error. Compared to this, Allgaier proposed the implementation of software tools that can already in an early stage optimize the process planning, die face design and complete forming process. In order to assess and validate this approach, Allgaier used a sheet metal part of an SUV produced by a premium manufacturer.

One of the new software tools was provided by AutoForm. Starting from CATIA data, AutoForm's software enabled an accurate and rapid validation of a robust manufacturing process, taking real industrial conditions into account. This includes springback calculation and its compensation long before the tryout. This type of approach minimizes the number of correction loops and improves the planning reliability. In order to maintain the digital data flow, Tebis software was used right afterwards. Tebis software and its interface to AutoForm enabled the generation of high-quality milling surfaces, based on the AutoForm mesh data. Even the changes of the initial process concept were automatically transferred from AutoForm to Tebis, resulting in a push-button actualization of the die surfaces. As a result, Allgaier could eliminate the time-consuming process of multiple die surface designs in CATIA V5.

Despite numerous unknowns at the beginning of the project, Allgaier has successfully completed the project with the support and expertise of both partners. The acquisition of additional software, both from AutoForm and Tebis, proves Allgaier's trust in this new approach.

Mr. Helmar Assfalg, General Manager of Allgaier, explains: "With this innovative approach, Allgaier continues to strengthen its reputation as a high-quality tool & die manufacturer. The acknowledged product quality will also be achieved in the future, including shorter delivery times and even more competitive prices."

About Allgaier Automotive GmbH

Allgaier Werke GmbH boasts a history that goes back over a hundred years in two business fields: automotive and process technology. Headquartered in Uhingen, Allgaier Automotive acts as a system supplier for the international automotive industry. This covers the production of pressed parts and ready-to-install car body components made of steel and aluminium. In addition, Allgaier's activities include the development and manufacturing of high quality forming tools. A speciality of the Allgaier Automotive Division is the development of fuel tanks as complete systems and the subsequent manufacture of these on automated equipment. The number of trainees at Allgaier is above average so that the company can ensure an active new generation of employees for the complex and promising tasks that lie ahead in the future. Read more about Allgaier at www.allgaier.de.

About Tebis AG

Founded in 1984, Tebis AG is one of the leading providers of 3D CAD/CAM software, primarily for the manufacturing-intensive industries of model, mold and die manufacturing. Over 5000 systems are used around the world by more than 1500 clients. Most European, Asian and American automotive manufacturers use Tebis. In the area of sheet metal die manufacturing, over 600 companies internationally work with Tebis technology. The user-friendly CAD/CAM functions are used by die designers and planning engineers to constructively prepare the components of a sheet metal working die for milling. NC programmers use Tebis CAM modules to calculate 2- to 5-axis toolpaths for drilling, milling, wire EDM and laser cutting technologies. For detailed information visit: www.tebis.com

About AutoForm Engineering GmbH

AutoForm offers software solutions for the die-making and sheet metal forming industries along the entire process chain. With over 200 employees, AutoForm is recognized as the leading provider of software for product manufacturability, tool and material cost calculation, die face design and virtual process optimization. All of the Top 20 automotive OEMs and most of their suppliers have selected AutoForm as their software of choice. Besides its headquarters in Zurich, AutoForm has offices in Germany, The Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy, USA, Mexico, India, China, Japan and Korea. AutoForm is also present through its agents in more than 15 other countries. For detailed information please visit: www.autoform.com

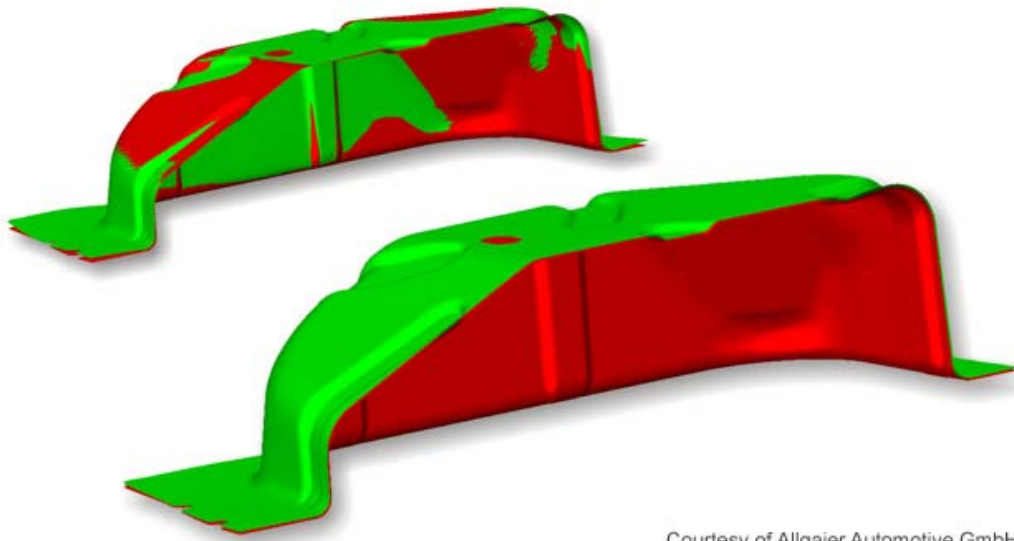
Contact:

Dr. Markus Thomma
Director of Marketing
AutoForm Engineering GmbH
Technoparkstrasse 1
CH-8005 Zurich
Switzerland

Phone: +41 43 444 61 61

Fax: +41 43 444 61 62

Email: markus.thomma@autoform.ch



Courtesy of Allgaier Automotive GmbH

Comparison of part geometry (red) with reference geometry (green) before springback compensation (top) and after springback compensation (bottom)



Courtesy of Allgaier Automotive GmbH

Production of a sheet metal part for a premium SUV manufacturer

If you need a high resolution image, please contact us.