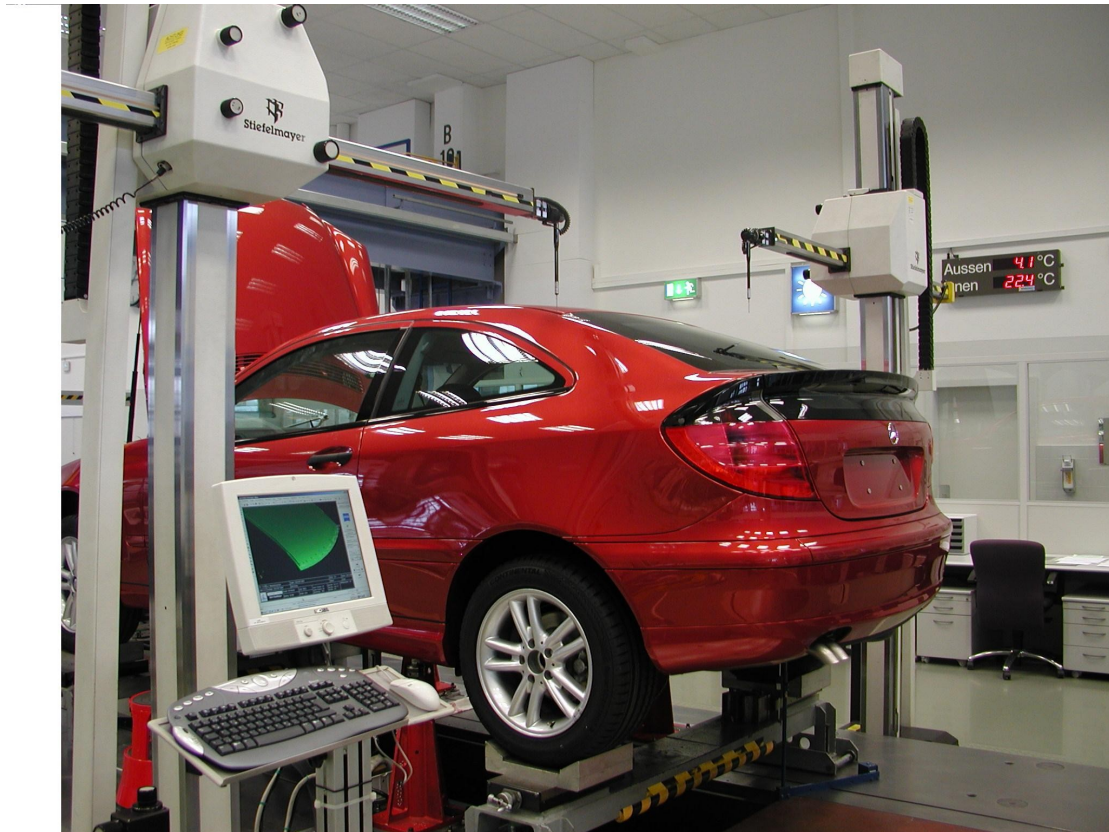


AC&E Case Study

DaimlerChrysler uses Cmmsimulator to verify CMM programs at Mercedes Technology Centre



Automotive manufacturer, DaimlerChrysler is using Cmmsimulator, the 3D coordinate measurement machine (CMM) simulation program, to verify programs for tactile CMMs at its Mercedes Technology Centre (MTC) in Sindelfingen, Germany.

Developed by simulation specialist Applied Computing & Engineering (AC&E), Cmmsimulator allows DaimlerChrysler to simulate and prove out its metrology programs ahead of running the program on their CMMs. This allows any unforeseen collisions or errors in the programs which could result in damage to the CMM and disruption to production, to be spotted ahead of running the program on the CMM. Corrections, if required, can be made simply, and the revised program re-run through Cmmsimulator. Once the program has been verified in this way it can be safely run through the CMM.

DaimlerChrysler has been testing and helping to refine the Cmmsimulator software for several months as part of a full test installation. It is envisaged that a number of additional seats of Cmmsimulator will be installed in the future

Kai Glaesner, working on the topic of inspection software for Body-In-White inspection at DaimlerChrysler MTC, commented "We have very good experience with applications ideally suited to Cmmsimulator, and so are well-placed to make the most of the software's performance. We are particularly attracted by the opportunity to prepare error-free programs ahead of time offline from the real CMM and before the work piece for inspection is available. In turn, we can use the extra time saved to improve our CMM programs."

"Increased productivity is the major benefit of Cmmsimulator," says AC&E managing director, Stewart Allinson. "We are very pleased with the progress at DaimlerChrysler - they are an excellent partner for us to work with and have been very constructive during the Test Installation. As a result, Cmmsimulator is a more complete product."

Having a simulated CMM process offers users several advantages apart from the obvious need to test-out programs. Program errors can be corrected ahead of time and not under critical time-deadlines. As well as allowing program testing to take place in parallel with the real CMM's normal operation, the time saved can be used to create better metrology programs, whilst achieving higher machine utilisation for the CMM. In addition, it can be used to train staff without interrupting the flow of work on the real CMM.

Cmmsimulator was developed with advice and guidance from Zeiss Industrial Measurements and technical assistance from Holometric Technologies, the support organisation for Holos software. Cmmsimulator for Zeiss CMMs is linked to and communicates directly with Holos while running the program destined for the CMM, as if it were the real CMM itself - it acts as a virtual machine providing a full simulation. Not only does the simulation have to look accurate and realistic, it must behave the same as the real machine in every way.

For more information on Cmmsimulator call +44 (0)1925 830085, e-mail: info@acel.co.uk or visit www.acel.co.uk.