

AC&E Press Release

22 August 2007

AC&E Announces E-Hub strategy for Manufacturing Simulation

E-Hub overcomes proprietary simulation software 'lock-in'

Simulation software specialist Applied Computing & Engineering (AC&E) announces its e-Hub strategy for manufacturing simulation. E-Hub (Engineering Hub) is designed to offer new and experienced simulation software users with modular packages enabling them to begin using simulation and add functionality as their needs, experience and understanding advances.

E-Hub recognizes that many companies seeking a manufacturing simulation system have two immediate requirements: the need to link to other simulation systems used by their customers and / or themselves and the second is the need to buy only that part of the simulation system required to complete the project in hand. Historically the choice has been between an expensive yet comprehensive system, or a cheaper but often more limited system.

The E-Hub contains CimStation Robotics (CSR), 3D simulation software, enabling manufacturing engineers to quickly simulate and evaluate alternative methods for automating a manufacturing process. E-Hub can also exchange data with various graphics standards and engines, for example IGES, STEP and ACIS, as well as specific CAD systems, including Catia and Pro-E and other simulation systems in the field of robotics.

Stewart Allinson, managing director, commented, "There are many people who want to use the 'best-in-class' simulation but are locked into their current simulation system. Understandably, if they have paid a lot of money for the system and have now built up legacy data, contemplating a change is difficult. E-Hub allows them to bring their data across to work with it in CSR at an affordable price."

E-Hub Strategy

AC&E E-Hub software combines the proven capability of manufacturing simulation systems in the field of robotics and kinematic device simulation. Using existing in-house CAD data and AC&E's library of commercial robots and accessories to create a detailed simulation of the proposed manufacturing system, CSR E-Hub accurately simulates interactions between workcell components, to optimise equipment selection, fine-tune equipment positioning, and maximize production throughput.

CSR is established as one of the most comprehensive and easy-to-use robotic simulation tool available and works completely off-line, eliminating the risk of damage to equipment and freeing robots and other equipment for round-the-clock production. CSR and the Hub can be purchased in a modular fashion to suit even modest budgets and covers applications including welding, painting, assembly, press and polishing. A range of utilities are available to build up cells of varying complexity.

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Typical E-Hub deployments

Some typical New/novice user requirements:

Robot cell with visualisation and collision detection
Full auto-place function
IGES/ACIS data transfer
Models of 1 robot type (Library)
Post-processor for robot
Interactive 3D movie player

Budget: From £8000.

Typical experienced user requirements:

*Specific application (welding/painting/assembly etc.)
Multiple robot library
RRS capability
Interactive 3D movie player
Direct CAD interfaces [Catia/Pro-E etc.)
Cell export/import to RobCad
Cell export/import to Delmia
Robot builder with meta-kinematics
Special tools
Range of post-processors
Auto-place functionality

Budget: From £15,000.

Applications available include:

Assembly / Handling
Paint
Spot Welding
Arc Welding
Press
Polish.

E-Hub platforms: PC. Unix and Linux.

For more information on AC&E's e-hub call 01925 830085, e-mail: info@acel.co.uk.

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For more information contact:

Dr Stewart Allinson
AC&E
Tel: 01925 830085
e-mail: stewart@acel.co.uk

David Owen
Agenda
Tel: 0161 718 2829
e-mail: davidowen@agendapr.com