

Press Release

AutoForm Software Expansion at Werkzeugbau Laichingen GmbH

Zurich, Switzerland, February 19, 2007. The company **Werkzeugbau Laichingen GmbH** was one of the first medium-sized companies in Germany, that started using **AutoForm** software ten years ago. Since then, numerous stamping processes have been optimized using **AutoForm** software and its field of applications has been expanded further in the company.

Mr. Armin Schmid, CAD/CAM Manager responsible for die face design and NC programming stated: "Since December 1996 we have been using AutoForm-Incremental and in summer 2006 we started to use AutoForm-Trim. The first results were successful beyond all expectations. By using AutoForm-Trim, we were able to determine the optimum trim line of a locking plate and to design the progressive die including all corresponding cutting and forming stations. This aggressive approach enabled us to reduce the number of optimization loops and to achieve tremendous cost and time savings."

One of the reasons for choosing AutoForm software was the achieved process reliability. The accurate simulation results enable appropriate measures regarding the critical areas or failures, already during the design phase. Such measures reduce the risks for typical part modifications. By using AutoForm-Trim, tooling engineers can rely on minimal coil width and pitch determination for the progressive die stampings, thus reducing material costs. Previously required laser-trim tryouts can be completely eliminated, significantly reducing lead time. In general, the experts could expand their knowledge regarding the entire process, being able to observe it virtually. This is extremely important, considering an increasing number of new materials, where often even industry experts are faced with limits. AutoForm software pushes these limits and allows successful and easy implementation of new materials.

"Manufacturing high quality dies is not enough anymore in today's competitive environments. On-time delivery is crucial to build long-term customer relationships. Our ability to meet demanding deadlines combined with our competence in forming technology is very attractive to our customers," summarized Mr. Jürgen Mangold, CEO of Werkzeugbau Laichingen.

About Werkzeugbau Laichingen GmbH

Werkzeugbau Laichingen GmbH specializes in die manufacturing for high precision stampings. The company has more than 100 years history and its 115 employees are taking over production of all types of stamping and forming dies. With an integrated digital work flow, multi-shift operation and most modern production line, the company is able to respond quickly, flexibly and precisely to the customers requirements. Having the ability to maintain, improve and adapt tools as well as to take over production for customers during ramp-up and ramp-down phases, the company has built a reputation for being the center of competence for stamping processes. For detailed information visit: www.wzbl.de

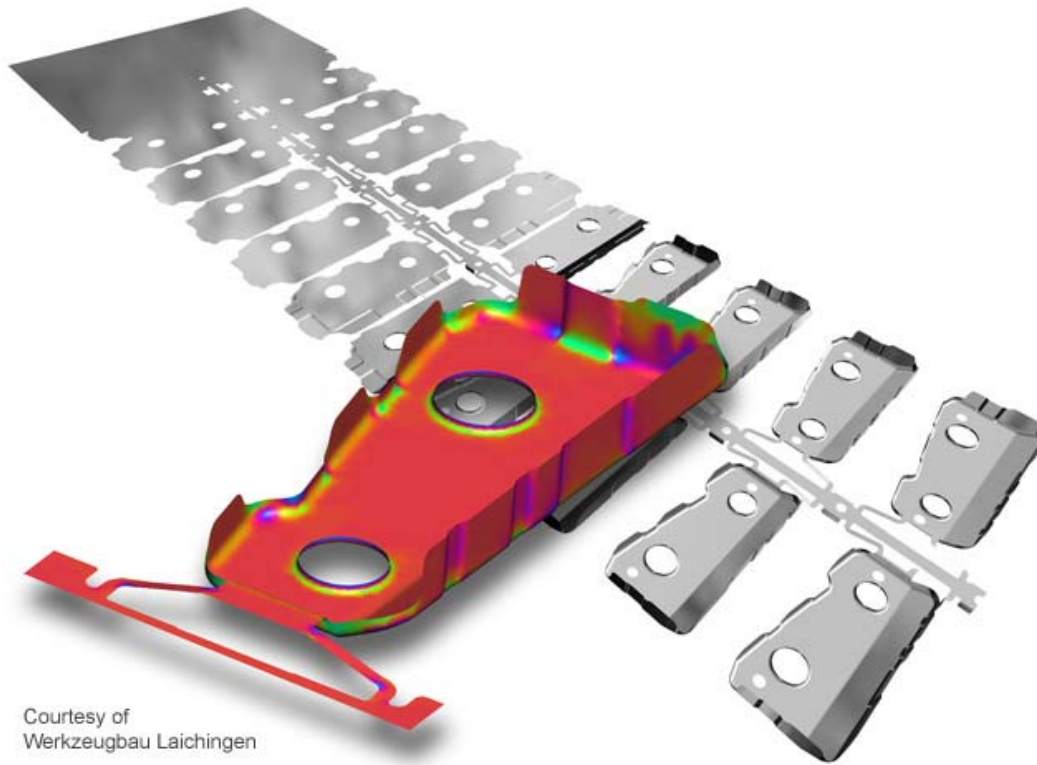
About AutoForm Engineering GmbH

AutoForm Engineering GmbH 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 and 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, Mexico, India, 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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Courtesy of
Werkzeuggestaltung Laichingen

Strip layout (gray) and simulation result (red) of a locking plate

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