

## Press Release

### Ford Germany Implements AutoForm Software for Part Feasibility During Pre-Program Phase

**Zurich, September 27, 2004.** AutoForm has announced that Ford is the first automotive OEM in Germany to implement its AutoForm-OneStep and AutoForm-DieDesigner software solutions for stamping feasibility analysis early in the product development cycle.

According to Christian J. Pomberg, Supervisor Forward Planning & Vehicle Line Interface Stamping Engineering at Ford Germany: "Our department is responsible for the planning and procurement of robust and efficient auto body tools for our new products. With AutoForm software solutions we are able to determine at an early stage the feasibility of the stampings taking into account quality criteria, design goals and state-of-the-art materials. A positive feasibility analysis allows us to then start process planning. Our goals are to minimize risk, to reduce tooling development costs during the entire product life cycle, and to strictly adhere to or even shorten delivery dates. This is our contribution to Ford's Computer Aided Manufacturing Strategy."

In 1998, Ford Germany obtained an initial AutoForm test license for evaluation purposes. The following year, AutoForm software won a Ford benchmark comparison based on its advantages: good price-performance ratio, user friendly interface, relatively short computation times and reliable predictions of tryout results using simulations.

Today, Ford Germany uses a variety of AutoForm software modules during different phases of the vehicle development process:

- 'OneStep' and 'DieDesigner' modules are used by feasibility experts during the pre-program phase for stamping feasibility checks (newest application);
- 'OneStep' and 'DieDesigner' modules are then used for advanced project planning and initial tooling development; and
- 'Incremental' and 'DieDesigner' modules are used for subsequent process planning of the stamping operations. In addition, material planners use the 'Nest' module for optimized nesting of blanks during the process layout phase.

The number of AutoForm seats at Ford Germany is planned to increase further.

Engineering contractors who work with Ford Germany are required to submit simulations of their process layouts in order to do business with the company. Therefore, all of Ford Germany's deep drawn parts, whether developed in-house or externally, are validated through stamping process simulations.

Ford's feedback regarding their applications of AutoForm software is positive. According to Christian J. Pomberg, "We are very satisfied with the AutoForm software modules. They address our manufacturing issues and deliver fast and reliable answers."

#### **About AutoForm Engineering**

*AutoForm Engineering develops and markets specialized die face design and simulation software for the automotive and sheet metal forming industries.*

*With all of the Top 20 automobile producers as customers (e.g. Audi, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, GM, Nissan, VW), AutoForm is recognized as the number one provider of software for product formability, die face design and virtual tryouts to the global automotive industry.*

*AutoForm offices are located in Switzerland, Germany, USA, Spain, France, The Netherlands, China and Korea. The company also serves the needs of its customers through agents and distributors in more than 15 other countries (Japan, Italy, etc.)*

*For detailed information visit: [www.autoform.com](http://www.autoform.com)*

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AutoForm-OneStep simulation result of a hood inner panel

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