



Duvale to slash design times using Autodesk Inventor

Duvale, a specialist in the design and manufacture of a wide range of movable wall systems, has chosen Autodesk Inventor to improve the communication of designs to the shop floor and to provide an additional tool for marketing its systems. The company, whose solutions are used in widely ranging environments including offices, conference areas, hotels, restaurants, schools and sports halls, decided to upgrade its software after undertaking an evaluation of a number of aspects of its operations.

Using Inventor, it plans to create templates that will allow it to enter survey data directly into an existing model which will automatically update to produce a finished drawing and parts list. This will greatly improve accuracy and reduce design time as Robert Gladman, Production Manager at Duvale explains, "A standard drawing currently takes around an hour to produce, we are aiming to reduce this to between five and six minutes."

Once these templates are created and in use the company will introduce digital prototyping to reduce the number of physical prototypes it produces. Gladman explains, "For a recent project we created three prototypes using Inventor and within a matter of days we decided which would be the most feasible and pursued that one; it is a much more economical way of working."

In order to maximise its investment in Inventor, Duvale will be using the system to instruct those on the manufacturing side of the project how to put together the products. "Some of our staff do not have English as a first language so there can be a communication breakdown when trying to explain complex manufacturing processes. Using Inventor we will be able to show them exactly what they need to do, which we hope will increase accuracy and productivity," says Gladman.

Its ability to provide a useful marketing tool was demonstrated at a recent exhibition at London's Excel in which Duvale participated. As well as a physical full working model of one of its systems, 3D solid models with video and images from Inventor were extensively used on a plasma screen to promote and explain the various movable wall systems.

John Jervis of Autodesk reseller, Midas, who has worked with Duvale to implement the Inventor software says, "Using Inventor, Duvale will be able to significantly speed up its design process by creating templates and producing less physical prototypes, this will help the company stay ahead of the competition."

-ends-

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc. is the world leader in 2D and 3D design software for the manufacturing, building and 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 real. 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 www.autodesk.co.uk.