

Engineering Innovations

By Rita Stange, ConnectPress Staff Writer

Pacific Design & Manufacturing Show Special Feature

PDMS is not as much of a conference as it a tradeshow, but some manage to host presentations such as KETIV, an Autodesk Premier Solutions Provider and VAR based in California.

KETIV hosted a seminar, *Engineering Innovations in Consumer Product Packaging and Conveying* featuring Can Lines Engineering (CLE). CLE shared the company's story on productivity gains since going 3D with Autodesk Inventor.

CLE was started in 1960 by Harold Koplien and serves the food beverages and consumer products industries by designing and manufacturing container and material conveying systems.

KETIV Vice President Anthony Rodriguez welcomed the mixed audience of beverage manufacturers and companies evaluating or implementing tools such as Inventor, and said, if companies were going to manufacture in the United States they had to be different. "We want to keep jobs and engineering here," stated Rodriguez. "We have the ability to innovate."

CLE CEO Gary L. Nemetz took the stage next letting attendees know how using Autodesk Inventor software has benefited the company. For one, Inventor has made the design and manufacturing process faster; two, the company has been able to meet customer deadlines; the third point he mentioned was that using Inventor enables them to keep a "lean" staff. "Inventor allows us to keep a smaller staff," commented Nemetz. "We've been able to plan the growth of the engineering department."

CLE Director of Marketing Neal Berzowski spoke of CLE's achievements, which included August 2006 *Inventor of the Month* by Autodesk. He cited prominent customer names and projects such as Anheuser-Busch, LeBatt's and Coca-Cola. "We can help bring it to the market faster, meaner and leaner," said Berzowski.

CLE Director of Engineering Dave Gadberry gave the talk on the need for 3D design. Gadberry who has been with CLE for 25 years said he remembers when he started out drawing with a pencil. One of the reasons CLE decided it was time to go from 2D to 3D was competition. The company saw the need to speed up the engineering and manufacturing processes by using the tools in Inventor.



Dave Gadberry and Neal Berzowski of Can Lines Engineering

“We do things we’ve never done before with Inventor,” said Gadberry. An example he gave was making a custom steel structure 40 x 60 feet for filling beer, which took about a week to model. He said they might have attempted this in 2D but would have come up with issues. “What used to take four to five weeks of fabrication now takes weeks or even days,” added Gadberry.

In addition to Inventor CLE uses AutoCAD Mechanical, AutoCAD Electrical, and Autodesk Vault.

CLE and KETIV have been working together for five years. CLE would have never known about two time-saving features in Inventor if it hadn’t been for a class the company’s engineers had taken, taught by KETIV. Before that class, CLE did not have a standard parts library and use the feature iParts. They now have 10,000 drawings stored in Autodesk Vault, the 3D data management system. iAssemblies, assembly configurations that allow designs to be used over and over, is the other feature they use religiously. Gadberry concluded, “That was working hand in hand with KETIV.” “Without KETIV we wouldn’t have been able to do it.”

So let’s evaluate what was learned during that session: Working in 3D saves time, enhance skills and learn about unknown features by utilizing resellers and taking classes and CLE benefits from using Autodesk Inventor.

In a follow up after the session, KETIV Marketing Manager Erin Spinney commented on why the company hosted the session. “KETIV partners with its customers to share best practices in several vertical industries within manufacturing,” said Spinney. “CLE has maintained its competitive advantages as a leading supplier of packaging machines by embracing Autodesk’s technology and investing in KETIV’s expert resources. Our joint vision is to bring similar success to companies in the Southwest.”

KETIV hoped the audience left with the knowledge that KETIV and Autodesk can help them achieve ambitious business goals by incorporating processes and tools to improve efficiency, added Spinney.

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