



CENIT FASTRIM WATERJET CUTS PROTOTYPING BY 50%

Everyone knows that nothing is more time-consuming or costly as building prototypes. Materials, time and staff costs drive this key area of product development to dizzying heights. CENIT software solution FASTRIM WaterJET cuts prototyping by 50%.

► W.P. HYDROSCHNEIDE TECHNIK

For small to medium-sized manufacturing companies in particular, such as the automotive industry supplier W.P. Hydroschneide Technik, this quickly became a challenge: New innovative approaches must be found in order to remain competitive. CENIT's special offline programming technology for water jet cutting, for example, which is now used at W.P. Hydroschneide Technik. The effects speak for themselves: where engineers previously needed to spend many hours programming the cutting of a prototype, throughput times have been more than halved with the CENIT solution FASTRIM WaterJET. In addition to great cost benefits, this also results in a clear and secure basis for calculation.

"Rapid change management based on CATIA V5 – the most widespread Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) system in the automotive industry – was our chief

consideration in deciding on the solution", Stephan Fischer, Managing Director of W.P. Hydroschneide Technik summarises the reasons behind the project. Areas for optimisation were sought together with CENIT PLM consultants. A promising angle was found in water jet cutting technology: to date, this area was characterised by protracted teach-in processes based on 2D contour models. A three-dimensional

is a significant further increase for us in terms of benefits", says Fischer. It is no wonder: after all, FASTRIM WaterJET leads to efficient and standardised processes in data cleansing and contour cleaning, in the simulation of the behaviour of tools and machines and that of the jigs and 3D cuts. In addition, 100% contour accuracy of the cuts is now possible based on the 3D data.

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model could only be created from the 2D model at the machine in time-consuming work steps. Both machines and staff were thus tied up for a comparatively long period of time.

Using the offline programming solution FASTRIM WaterJET employed today, design models can be transferred one-to-one to the cutting programmes. Adjustments on the machine are reduced, as are downtimes. "Water jet cutting technology already brings us advantages in terms of cost savings and flexibility, but with the new software solution from CENIT there

► PROGRAMMING BECOMES CHILD'S PLAY

Both the combination of expertise in software development at CENIT and the in-depth knowledge of the manufacturing processes in this particular technology convinced the tool and mould maker. Only three months after deciding in favour of FASTRIM WaterJET, the W.P. Hydroschneide Technik solution went live in Sigmarszell. Today, programming with the new software is almost child's play. Fischer's conclusion: "The expert system satisfies due to the simplicity of its opera-

FASTRIM WATERJET

tion – and all at a very reasonable price considering its performance.

And if there are ever problems in operation or adjustments required nonetheless”, Stephan Fischer says, full of praise, “the CENIT experts are on the spot quickly with no unnecessary red tape”.

The employees are also satisfied with the new solution, even if, the move to automated processes based on FASTRIM WaterJET initially meant rethinking their approach to their work. This now makes them all the more proud of the processes and programming, which are now finally integrated. Data received from customers can now be processed through to the machine via the system – without discontinuity in the system or additional products.

W.P. Hydroschneide Technik plans to expand its services to cover additional processing methods – laser cutting, for example. With the now established software FASTRIM and the support of CENIT in terms of IT and PLM, the medium-sized company is already perfectly equipped to tackle these plans.

► ABOUT W.P. HYDROSCHNEIDE TECHNIK GMBH & CO. KG

W.P. Hydroschneide Technik has been active in the areas of water jet cutting, tool making and prototyping since 1994. As an automotive industry supplier, primarily for water jet cut door seal systems, as a systems supplier for the aircraft industry and as a third-party manufacturer for the cutting of all kinds of materials for industrial companies and the skilled trades, the specialist service provider serves a wide range of industries. The company employs twelve staff.

► ABOUT WATER JET CUTTING TECHNOLOGY

A major argument in favour of this innovative form of processing is the reduction of tools costs. Models are no longer laboriously stamped, saving costs not only for the tool itself but also for the corresponding jig. With this technology, changes

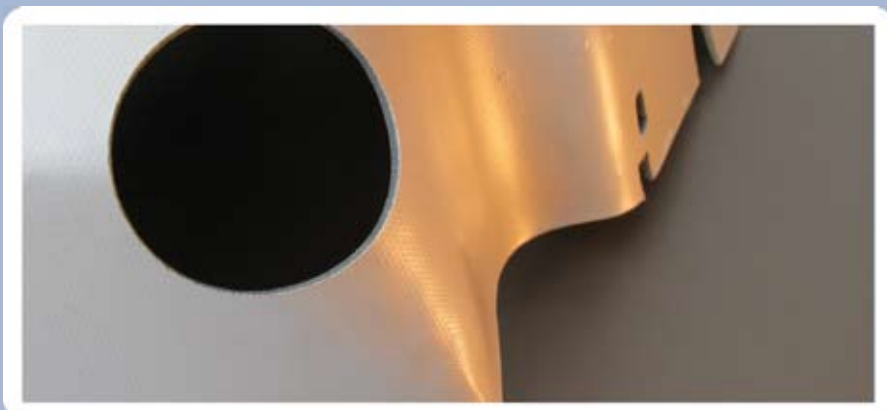
price per unit is slightly higher than with other processes in production terms”, W.P. Hydroschneide Technik Managing Director Stephan Fischer explains, “the time savings and the reduced tooling costs more than compensate for this investment”. A further advantage is the so-called “cold cut”. This leaves the structure of the material unchanged, unlike in laser

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can be introduced quickly and processing carried out with maximum flexibility. This process is especially worthwhile in the production of special parts. “Whilst the

cutting, for example. In addition, almost any material can be cut – from glass to ceramics to plastics which are too sensitive to fire for laser processing.



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