After thorough testing, Fontana Pietro selected AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™, software for its internal product development process.

**DIE DESIGN IN CATIA**

**ISMR SAYS:**
“*The creation of surfaces is becoming a critical aspect in this complex market where the competitive edge is timing.*

Sheet metal forming involves the creation of surfaces which, depending upon their own complexity, enable adjustments to be made at the right time and to the desired level of precision and quality. This is a key concern for the technicians working for the engineering department at Fontana Pietro. Fontana Group activities encompass engineering; die design and construction; car body production and interior design construction. Fontana Pietro is the Group’s headquarters in Italy and has been the domestic and international reference point for the design and manufacture of stamping dies in sheet metal forming for over 50 years. It serves well known, prestigious automotive OEMs around the world.

Following positive feedback, the software was bought and implemented internally within its product development process to optimise the methodologies and strategies already in place.

**Engineering to investigate the benefits offered by the AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ software.** From the very beginning, it has demonstrated the potential to meet our needs.” AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™, one of the software products which AutoForm offers for the die-making and sheet metal forming industries, connects competence in sheet metal forming with the effective design functionalities of CATIA V5. This software enables companies worldwide to quickly, efficiently and, above all, effectively create high quality CAD surfaces which could be difficult to handle within CAD. It became clear that this procedure was slow, complex and, above all, time-consuming for the creation of CAD quality surfaces which could be immediately used in CNC machining,” said Ricardo Brivio, RMD Engineer, Fontana Pietro.

AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ software is what AutoForm itself terms the “strategic missing link” which enables the user to create a die layout, which includes not only the drawing but also all secondary operations, without having to leave the CATIA environment. The software, says AutoForm, fulfils these requirements and offers significant benefits in terms of time reduction and fewer mistakes made.

**From theory to practice**
To assess the operating potential and adaptability of AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™, the engineering department carried out thorough tests on a designated project of one production line. At the same time, two further projects were carried out implementing the strategies currently in use.

“Each of the three projects”, explained Cavagnolo, “employed the same work phases. We noticed that, when applying the features of AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™, the designated project clearly showed relevant time savings.”

When compared to a CATIA license, the software can be used during the running session by adding the AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ license every time it is required. At the same time, the software allows for a high quality level of data update.

“Over-crowning,” concluded Guglielmo Olari, RMD Engineer, Fontana Pietro, “will be the object of further and future operating strategies by our company. Rules will be generated to further reduce the time needed to develop surfaces.”

**Quality in focus**
“The positive feedback received on the performance of AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ has convinced Fontana Pietro to extend the use of it to other departments within the company, such as its Die Process Engineering department. The die process engineer’s job is facilitated, especially when elaborating the early product development phase, thanks to the quality and speed of analysis. What is significant are the benefits and advantages that include the re-use and reproducibility of data, the efficient exchange of data internally among departments and externally among OEMs and their suppliers and the rapid creation of a die layout that includes drawing as well as all secondary operations,” added AutoForm.

“Many of our customers’ files. What we hope to create is an even closer connection between AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ and AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™ software. From the very beginning, it has demonstrated the potential to meet our needs.” AutoForm-ProcessDesigner™, one of the software products which AutoForm offers for the die-making and sheet metal forming industries, connects competence in sheet metal forming with the effective design functionalities of CATIA V5. This software enables companies worldwide to quickly, efficiently and, above all, effectively create high quality CAD surfaces which could be difficult to handle within CAD. It became clear that this procedure was slow, complex and, above all, time-consuming for the creation of CAD quality surfaces which could be immediately used in CNC machining,” added Ricardo Brivio, RMD Engineer, Fontana Pietro.

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