



Helicopter Designs Take Flight With Autodesk Software

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Pankl Aerospace Systems Relies on Autodesk Inventor LT Software to Manufacture Components With Ultimate Precision

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Jul 28, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

[Autodesk, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: ADSK), has named Pankl Aerospace Systems as the July 2011 Autodesk [Inventor of the Month](#), in recognition of the company's use of Autodesk software to more effectively manufacture helicopter rotary systems, increasing the performance and reliability of critical components and improving pilot and passenger safety.

Pankl creates 3D renderings of rotary system parts using Autodesk Inventor LT 3D mechanical CAD software, and then virtually runs the digital components through their multistep manufacturing processes -- from boring a hole into a drive shaft to applying heat treatments to an engine shaft. This digital process helps verify that the parts adhere to precise performance standards at every stage of manufacturing, thereby confirming the integrity of the finished part.

"With Autodesk Inventor LT, we're documenting and visualizing every step of the manufacturing process with more confidence and efficiency than ever before," said Jonathan Charbonnet, manufacturing engineer at Pankl. "Autodesk Inventor LT enables us to review designs for our customers and proactively identify all the things that may cause problems during manufacturing."

The original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) working with Pankl typically provide 3D models of the required parts. Pankl then imports the design model into Inventor LT -- regardless of the CAD package used to create it -- renders the part in 3D, and then digitally tests the manufacturing processes prior to progressing to the manufacturing phase. Inventor LT also enables Pankl to document processes by creating accurate 2D drawings, which can be applied to work instructions to better communicate design intent to the shop floor.

Embracing 3D With Seamless Access to 2D

Autodesk Gold Partner KETIV Technologies was instrumental in helping Pankl embrace [Digital Prototyping](#) and stay current with an industry moving increasingly toward model-based definitions. By switching to 3D modeling software like Inventor LT, Pankl can meet the needs of OEMs much more efficiently and better serve its customer base.

While Pankl uses Inventor LT for all new projects, it is still able to access years of DWG drawings, helping the company to respond more quickly, for example, to requests from OEMs for replacement parts on older model helicopters. The company captures 2D geometry from the past drawings with [AutoCAD LT](#) 2D drafting and detailing software, imports it into Inventor LT, where it can then reuse the data to quickly and easily clean up any errors -- reducing rework and streamlining turnaround time for delivering replacement parts.

"Pankl is using Inventor LT to save time and reduce its manufacturing costs, all while increasing quality for its customers," said [Robert "Buzz" Kross](#), senior vice president, Manufacturing Industry Group at Autodesk. "With Digital Prototyping in place, manufacturers like Pankl can operate at the highest level of performance."

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, contact us at IOM@autodesk.com.

About Pankl Aerospace Systems

Headquartered in Cerritos, California, with operations in the United States and Europe, Pankl Aerospace is serving the global aerospace market as a Tier One supplier for transmission components, engine shafts, refueling tubes and landing gear parts for fixed and rotary wing aircraft. [Get additional information.](#)

About KETIV Technologies

KETIV is a business consulting firm helping engineers and designers achieve optimum creativity, efficiency, response times, and teamwork. An Autodesk Gold Partner for Manufacturing and an Autodesk Consulting Services Partner, KETIV serves clients from offices in the Pacific Northwest, California, and the Southwest. To learn more, visit www.ketiv.com.

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc., is a leader in [3D design](#), engineering and entertainment software. Customers across the manufacturing, architecture, building, construction, and media and entertainment industries -- including the last 16 Academy Award winners for Best Visual Effects -- use Autodesk software to design, visualize and simulate their ideas. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk continues to develop the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art software for global markets. For additional information about Autodesk, visit www.autodesk.com.

An interview with Pankl Aerospace is available on the Autodesk YouTube Channel at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QB7V18_rB0.

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Stacy Doyle, 503.707.3861

stacy.doyle@autodesk.com