

Sheet metal system speeds part design and fabrication

A comprehensive computer-aided design and manufacturing solution for sheet metal design and fabrication is being introduced by General Electric's Calma Company.

The SheetMetal System, a fully integrated application package for the company's DDM (design, drafting, and manufacturing) mechanical CAE/CAD/CAM

systems, is intended for mechanical machinery and electromechanical equipment manufacturers with extensive sheet metal requirements.

Offered for both the DEC VAX and Apollo computer environments, the SheetMetal System consists of three integrated elements: design, including automatic flat-pattern layout; nesting; and NC processing.

The design function enables users to generate detailed three-dimensional discrete part designs from complex three-dimensional assemblies. Once the 3-D design is complete, the SheetMetal System features fully automatic unfolding of even the most complex parts into 2-D flat layouts, automatically compensating for metal stretch.

After the design process, the nesting function enables the user to arrange flat parts on the specified stock in the most material-efficient manner. The user establishes custom punch press, flame or laser cutter libraries. These libraries make it possible to define such elements as punch press geometrics or flame and laser kerf width.

Following nesting, the SheetMetal System's NC processing function maximizes CAM productivity by automatically creating, simulating, and postprocessing tool paths for NC punch presses and flame or laser cutters. Significant among the NC processing features is the ability to create a tool library in the CAD/CAM system, allowing the user to quickly set up or rearrange tools.

Calma's SheetMetal System will be available for DEC VAX-based systems in the third quarter of 1985. Prices range from \$12,000 to \$40,000 and depend on system configuration.

Calma Company, with sales offices in 60 US cities, is headquartered at 501 Sycamore Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035-7489; (408) 434-4000.

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Image-scanning workstations allow computer-aided publishing

ImagiTex has announced an optional software package for its Image 3000 workstations; it allows users to develop documents that have a high image content and in which layout is critical. The software package, called Impact, permits users to create a layout that includes both graphics and photographs. Impact uses what is called "spot color," which lets the user add color from a wide palette to the white portions of the document. It can design products from labels to sales brochures, manuals to packaging, claims ImagiTex, and it is priced at \$25,000. Further information is available at 77 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, NH 03062; (603) 889-6600.

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CAD/CAM

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