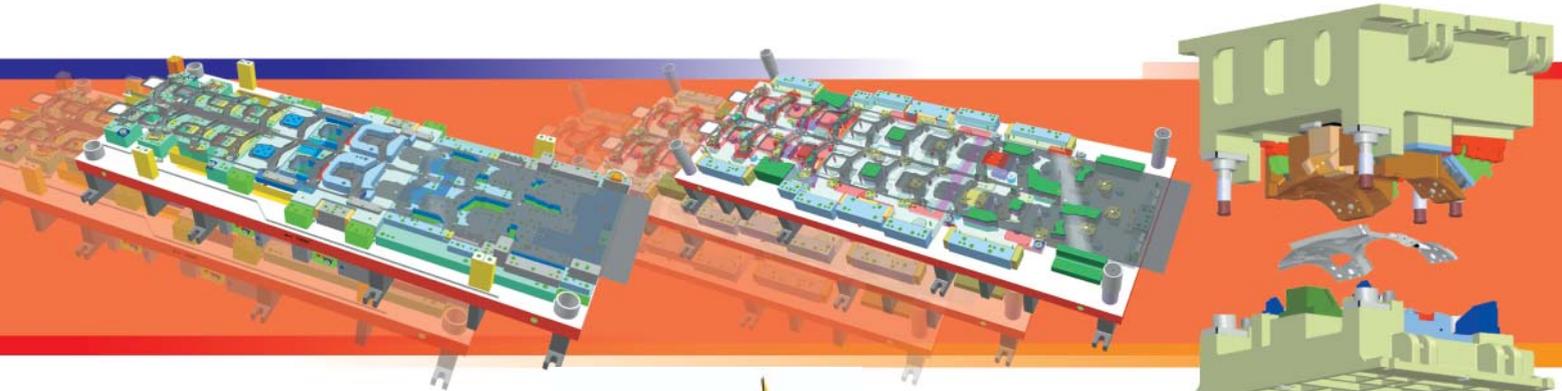


3-D Solutions Design Service

Changing stamping die design



Overview

■ Challenge

3-D Solutions wanted to reduce the time required to design metal stamping dies in order to meet the tight deadlines required by its customers.

■ Solution

Using CATIA V5's catalog interface, 3-D Solutions has created a Power Catalog and Power Template software package for easy organization and insertion of standard components into designs.

■ Benefits

The software package allows designers to select, preview and position components in just seconds, update designs automatically, reapply existing data and reduce errors.



"We were able to create an extensive, intelligent database of parts and assemblies that greatly reduce the time required to design a stamping die."

Corey Chamberlain, Founding Partner,
3-D Solutions Design Service



Stamping die designer cuts design time by more than 50% with CATIA V5

3-D Solutions Design Service, a Michigan-based global provider of stamping die design services, launched its business in March 2002 using CATIA V5 to meet the needs of its tool and die clients in the automotive, appliance, furniture and heavy equipment industries. The company, one of the first tooling design shops to use CATIA V5, now has several designers on staff and has moved forward building collaborations with other design shops allowing the partners to take on larger projects that they could alone.

But 3-D Solutions knew, given its small size, to remain competitive it needed to further reduce the time required to design metal stamping dies to meet the tight deadlines required by its customers. So using CATIA V5's catalog interface, 3-D Solutions created a Power Catalog and Power Template software package for the easy organization and insertion of standard components into designs.

Taking CATIA V5 a step beyond

"We were able to create an extensive, intelligent database of parts and assemblies that greatly reduce the time required to design a stamping die," says Corey Chamberlain, one of 3-D Solutions' founding partners. "Being empowered by all of the capabilities within the CATIA V5 software has allowed us to cut the time required to design a die by at least half."

"The functionality of V5 makes it all possible," says Mark Hansen, a partner in 3-D Solutions Design Service. "I can't imagine making the tight deadlines required by our customers without CATIA V5 and the Power Catalog and Templates. It has proven to be an invaluable tool for the success and growth of our company."

Before long, 3-D Solutions' customers were asking how the small company was turning out designs so quickly and asked if it would be willing to sell the Power Catalog and Templates software package to them. Combined with the versatile CATIA V5 PLM system, today



more than 20 of 3-D Solution's clients worldwide are now using the Power Catalog and Power Template system for metal stamping die design.

Speaking the same language with ease

The Power Catalog and Power Template System is a complete design solution, including recommended file and tree structure, manuals, documentation and training on best practices for companies designing and building all kinds of metal stamping tools, including progressive, line and transfer dies, as well as special machines and prototype tooling.

The Power Catalog reduces design time by utilizing thousands of pre-drawn intelligent components, eliminating the need to download simple solids from vendor websites. With Power Templates, entire assemblies can be inserted into a design, rather than bringing components in one at a time, allowing design companies to save time and money by eliminating repetitive steps in the design process.

Chamberlain says it is a very effective way for metal stamping facilities to get

uniform products from all their tooling sources, both domestically and globally.

"If we can get everybody speaking the same language, we can all be a lot more efficient," Chamberlain says. "If everyone is using the same design system and tools, there's a lot more opportunities for sharing work and even doing overseas outsourcing. With a standardized system like this that you can plug into any shop, anywhere in the world, you can get the same tool back every time because we're all using the same templates and components."

Perhaps most important, Chamberlain says, is that their customers can begin effectively designing tooling immediately after implementing the system.

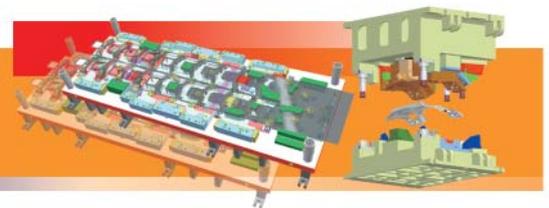
"Using CATIA V5 and the Power Catalog and Templates has allowed our company to hit the floor running," says Mike Brower, a die designer with Finite Precision, another local tooling die design shop and frequent collaborator with 3-D Solutions. "We have been able to concentrate on designing instead of spending more than a year creating our own catalog."

"We bought the Power Catalog and Power Template and immediately began designing efficiently with CATIA V5. We would have spent months building everything between jobs."

Kevin Schumaker, Die Designer,
Competition Engineering



Dassault Systèmes
9, quai Marcel Dassault, BP310
92156 Suresnes Cedex France
Tel: 33 (1) 40 99 40 99



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