

Press Release

Double Analysis Output with AutoForm

Zurich, Switzerland, October 20, 2009: AutoForm Engineering Deutschland GmbH has collaborated with ThyssenKrupp Drauz Nothelfer GmbH (TKDN) on an extensive simultaneous engineering project. This project demonstrates how an efficient software solution and experienced specialists can realize extensive simulation output with no increase in manpower. The main task is to analyze the feasibility of body structural parts for a car project and to prepare its production sequence. By using AutoForm-DataManager and AutoForm-ReportManager, analyses can be documented in detail.

Because of the scope of the project and the short amount of time for the analyses, TKDN turned to the expertise of AutoForm's technical support. 67 parts are examined for their feasibility which amounts to 1474 simulations and 355 reports, double the analysis output at TKDN. The significant time savings allows for the examination of all challenging parts and the integration of several optimization loops.

Experienced TKDN process planners have been involved in this project since the start and have been working on production sequences. AutoForm-OneStep enables them to analyze parts and their feasibility as well as filter out non-producible parts prior to draw die design. AutoForm-DieDesigner is used for draw die design and its optimization, resulting in substantial time savings in comparison to CAD designs.

AutoForm specialists analyze the feasibility of parts in detail by using AutoForm-Incremental. AutoForm-Trim determines the trim line of the developed flange and AutoForm-Nest minimizes material usage. The implementation of these specialized products results in an integrated software solution.

The evaluation of feasible process parameters leads to a rapidly increasing amount of simulation data, making it necessary to address data management. AutoForm-DataManager, which is an integral part of AutoForm software, enables AutoForm specialists to master the data flow. Thanks to its integrated data bank, it offers efficient data organization supported by hierarchical structures. Simulation parameters can be presented in detail and the status of the part can be noted. AutoForm-ReportManager, also an integral part of AutoForm software, is then applied to standardize the simulation results and render them comparable. Dynamic links allow for rapid update of reports and minimal sources of errors. The output in pdf-format enables an efficient and clear transfer of simulation results to all those involved with the project.

Christof Hoffmann, Manager for Product and Process Development of Body Stamped Parts at TKDN: "The investment in the project support provided by AutoForm and the application of their software has proven fruitful. The results thus far are convincing and I completely support the purchase of further licenses." TKDN is now able to carry out simultaneous engineering projects for car bodies entirely on their own.

AutoForm-DataManager and AutoForm-ReportManager

AutoForm-DataManager is software for the efficient management of AutoForm data which is accumulated through numerous simulations in order to define the final tool design and optimal process parameters. Thanks to the integrated data bank, advanced search possibilities are available based on project information and data can be organized in a hierarchical structure.

AutoForm-ReportManager is software which is used to clearly present simulation results and process data. This software is beneficial to AutoForm users for collaboration between different departments or involvement in simultaneous engineering projects. Special functions differentiate it from other software for standard presentations – it is faster, more efficient and more user friendly. The standardized report presentation of simulation results between OEMs and suppliers is possible with the included report template which can be customized. Dynamic variables allow the easy update of reports with just a simple mouse click.

About ThyssenKrupp Drauz Nothelfer GmbH

ThyssenKrupp Drauz Nothelfer is a division of ThyssenKrupp System Engineering, which is integrated within the ThyssenKrupp Group Technologies segment of the ThyssenKrupp Group. Toolmaking is one of the core businesses within its wide service spectrum. The company is able to take on the complete production of vehicles, starting from design up to production. 820 employees are responsible for part development, including feasibility analyses, simulation of forming and trimming operations as well as process planning. In addition, the manufacturing of tooling sets for mass production as well as for outer skin parts is also carried out. For detailed information please visit: www.drauznothelfer.com

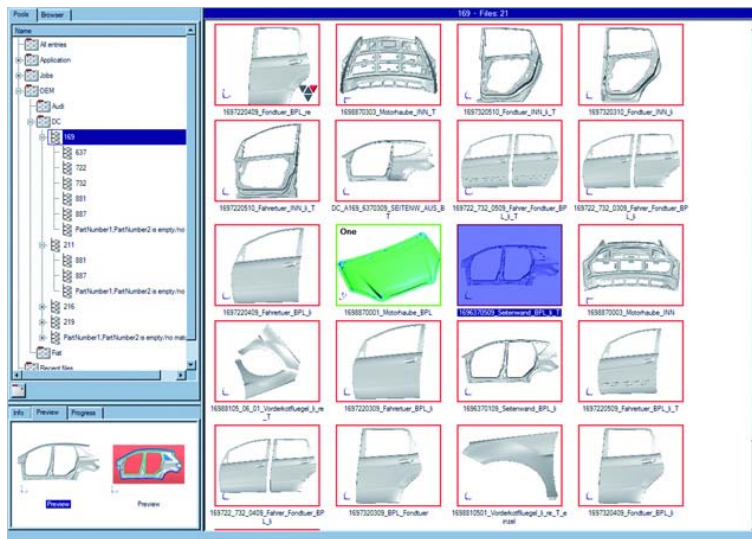
About AutoForm Engineering GmbH

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 Switzerland, 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

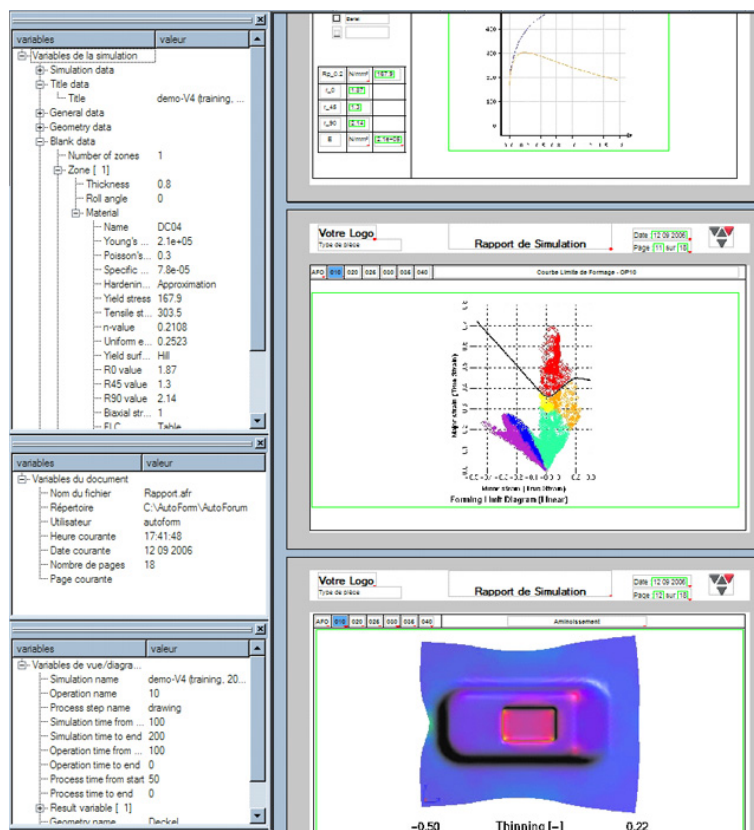
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AutoForm-DataManager is an integral part of AutoForm software. It simplifies the organization and handling of simulation data. The integrated data bank offers numerous search possibilities based on project information.



AutoForm-ReportManager is also an integral part of AutoForm software. It simplifies the presentation of standardized and thus comparable documentation of simulation results.