

## **Autodesk Announces ADEPT Airmotive as Inventor of the Month for March 2008**

### **Digital Prototyping Helps Company Speed Development of Lightweight, Fuel-Efficient General Aviation Engine**

**SAN RAFAEL, Calif., March 31, 2008** — Autodesk, Inc. (NASDAQ: ADSK) today announced that ADEPT Airmotive (ADEPT), an innovative manufacturer of general aviation engines for the light aircraft market, has been named as the Autodesk Inventor of the Month for March 2008. ADEPT relied upon Autodesk Inventor engineering design software to develop its revolutionary 320T – a 320-horsepower general aviation engine with a compact design that offers low vibration levels and high structural integrity. The 280 lb. engine is lighter than a traditional piston engine of comparable horsepower, allowing the 320T to reap significant fuel efficiencies to the operator of the aircraft and is less impactful on the environment.

The Inventor of the Month program (<http://www.autodesk.com/inventorofthefmonth>) recognises the most innovative design and engineering advancements made by the extensive community using Autodesk Inventor software – the foundation of the Autodesk solution for Digital Prototyping.

Leveraging Digital Prototyping capabilities within Inventor allowed ADEPT to produce accurate 3D models of the 320T before anything was actually built — reducing the number of physical prototypes that needed to be constructed. Processes that once took hours — such as changing the wall thickness of an engine component — were completed almost instantaneously with Inventor. This allowed engineers to spend less time constructing geometric models and more time creating innovative designs, and then simulating the performance of the designs under real-world conditions.

“Digital Prototyping was absolutely critical because it allowed us to bring a single digital model through every phase of design and development,” said Richard Schulz, managing director at ADEPT. “We were able to explore the form, fit and function of our designs, without expending time and resources on physical prototypes.”

This optimisation process allowed ADEPT to minimise potentially expensive downstream changes by catching errors before they reached manufacturing. As a result, ADEPT — with a core team of only three designers — was able to produce a working prototype of the 320T, paving the way for the introduction of a new generation of modern general aviation engines.

“Digital Prototyping allows manufacturers of any size to innovate more effectively while simplifying the concept to manufacturing process,” said Robert “Buzz” Kross, senior vice president of Autodesk Manufacturing Solutions. “ADEPT’s remarkable achievements are a testament to this notion, and it is a pleasure to name them as our Inventor of the Month for March.”

#### **About the Autodesk Inventor of the Month Program**

Each month, Autodesk selects an Inventor of the Month from the more than 700,000 users of Autodesk Inventor software, the foundation for Digital Prototyping. Winners are chosen for engineering excellence and groundbreaking innovation. For more information on Autodesk Inventor of the Month, contact Autodesk at [IOM@autodesk.com](mailto:IOM@autodesk.com).

#### **About ADEPT Airmotive**

ADEPT Airmotive’s core activities are the design, development and manufacture of a range of general aviation engines for the light aircraft market. The company is based at Virginia Airport in Durban, South Africa, where it has its design and administration offices and an R&D/Testing facility. For additional information about ADEPT Airmotive, visit [www.adeptairmotive.com](http://www.adeptairmotive.com).

#### **About Autodesk**

Autodesk, Inc. is the world leader in 2D and 3D design software for the manufacturing, construction, and media and entertainment markets. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk has developed the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art digital prototyping solutions to help customers experience their ideas before they are built. Fortune 1000 companies rely on Autodesk for the tools to visualise, simulate and analyse real-world performance early in the design process to save time and money, enhance quality and foster innovation. For additional information about Autodesk, visit <http://www.autodesk.co.uk/>.