



CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY ...

„For a long time, we had been searching for a program which would allow us to optimize the design of cutting blades – a process that up to now had been very time consuming and difficult to plan,“ recalls Thorsten Kownatzki, Project Manager, CAD Master at BM Form Tec GmbH. With FASTTRIMSTEEL, the design office struck gold.

BM Form Tec GmbH is an engineering service provider in the areas of method planning, tool design and model construction with headquarters in Weingarten near Ravensburg, Germany. As an engineering service provider for large OEMs, the company is subject to the same intense innovation and time pressures as its customers. Therefore, the company is constantly searching for solutions that will optimize the design process. With the completely integrated CATIA V5 solution FASTTRIMSTEEL, BM Form Tec GmbH was able to automate the design of cutting blades for metal and plastic forming tools, resulting in enormous time savings along with an increase in quality at the same time.

The designers of the engineering service provider have been working in the 2D and 3D area for many years. But since there was no tool for automated design of complex cutting blade geometries, the cutting tools had to be produced in a very time-consuming and labor-intensive process, with the involvement of several associates. After all, only the method planners at BM Form Tec GmbH had the high-end area sur-

face expertise required for the creation of cutting blades, whereas the tooling designers were responsible for the solid design

enormous time savings of up to 35 percent in the creation of cutting blades, compared to manual design, is very convincing. The

“With FASTTRIMSTEEL we saved up to 35 percent of time compared to a manual engineering process“

Thorsten Kownatzki
Project Manager, CAD Master at BM Form Tec GmbH

of the blade neck and base. Especially during vacation periods or absences due to sick leave, however, bottlenecks could quickly develop. If one employee was not available in the process chain, the entire process came to a standstill.

effects are even more pronounced in the case of modifications, since nowadays these can often be accomplished with a simple update and new calculation of the blade geometry.

Thorsten Kownatzki became aware of the new cutting tool FASTTRIMSTEEL at the Chassis and Tooling Construction Forum held by CENIT in 2006. „During the presentation, I quickly realized that the tool exactly corresponded to our requirements and could lead to the urgently desired time savings in the design process,“ explains Thorsten Kownatzki still enthusiastically and adds: „Today, thanks to the ease of use of FASTTRIMSTEEL, all employees of BM Form Tec GmbH – from designers to technical drafters – are able to create a cutting blade on the screen after just a few hours of training.“

On the other hand, of course, is the increase in quality – which is an important factor in times of ever increasing competition. Thorsten Kownatzki says, full of praise: „Our cutting blade designs can now be implemented 1:1 in the workshop within a few hours and without further adaptations. Before FASTTRIMSTEEL, our toolmakers often had to carry out minor modifications in a time-consuming manner and after consultation with the designer.“ An important positive side effect of this is that the repeated queries by the model builder to the designer became unnecessary through the use of FASTTRIMSTEEL. In the process, the entire communication loop between design and model construction could be greatly simplified and shortened.

► ADVANTAGES:

The advantages of FASTTRIMSTEEL are plain to see. On the one hand, the obvious

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► IMPLEMENTATION:

After BM Form Tec GmbH became aware of FASTTRIMSTEEL at the Chassis and Tool Construction Forum held by CENIT, the management decided to implement it quickly. As a result, with the vigorous and competent support of CENIT employees, it took just one week for the initial deployment. The quick implementation was particularly important, since BM Form Tec GmbH wanted to quickly make use of the tool for an essential customer project at a large German automobile manufacturer, which had also decided on FASTTRIMSTEEL at the same time.

The pilot project ran smoothly, thanks to the technical support of CENIT. Thorsten Kownatzki emphasizes: „Our contacts at CENIT were very helpful, so that the implementation was able to take place very quickly and without complications.“ And today, the designers at BM Form Tec GmbH still gladly make use of the competent support of CENIT. „We receive a qualified technical response to our queries immediately and without having to provide any long and complicated explanations. It's obvious that the developers of FASTTRIMSTEEL must have an understanding of the design process within our industry. I know this, but of course this is also important to my supervisor, who very much appreciates the time and cost savings that can be achieved,“ emphasizes Kownatzki.

► SUCCESS AND ACCEPTANCE:

Prior to FASTTRIMSTEEL, the design of the complex active areas could only be performed by particularly qualified and experienced employees. After the introduction, even new employees at BM Form Tec GmbH can easily be trained within a very

short time, thanks to the very easy and intuitive operability of the software solution. Since the logic for generation of the active areas is mapped in the software, the qualitative result no longer depends on the knowledge and experience of the designer. In addition, through the extended, cutting blade-specific surface algorithms, the generated active areas are also of higher quality than comparable designs created by hand. Within a very short space of time, even the skeptics became enthusiastic users of the tool. „Today, none of our 35 employees would want to do without the advantages of FASTTRIMSTEEL,“ is how Thorsten Kownatzki describes the current situation.

► HIGHLIGHTS

Thorsten Kownatzki is very pleased that he was able to discover the product for himself and for his company. „We quickly

contracts. And that with a workload at BM Form Tec GmbH averaging 2 sets of 5 tools each quarter. „As a result, the use of FASTTRIMSTEEL naturally pays off very quickly,“ states Kownatzki happily.

► ABOUT BM FORM TEC:

BM Form Tec GmbH was founded in 1993 as a holding company for four renowned individual companies. In 2000, the individual companies were merged into the already established company. Since then, business activities have been focused on the engineering process chain in the area of tool manufacturing. Today, the company is active in the areas of method planning, tool design, Export model construction and consulting. For their design activities, 60 employees utilize state-of-the-art CAX systems such as AutoForm, I-DEAS and CATIA V5. Various national and international cooperation partners support

“Thanks to the ease of use of FASTTRIMSTEEL, today all BM Form Tec employees, from designers to draftsmen, are able to produce cutting blades on the screen in a few hours.”

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realized that we should have implemented this solution much earlier. The supposedly high licensing costs and reservations regarding new products still prevent many small companies from deploying such a high-end software solution. For us though, it quickly became clear that such a tool would pay for itself after a very short period of time.“ BM Form Tec GmbH was able to offset the license fees for FASTTRIMSTEEL after just 6-8 tooling

the company for international market presence and tasks involving overall responsibility.

A strategic partner of the company is the EBZ Group, which is focused on the area of engineering vehicle construction. With the acquisition of the former Thyssen-Krupp site „Drauz-Nothelfer Ravensburg“ by the EBZ Group, direct technical points of contact can now be seen, however.

The company is directly involved with nearly all automobile manufacturers (OEMs). This also extends to various tier-1 and tier-2 suppliers to the customers.



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