



Press information

Ref. NDM 940/06.

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Icona Solutions announces the latest version of its aesthetica software for visualising the effects of manufacturing variation on product assemblies.

Automotive industry requests drive development of new and enhanced functions introduced with aesthetica Version 2.3.

Manchester, UK. 21 December, 2006. – Icona Solutions Ltd., developers of aesthetica™, the unique CAE software product for interactively visualizing the impact of manufacturing variation on the aesthetic quality of product assemblies, has announced the availability of Version 2.3 of the software.

“We work closely with our customers in the automotive industry to define their requirements in order to ensure that the results of our development of aesthetica continue to deliver significant value to the product development process”, said Dr. John Maxfield, technical director, Icona Solutions Ltd. “The top requests from the industry have been for improved CAD integration and enhanced methods for

capturing and sharing the results of manufacturing variation studies,” he noted. “Both of these requirements have now been addressed with this latest release of aesthetica, together with a number of additional enhancements that significantly improve the versatility of the software.”

Expanded capabilities.

New functions and major enhancements introduced with aesthetica Version 2.3 include:

- New data exchange modules supporting Dassault Systèmes’ CATIA V5 and UGS’ JT environments that facilitate robust and reliable exchange of product structures, component geometry (solids and surfaces) and material data;
- A powerful, user-definable report generator that can produce full measurement and variation reports automatically from aesthetica studies, incorporating animations, annotated images, snapshots and numerical analysis results;
- A new, off-screen rendering function for capturing very high resolution images and animations for large-screen presentations or high quality prints;
- Intelligent merge functions that combine components or entire workspaces to enable more efficient management of large studies that are undertaken by a team;
- Extended texture mapping functions that support detailed per-surface texturing and sophisticated texture generation for complex NURBS patches;
- New bump map shader materials with user-definable relief/normal and textures to support the creation of custom technical grains and textile-based material libraries;

- A larger set of built-in stock components and a wider range of pre-defined environment maps supporting strip lights and high contrast reflection environments.

“Since its worldwide launch in 2004, aesthetica has been adopted by a number of large automotive OEMs”, said Dr. David Belford, executive chairman, Icona Solutions Ltd. “With this latest release, Icona Solutions has extended its unique technological leadership in this sector while demonstrating a solid commitment to supporting and responding to the needs of our customers.”

Availability.

aesthetica Version 2.3 is available for customer shipments immediately.

About Icona Solutions Ltd.

Based in Manchester, United Kingdom, Icona Solutions Ltd. has pioneered the new technology of visualizing the impact of manufacturing variation. This new technology enables product designers and engineers to identify – and thereby resolve - aesthetic issues at an early stage in the design-to-manufacturing cycle.

Based on ground-breaking research that commenced in 1997, Icona Solutions’ aesthetica software product gives greater insight than has previously been possible into the impact of manufacturing variation on the aesthetic quality of product assemblies, thereby saving time and improving communication in the design process and improving perceived quality in the finished product.

Icona Solutions provides a high level of customer service through its worldwide network of carefully selected, exclusive value-added resellers and is adding value to the product development processes of an increasing number of automotive OEMs and their Tier 1 suppliers.

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