



LONG-STANDING FASTTRIM USERS SUCCESSFULLY WORK FOR THE OLYMPIC FLAME

The Premier Group (TPG) is in great demand as manufacturing partner in the Automotive, Rail, Aerospace and Military sectors. Its high-quality services in prototyping are well-known - even by the 2012 London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. In 2011, TPG was assigned as the official 2012 Olympic Torch manufacturer and, as always, CENIT's offline-programming system FASTTRIM was at the heart of TPG's manufacturing programme.

Olympic Flame

In ancient times, the Olympic Flame burned throughout the Games held at Olympia and was introduced into the modern games as a torch relay in 1936. This year, the important task of manufacturing the Olympic Torch lies with The Premier Group (TPG). „The Premier Group is proud to accept the challenge of producing this iconic torch, full of symbolism“, said George Mollison, TPG Director. „The emotions of the Games ignited by the Olympic Flame and the Torch relay will see it visiting more than one thousand communities throughout the UK.“

Challenges are day-to-day business

Since 1992 TPG has grown from a single company employing 12 staff working on specialised ‚Body in White‘ projects for automotive manufacturers to a Group of companies employing over 100 personnel. The Premier Group's mission is to be recognised as the first choice for the supply of high quality prototype and low volume products and associated services amongst blue-chip clients that rely on TPG's values relating to quality, pricing, precision work and prompt deliveries.

The Facilities for TPG's Olympic Team

The Premier Group facility has been designed to cater for the ever-expanding needs of the world's automotive industry by incorporating the most up to date design and manufacturing computer tools. „The Premier Group acquired its first CAD system in 1995 and with the purchase of CATIA we have steadily increased our capacity“, explained Denis Meagher, Managing Director. „The Premier Group has been laser cutting for over 10 years and now houses the UK's largest and fastest laser facility for both 2D and 3D. The capabilities of this facility have been further enhanced by using 100% offline pro-



Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of LOCOG (centre), with Directors of The Premier Group, George Mollison (left) and Gez Halton (right).

gramming generated by FASTTRIM and this CATIA V5 integrated offline-programming system gives us the professional environment that we need to ensure customer satisfaction.

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TPG Manufacturing Director, Gez Halton

The Olympic Torch and its Manufacturing

Made up of inner and outer aluminum alloy skins, held in place by a cast top piece and base, the Olympic Torch is perforated by 8,000 circles. The special aluminum alloy was originally developed for the aerospace and automotive industry making it lightweight but strong, with excellent heat resistance.

The programs to create the precisely placed circular perforations were created by applying CENIT's software FASTTRIM, an advanced offline-programming system for 3D laser cutting. „Precision engineering is our business, so it is of the utmost importance that we work with precision tools and software“, emphasised Denis Meagher.

Offline-Programming for 3D Laser Cutting

„Right from the start we used software from CENIT to offline program our 3D machines“, added TPG Manufacturing Director, Gez Halton. „This system gives us the ability to quickly produce complex fixtures for laser cutting and to obtain optimised programming for the whole spectrum of work-pieces. In the event of a design change, the existing fixtures and programs can be adjusted with ease. The optimisation and simulation functionalities within CENIT's software provide reassurance that we can 100% rely on the generated programs.“

Summary

„Holding the Olympic Torch is a very good feeling. Now, we are looking forward to the start of the Torch Relay and the Olympic Games 2012,“ concluded MD, Denis Meagher. “Just like our sporting heroes always strive to achieve gold, we always strive to be the best in our field. Strong partners like CENIT in the area of offline-programming give us a comfortable starting position, whatever the competition.“

