

Press Release

AutoForm Software for Loch's Progressive Dies

Zurich, March 15, 2006: The company Wolfgang Loch e.K. of Idar-Oberstein, Germany, manufacturer of dies, prototypes and high precision stampings, started using AutoForm software for progressive and transfer dies in May 2005.

General Manager Mr. Wolfgang Loch explains: "We use both transfer and progressive dies. Since we produce mostly airbag components, our customers have very high requirements regarding the reliability of our products. We are proud of the fact that we are among the first in our field to recognize the important benefits of simulation. AutoForm is able to handle the complex multi-step processes that are our daily business. So, we consider the implementation of AutoForm software in our company as an industry-leading project for optimization of transfer and progressive dies."

There are a variety of different applications for AutoForm at Loch. The software is used for feasibility analysis of deep drawn components, for definition and verification of process layout, for simulation and checking of entire tools, for customer-driven investigations of thickness distribution, stresses and hardening, and finally for trim line determination. AutoForm impressed Loch by its ability to identify complex forming problems during early phases of development, therefore reducing the number of press tryouts required and the number of optimization loops. AutoForm's software solutions also play an important role in contacts to customers, who not only require a high level of reliability in the parts they purchase from Loch, but also attach great importance to continuous innovation and optimization of tool design methods. By using AutoForm software, Loch can demonstrate to customers, among other things, why they have selected a specific tool concept.

According to Mr. Wolfgang Loch, some of their customers view simulation as a necessity already during the project planning phase, during which they want to know the feasibility of the forming process. Loch has already developed several projects with new customers, due to the simulation results.

"We are impressed particularly by the possibility to perform simulations using different parameters within the specifications of the raw material, so that the weak points of a tool design are quickly detected. At present, two employees are working with the AutoForm-Incremental and AutoForm-Trim modules. However, we are planning further seats, as well as eventual implementation of AutoForm-Sigma. Currently, the main focus is to further explore the large potential of AutoForm software." concludes Mr. Wolfgang Loch.

About Wolfgang Loch e.K.

Wolfgang Loch e.K. was founded in 1976 and has over 300 employees. The company's production range covers prototypes, progressive and transfer dies, as well as stampings (up to 800 ton press force). Main customers are system suppliers to the automotive industry. Loch's manufacturing plants are located in Idar-Oberstein, Germany and close to Sao Paulo, Brazil. For detailed information visit: www.loch.de

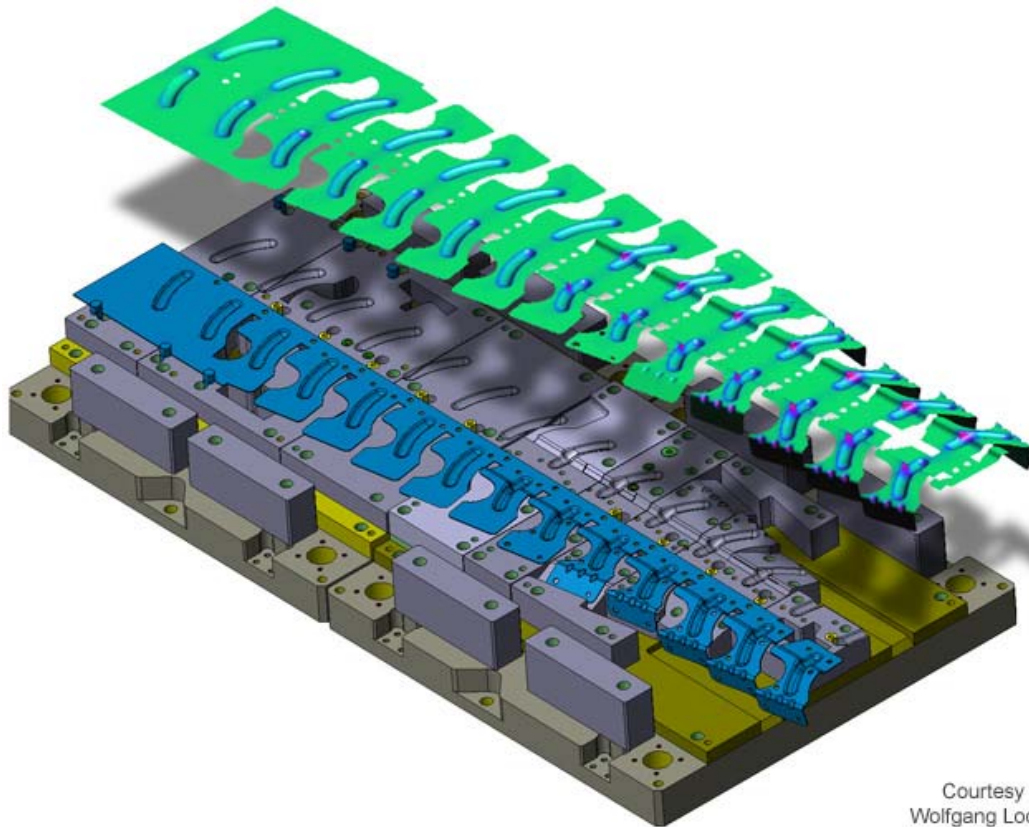
About AutoForm Engineering

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, 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, Spain, Italy, France, The Netherlands, USA, China and Korea. The company also serves the needs of its customers through agents and distributors in more than 15 other countries (Japan, Turkey, Brazil, etc.). For detailed information visit: www.autoform.com

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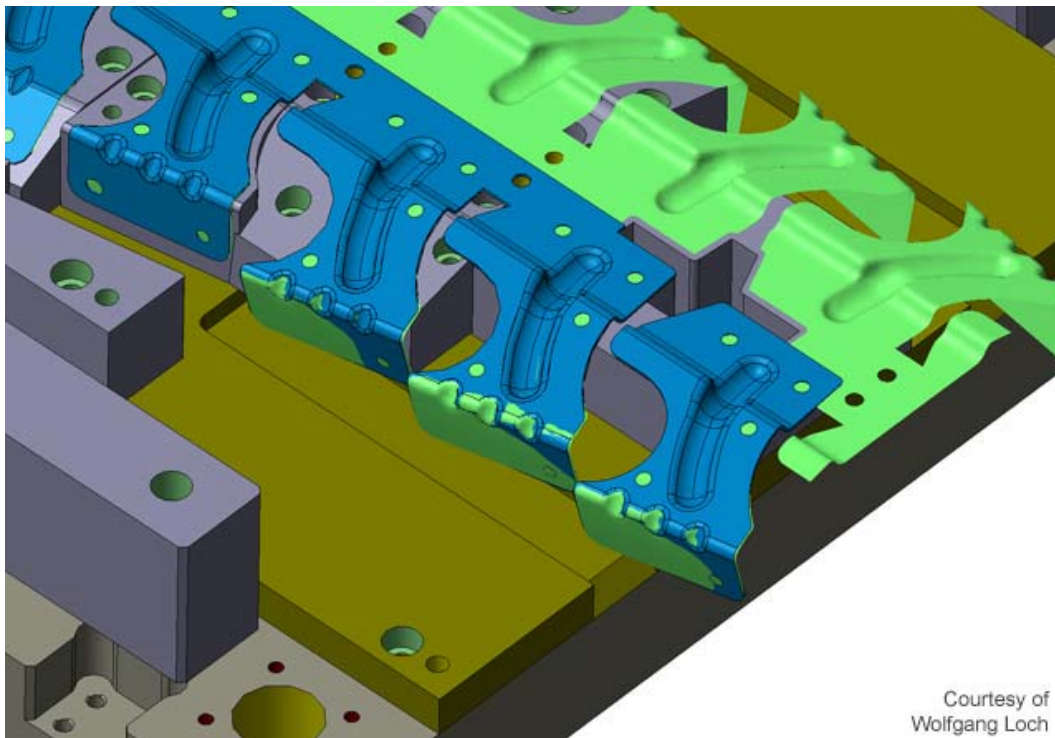
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Courtesy of
Wolfgang Loch

Process layout (blue), simulation results (green) and lower part of the progressive die for an airbag component.



Courtesy of
Wolfgang Loch

Critical zone at the end of the entire forming process: by comparing simulation results (green) with the target/reference geometry (blue) one can identify stamping problems and solve them prior to manufacturing the die.

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