



A-dec Revolutionizes Dental Equipment With Help From Autodesk Software

November 30, 2011

Creating Digital Prototypes With Autodesk Inventor Helps Award-Winning Dental Manufacturer Save Time and Money

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 30, 2011-- [Autodesk, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ:ADSK) has named A-dec, Inc. — a leading manufacturer of dental chairs and equipment — as Autodesk [Inventor of the Month](#) for November 2011, recognizing its use of Autodesk software to more effectively design and develop products and generate technical documentation, such as user manuals and service guides, for its popular dentistry products.

A-dec uses Autodesk Inventor to more effectively design and develop popular dentistry products. (Photo: Business Wire)

A-dec's award-winning dental equipment can be found in the White House, ships at sea, more than 100 countries and 90 percent of dental schools throughout the United States and Canada. Founded in 1964, the family-owned, Oregon-based

company is one of the world's leading dental equipment solution providers and a one-stop shop for cutting-edge, configured to order dental equipment systems.

To design new products and help ensure all parts operate smoothly within a dental system, A-dec relies on [Autodesk Inventor Digital Prototyping](#) software that allows the company to validate product designs prior to physical prototyping, integrate system components easily with the use of assembly simulations and cut time to market significantly.

Using Inventor software, A-dec engineers can bring innovative ideas to life in a 3D model. And given the complex and integrative nature of A-dec's dental equipment, Inventor helps engineers quickly determine whether and how one component will work within the greater equipment system. For example, before a single part is manufactured, engineers can look at digital prototypes of entire assemblies and systems to help ensure all parts connect and move smoothly.

"The digital prototype is our primary design tool," says Patrick Berry, staff engineer in product development at A-dec. "With Inventor software, we can integrate everything in one place and see a complete prototype before anything is built. We're getting to a more perfect physical prototype much faster. Also, now that we have incorporated [Autodesk Product Design Suite](#), it has enabled us to further enhance our workflow."

Autodesk 3ds Max, Inventor Publisher and Vault Software Further Simplify Documentation

For several years, the A-dec Technical Communications team has been importing Autodesk Inventor models into [Autodesk 3ds Max](#) rendering and animation software to create photorealistic illustrations for its publications. This allows the team to begin illustration work well before they have a physical product to work with and allows time to evaluate and improve documents before they go to translation. The realistic images require less textual explanation, improving usability of the documents and reducing translation costs.

A-dec has also started exploring [Autodesk Inventor Publisher](#) software, supplied by Autodesk partner IMAGINiT Technologies, as part of its workflow. Inventor Publisher is innovative, easy-to-use technical documentation software for creating 2D printed and 3D interactive product documentation.

A-dec plans to move many documentation and instruction-related projects to Inventor Publisher, and expects significant efficiency gains in preparing exploded view drawings and training animations. Historically, these tasks would have required many hours from the technical publication department to work with Inventor files created by the engineering department, filter the model or images, and then complete the work in other software applications. With Inventor Publisher, eliminated and streamlined tasks will allow these projects to be completed with a fraction of the effort previously required.

A-dec is testing the free* Inventor Publisher Viewer app for viewing on mobile devices — this could allow the consumers of A-dec's documentation, such as field service technicians and dentists, to access rich interactive 3D Inventor Publisher content right from their mobile devices. This digital publishing option can provide A-dec customers relevant 3D information right at their fingertips, without having to rely on a hard copy manual.

In addition, A-dec engineers use [Autodesk Vault](#) data management software to manage all data related to the digital prototype. With many engineers working concurrently and designing parts that must ultimately interconnect, Vault software lets the engineers know they're always designing and building interfaces around the most up-to-date parts. Vault software also makes it possible for stakeholders in different departments and locations to leverage the digital prototype and its built-in information. External vendors use the digital model to create tools and cast parts.

"With its use of Inventor and other Autodesk solutions, A-dec is extending the power of [Digital Prototyping](#) beyond the engineering department to other parts of the company," said [Robert "Buzz" Kross](#), senior vice president, Manufacturing Industry Group at Autodesk. "The more ways A-dec can efficiently benefit from a single digital model within the organization, the more the company can increase productivity, reduce costs and dramatically improve their own customers' experience with their products."

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 A-dec

As a leading manufacturer of dental chairs, delivery systems, dental lights and treatment room cabinetry, A-dec provides reliable dental equipment solutions to better the lives of dentists and their patients worldwide. For additional information, visit www.a-dec.com.

About IMAGINiT Technologies

IMAGINiT Technologies, A RAND Worldwide Company ([OTCBB:RWWI](http://otcbb.com/quote/RWWI)), is the world's largest provider of enterprise solutions to the engineering community. IMAGINiT is a leading provider of Autodesk software solutions and the largest North American Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC) partner. For additional information, visit www.imaginit.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.

Editorial Note: An interview with A-dec is available on the Autodesk YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU7opgZl4EE&feature=relmfu>.

**Free products are subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license and services agreement that accompanies the software.*

Autodesk, AutoCAD, ATC, Autodesk Inventor, Inventor and 3ds Max are registered trademarks or trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates in the USA and/or other countries. Academy Award is a registered trademark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. All other brand names, product names or trademarks belong to their respective holders. Autodesk reserves the right to alter product and services offerings, and specifications and pricing at any time without notice, and is not responsible for typographical or graphical errors that may appear in this document.

© 2011 Autodesk, Inc. All rights reserved.

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available: <http://www.businesswire.com/cgi-bin/mmg.cgi?eid=50088269&lang=en>

Source: Autodesk, Inc.

Autodesk, Inc.
Jennifer Gentrup, 415-547-2435
jennifer.gentrup@autodesk.com