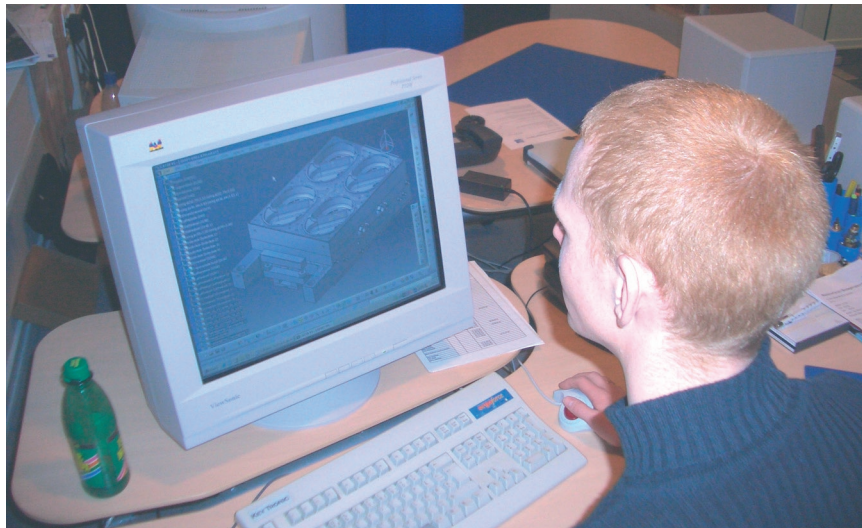


Techno-Tool A/S Mold-Maker finds perfect fit with CATIA V5



"We can see the effect of CATIA V5 on our profitability. By eliminating our costs for mistakes, we have increased profit." Hans Lauridsen, President, Techno-Tool

Highlights

- **Existing design systems could not support design re-use, which led to increased design time and higher error rates**
- **CATIA V5 allows new designs to be created from existing designs, improving productivity and reducing errors**
- **Error rate dropped 80 percent and productivity increased 20 percent, allowing Techno-Tool to do more business more profitably.**

Mold maker on growth path

Since it was established in 1990, Techno-Tool A/S has grown from just 4 employees to more than 40. The manufacturer of thermoform molds and punching tools for plastic manufacturing of packaging and technical products recently moved into a new, 2,250-square-meter building in Esbjerg, Denmark.

Techno-Tool has only begun to grow. President Hans Lauridsen says the pending installation of 4 robotic milling machines will allow the company to handle far more work than ever before by facilitating a move to around-the-clock manufacturing.

To justify the robotic milling equipment, however, Techno-Tool needed to equip its design department to keep pace with the new capacity. "We chose CATIA V5 as a foundation for this," Lauridsen said.

Manual processes inhibits growth

Because Techno-Tool previously worked primarily in 2D, it was necessary to start each new design from scratch. This had two primary disadvantages: It increased the amount of time required for each new design, and it increased the chances of making errors.

“Since we introduced CATIA V5, we have begun making a library of standard tools, so we are much faster now in the design and construction,” Lauridsen said. “By starting with a finished construction, we can use parametric tools and scale it up or down to the new construction. This makes the work much faster and eliminates many mistakes. This is, giving us a tremendous quality improvement.”



Fewer errors, more productivity

In fact, Lauridsen said, rejected parts have been reduced by 80 percent in less than a year. Part of that improvement, can also be attributed to the company's new quality system, “But quality all starts from the construction and design.”

Engineers particularly like the ability to model designs virtually in 3D. “We find many of the mistakes when we simulate the product on the screen.” “It is very easy to create simulations and much cheaper to do it virtually than having physical mock-up's in steel or aluminum.”

Productivity also has profited. “I would say productivity is up at least 20 percent. There is little doubt that the CATIA V5 system has paid for itself already.”

Improved processes drive profitability

Decreased error rates and improved productivity are having a positive impact on the bottom line, Lauridsen said. “If you look at our profitability today versus two years ago, profit has increased dramatically. Our costs for mistakes and material have decreased and given us much more profit.”

Errors have been eliminated in manufacturing, because the same CATIA system is used for design as well as NC milling.

“This has saved us tremendous time and given us the security of knowing that the design is correct,” Lauridsen said. “We also can do shapes and geometries we couldn't do before, which allows us to offer new solutions to our customers and win more new business.”

IBM: A reliable partner

When Techno-Tool first chose CATIA V5, Lauridsen said he doubted that the investment could pay back in such a short time frame. He has now total confidence in IBM's abilities. “We have got everything out of the system that IBM promised us, which is very important for our future.”

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IBM Product Lifecycle Management

Tour Descartes
La Defense 5
2, avenue Gambetta
92066 Paris La Defense cedex
France

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