

## Press Release

### AutoForm Wins Prestigious 'Excellence in Productivity' Award

**Zurich, Switzerland and Paris, France, May 29, 2006: AutoForm is proud winner of the international award 'Excellence in Productivity', received at the 2006 INDUSTRIE trade show in Paris. The award was given for AutoForm-Sigma, a new, innovative product that improves user productivity.**

AutoForm-Sigma, a new software that was developed specifically to improve robustness in sheet metal forming applications, was one of the winners of the award, given for innovations that improve user productivity. "The five winners have been awarded today ...for their particularly innovative products which result in high productivity gains...", said Mr. Benoît Gauthier, General Commissioner of the INDUSTRIE trade show at the award ceremony. The INDUSTRIE trade show focuses on the industrial and manufacturing sectors, and is a biennial event that brings together 1'500 exhibitors and 60'000 visitors.

Mr. Vincent Ferragu, Managing Director of AutoForm Engineering in France, received the award from Mr. François Loos, French Minister Delegate for Industry. Mr. Ferragu stated: "This award is further recognition of AutoForm's continuous emphasis on innovation, that is of the highest importance in our company. By combining and leveraging the experience and knowledge of our expert staff, we are constantly advancing the state-of-the-art for our customers. AutoForm-Sigma is one of several innovative AutoForm solutions that provides customers with tangible and reliable benefits."

AutoForm-Sigma, unique on the stamping simulation market, allows companies that stamp sheet metal parts to improve their efficiency and productivity (OEE values) by:

- Reducing reject rates and assembly failures, thereby maximizing production efficiency
- Reducing unplanned press downtime and tool maintenance
- Better understanding and defining the stamping process, (minimizing or eliminating the need for continuous process adjustments), thereby leading to more stable production processes

AutoForm-Sigma automatically carries out multiple stamping simulations, changing design and process parameters and performing statistical analyses, until it finds the 'robust optimum' stamping conditions. This robust optimum corresponds to the most reliable overall conditions for stamping parts that meet a company's quality and production specifications. With AutoForm-Sigma, companies can therefore address stamping robustness issues during the earlier phases of product and tooling design. This results in faster time-to-market for new products, with obvious advantages in time and cost savings.

#### **About AutoForm Engineering**

*AutoForm Engineering develops and markets specialized die face design and simulation software for the die-making and sheet metal forming industries. With all of the Top 20 automobile manufacturers 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, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, 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](http://www.autoform.com)*

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'Excellence in Productivity' award ceremony in Paris:  
Vincent Ferragu, AutoForm Engineering France (left) and  
François Loos, French Minister Delegate for Industry (right)

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