

## Press Release

### AutoForm 'Emergency Rescue' at Gütersloher Werkzeugbau GmbH

**Zurich, Switzerland, August 16, 2006: AutoForm Engineering's software recently solved a key issue during the tooling development phase at German toolmaker Gütersloher Werkzeugbau GmbH. The tool being developed was for a difficult to produce hinge reinforcement for the new Mercedes-Benz Sprinter.**

Mr. Eberhard Budde, Plant Manager at Gütersloher Werkzeugbau GmbH (GWB) explains: "We were asked to supply a tool to Kurt Erxleben GmbH (sheet metal stampers), to produce the challenging hinge reinforcement in a maximum of three drawing stages. The main problem we had to solve was that the material at the hinge corners had a maximum allowable thinning tolerance of 20%. This thinning tolerance was a specific restriction of DaimlerChrysler, as the hinges support the heavy tailgate of the new Sprinter van – and therefore tears or other sheet metal failures must not occur."

The 20% maximum thinning tolerance was a major constraint for GWB. At the hinge edges and corners, the formed metal would typically become too thin. Even by changing the tool radius and using lubricants, the resulting thinning exceeded the allowable tolerance. The 'Emergency Rescue' was finally performed by optimizing the drawing stages with technology from AutoForm Engineering GmbH. It took only three days using AutoForm simulation software to find a solution for the tool, and to obtain a fully formed part in only two drawing stages.

Today, the hinge is produced within an acceptable range of 6-16% thinning. GWB has also been highly impressed by the fact that AutoForm's simulation results showed the same thinning values as they saw in their experimental trials. This was further confirmation of the highly reliable results that AutoForm has been delivering already for several years.

Two modules from the AutoForm suite of solutions were used in this project. First, with AutoForm-Incremental, the tools, blank and all related process parameters were defined. AutoForm-Incremental was also used to simulate the forming process and evaluate the results. Then, using the AutoForm-DieDesigner geometry generator, the first drawing step was redesigned and the tooling geometry was created. "Our collaboration with AutoForm was excellent and we will make use of their services again. If we receive more customer orders like this in the future, I could very well imagine purchasing AutoForm software", summarized Mr. Eberhard Budde.

#### **About Gütersloher Werkzeugbau GmbH**

*Gütersloher Werkzeugbau GmbH is a fully owned subsidiary of Mühlhoff Umformtechnik GmbH of Uedem, Germany, a stamping company that supplies body parts to all major automotive manufacturers. The company generated 2.4 million Euros turnover in 2004, has 26 employees and is certified to the DIN ISO 9001:2000 standard since 2005. In the past the company worked exclusively for Mühlhoff Umformtechnik GmbH, and since 2004 it has increased its external business – including to automotive supplier Kurt Erxleben GmbH that produces sheet metal parts. For detailed information visit: [www.guetersloher-werkzeugbau.de](http://www.guetersloher-werkzeugbau.de)*

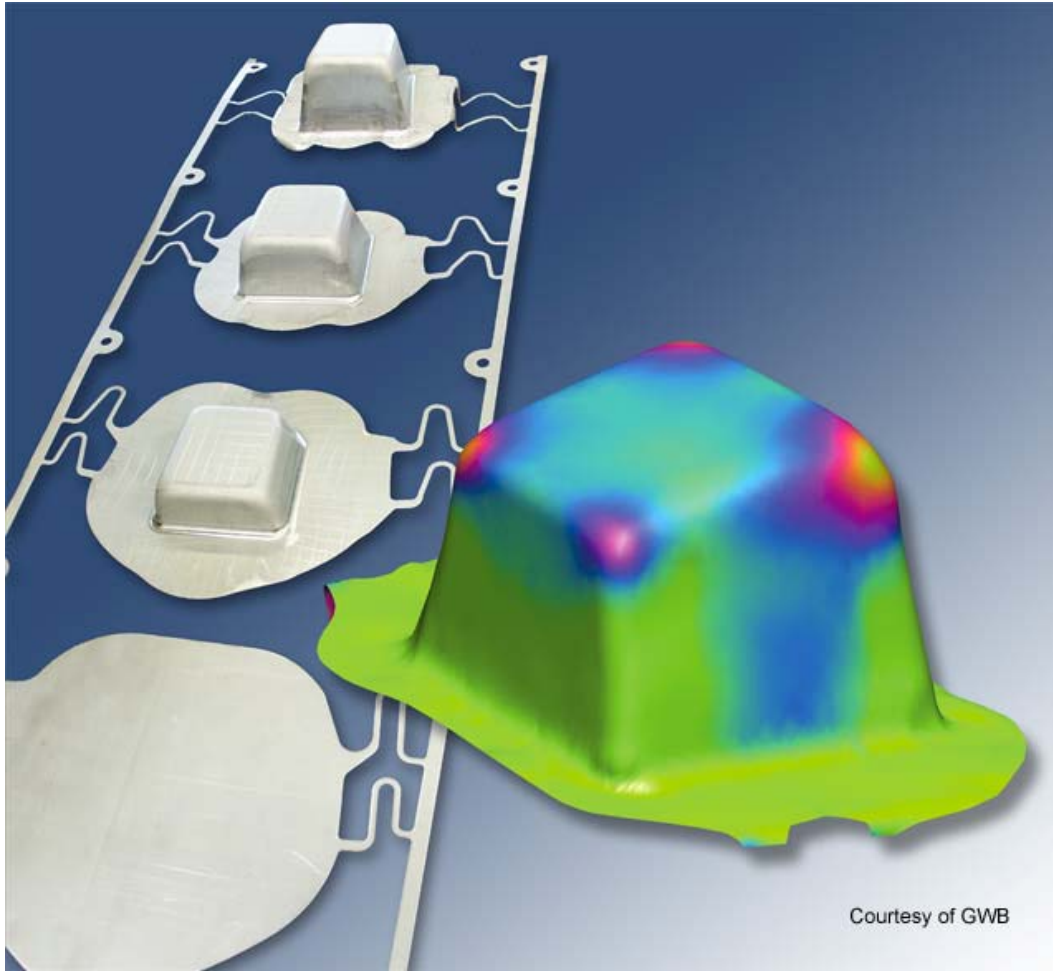
#### **About AutoForm Engineering GmbH**

*AutoForm Engineering GmbH 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, Germany, The Netherlands, France, 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)*

#### 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](mailto:markus.thomma@autoform.ch)



Strip layout of hinge reinforcement and color plot of simulation results (thinning)

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