Miniature Cars Designed with Autodesk Inventor Are Serious Business for Nimrod Racing

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Digital Prototyping Helps Hungary-Based Nimrod Grow 100 Percent in Four Years

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 23, 2009-- Nimrod Racing uses Autodesk Inventor software to create customized radio controlled (RC) cars—many of them 1:10 scale models of classic vintage cars—for customers worldwide. Autodesk, Inc. (NASDAQ: ADSK), a world leader in 2D and 3D design, engineering and entertainment software, has named the Hungary-based company as the November Autodesk Inventor of the Month for growing its business 100 percent in four years by successfully leveraging Digital Prototyping.

With fully functional motors, wheels and suspensions, Nimrod Racing cars can reach speeds of up to 110 kilometers per hour, much to the delight of hobbyists who race the cars in RC racing championships or for their own personal enjoyment. Parent company, R-Design Studio, created its Nimrod Racing division to focus on the design and production of custom-made RC cars. Today, the division produces 15 body shells and nearly 800 custom parts and components ranging from wheels to hubcaps.

Nimrod Racing uses Autodesk Alias Design software to design the car exterior body shells and Autodesk Inventor software to engineer components from the mechanical gears and suspension arms to the engine block and chassis.

"We are essentially designing a car in miniature, and because we can communicate between Autodesk Alias Design and Autodesk Inventor software, it's easier for us to do the surface design and engineering in parallel to work through issues," said Andras Szasz, head of design engineering for R-Design Studio. "We can easily see if heavy parts hit the bonnet or body and quickly solve the problem. There is no other way we would be able to achieve this without digital prototypes that allow us to visualize and simulate our design before we build physical prototypes."

Autodesk Inventor software's Finite Element Analysis (FEA) tool is particularly important in developing the chassis, which needs to be extremely strong but also very lightweight. "We use FEA to test shock absorber arms for strength and stiffness," said Szasz. "They must be able to absorb all the shocks from the ground. But if they're too heavy, the car will bump, making it unstable. FEA lets us identify where we extra material, helping us to reduce weight while meeting our strength requirements."

Nimrod Racing's use of Inventor software has enabled it to significantly reduce its physical prototyping requirements. Now, nearly 90 percent of the firm's parts and components can be created without any physical prototyping—enabling quicker and more efficient turnaround on custom RC car orders.

"Nimrod Racing is saving time and money with Digital Prototyping," said Robert "Buzz" Kross, senior vice president, Manufacturing Industry Group at Autodesk. "By using a single digital model at every stage of production, Nimrod Racing has picked the fastest and most effective way to put its fantastic creations into the hands of its customers."

About the Autodesk Inventor of the Month Program

Each month, Autodesk selects an Inventor of the Month from the users of Autodesk Inventor software, which takes manufacturers beyond 3D to Digital Prototyping. Winners are chosen for engineering excellence and groundbreaking innovation. For more information about Autodesk Inventor of the Month, visit www.autodesk.com/inventorofthemonth.

About R-Design Studio Ltd. and Nimrod Racing

Founded in 2006, R-Design Studio Ltd. is a design and engineering firm located in Budapest, Hungary. Its Nimrod Racing division handles design and production of custom-made Radio Controlled cars. For more information, visit www.r-design.hu and http://www.nimrod-racing.net.

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc., is a world leader in 2D and 3D design, engineering and entertainment software for the manufacturing, building and construction, and media and entertainment markets. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk continues to develop the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art software to help customers experience their ideas digitally before they are built. Fortune 100 companies -- as well as the last 14 Academy Award winners for Best Visual Effects -- use Autodesk software tools to design, visualize and simulate their ideas to save time and money, enhance quality, and foster innovation for competitive advantage. For additional information about Autodesk, visit www.autodesk.com.

Editorial Note:

An interview with Nimrod Racing is available on the Autodesk YouTube Channel at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfCoVLUrncc.

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available: http://www.businesswire.com/cgi-bin/mmg.cgi?eid=6105732&(=en

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