



Manufacturers Realize Their Ideas With the Next Generation of Autodesk's Market-Leading 3D Design and PLM Software

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Latest Version of Autodesk Inventor 10 - World's Best-Selling 3D Design Software and Foundation for Comprehensive Manufacturing Solution; Part of Autodesk's Biggest-Ever Technology Release

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., March 15, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- From designing motion control equipment to intricate conveyor systems, Autodesk, Inc. (Nasdaq: ADSK) today made it easier and faster for manufacturers to turn their ideas into real products. With the immediate availability of Autodesk's newest design and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software, manufacturers can better create, manage and share design information, to compete and win. Autodesk's solutions, unlike any on the market today, are easy to deploy and use, help companies add 3D design at their own pace and help them leverage their design data throughout the manufacturing process. With these latest solutions, Autodesk is the first and only company to offer Functional Design, a new concept in product development, which makes it easier to design in 3D and enables engineers to design more intuitively, avoid "over-engineering" and improve product quality.

A Comprehensive Portfolio of Manufacturing Solutions

Delivering on its strategy to help customers create, manage and share their digital design data and solve critical business challenges, Autodesk offers the most comprehensive portfolio of integrated 2D and 3D design and PLM software available -- helping customers design better quality products, accelerate time to market and achieve maximum project visibility and collaboration. The new products, solutions and enhancements include Autodesk Inventor(R) Series 10, Autodesk Inventor(R) Professional 10, AutoCAD(R) Mechanical 2006, AutoCAD(R) Electrical 2006, Autodesk(R) Vault 4 (integrated into all Autodesk manufacturing design products), Autodesk Productstream(TM) 4, Autodesk Streamline(R) 7 and Autodesk DWF(TM).

"The latest release of Autodesk Inventor is going to transform day-to-day design tasks and improve workflows drastically," said Cory McConnell, a mechanical designer with Mechanix Design Solutions, a consulting firm that specializes in Electro Mechanical, Hydraulic, Materials Handling and Machine Design. "New features within Autodesk Vault will be the tipping point we needed to gain additional productivity through improved data management."

Autodesk Inventor 10: World's Best Selling 3D Design Software

One of the releases most highly anticipated by Autodesk customers and partners is Autodesk Inventor 10. Autodesk Inventor software has become the world's best-selling 3D design software for the 4th year in a row, due in part to the fact that it is the only integrated 2D and 3D solution on the market. In addition, the release of Autodesk Inventor 10 software includes significant, industry-leading capabilities such as Inventor Studio, which enables photorealistic rendering and animation for improved communication across the manufacturing team. In addition, Autodesk Inventor 10 delivers new components of Functional Design, a dramatically more intuitive approach to modeling. Design Accelerator provides tools for creating parts and assemblies based on functional attributes such as speed, power and material properties, and Feature Generator gives users the ability to model and edit using true drag and drop features. Functional Design allows engineers to design end products based on how they will function, rather than designing from a CAD geometry-based standpoint. These new capabilities will fundamentally improve the way engineers design and get products to market.

A Practical Approach to PLM

To extend the value of design data, Autodesk also announced the latest release of its data management solution, comprised of Autodesk Vault (integrated into all Autodesk manufacturing design products), Autodesk Productstream, Autodesk Streamline and Autodesk DWF. This solution solidifies Autodesk's role as a player in the PLM market and enables manufacturers to drive design re-use, release design data to manufacturing in an efficient and timely manner and achieve maximum project visibility with suppliers and customers.

"With this comprehensive solution, our customers can address their most pressing business requirements. The new Functional Design capabilities within Autodesk Inventor software give 2D users a dramatically more intuitive way to design in 3D so they can accelerate product development cycles," said Robert Kross, vice president of Autodesk's manufacturing division. "Our solution also provides them with a practical approach to deploy PLM in order to manage their design information and automate processes for greatly improved cross- functional productivity."

Portfolio of Market-Leading Manufacturing Products

Autodesk's comprehensive solution, which helps customers create, manage and share design data across the manufacturing organization, includes the following highlights:

Create

-- Autodesk Inventor Series 10 includes new components of Functional Design -- Design Accelerator and Feature Generator -- that help existing users improve design efficiency, and new users transition to 3D more easily. In addition, Inventor Studio provides state-of-the-art rendering and animation capabilities for quickly creating photorealistic designs.

-- Autodesk Inventor Professional 10 provides all of the benefits of Autodesk Inventor Series, plus specialized design capabilities to create routed systems with tube and pipe or wire and cable. Customers can now create deflection animations of their finite element analysis (FEA) models.

-- AutoCAD Mechanical 2006, purpose-built for mechanical engineers, now allows users to document 3D Inventor assemblies as well as 3D parts. It also includes new workflow enhancements that allow customers to manage hidden lines more quickly and intuitively.

-- AutoCAD Electrical 2006, specifically developed for electrical engineers and control systems designers, now provides direct integration with Autodesk Vault and includes new data migration tools that allow customers to easily convert legacy AutoCAD or other electrical design applications

into intelligent AutoCAD Electrical designs.

Manage

-- Autodesk Vault 4, integrated into all Autodesk manufacturing design products, now makes managing design data even easier by automatically creating a Design Web Format (DWF) file for each file checked into Autodesk Vault, and saves hours of time with the new intelligent copy functionality. In addition, integration with Microsoft Office applications allows users to access files stored in Autodesk Vault from directly within Microsoft Office, improving communication with non-engineering team members.

-- Autodesk Productstream 4 allows customers to automate the engineering release process, with tools to manage Bill of Materials (BOM), create automated ECO workflows, and integrate with ERP/MRP systems for improved sharing of design information with extended teams for planning, inventory, and accounting purposes.

Share

-- Autodesk Streamline 7 and Autodesk DWF(TM) Viewer helps designers easily and securely share both 2D and 3D design information to increase project visibility and collaboration with customers and suppliers.

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Distribution and Availability

Autodesk Inventor Series 10, Autodesk Vault 4, AutoCAD Mechanical 2006, AutoCAD Electrical 2006, Autodesk Inventor Professional 10, Autodesk Productstream 4 and Autodesk Streamline 7 will be available beginning in spring 2005. For more information, please contact your authorized Autodesk reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/manufacturing.

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc. is wholly focused on ensuring that great ideas are turned into reality. With six million users, Autodesk is the world's leading software and services company for the building, manufacturing, infrastructure, digital media, and wireless data services fields. Autodesk's solutions help customers create, manage, and share their data and digital assets more effectively. As a result, customers turn ideas into competitive advantage by becoming more productive, streamlining project efficiency, and maximizing profits.

Founded in 1982, Autodesk is headquartered in San Rafael, California. For additional information about Autodesk, please visit www.autodesk.com

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