

Julia White
905-827-2997 ext. 215
jwhite@forming.com

**For Release 9 a.m. EST
February 19, 2003**

Forming Technologies Announces FASTBLANK for Solid Edge

Powerful Blank Shape Development Capabilities in Solid Edge

Oakville, ON, CANADA — February 19, 2003 — Today at the Fifth Annual Solid Edge Global Summit, **Forming Technologies Inc.** (FTI), a leading developer of software for design and simulation of sheet metal components, announces the worldwide release of V2.0 of **FASTBLANK for Solid Edge**. FASTBLANK provides Solid Edge® users with a powerful tool for developing optimal blank shapes for complex sheet metal designs.

“Solid Edge users in the stamping industry now have a fast and accurate tool to develop blank shapes,” said Dan Marinac, Director of Business Development at FTI. “The blank shape defines the first station in a progressive or transfer die. FASTBLANK for Solid Edge not only substantially improves formability and product quality, but it consistently reduces material costs and the number of trials in the prove-out stage. The standalone version, FASTBLANK, is already the world’s most popular blank development tool.”

In addition to blank development, FASTBLANK for Solid Edge also provides a contour plot indicating the thickening and thinning that results from the forming process. It accounts for material stretch and deformation, as well as bending, and can flatten any Solid Edge geometry. This tool can be used to assess the feasibility of a part for manufacturing.

"Die designers, tooling engineers, and estimators will benefit most from the easy to use interface that lets them quickly generate accurate blank shapes directly from Solid Edge parts," says Marinac. "This package will make the designers' jobs easier, safer, and more productive."

“Forming Technologies has developed a stamping application that fits perfectly with the Solid Edge philosophy of extending productivity for our user community,” says Mark Davies, Solid Edge Voyager Program Manager at EDS PLM Solutions.

FASTBLANK for Solid Edge has been driven by industry demand and is part of FTI’s commitment to deliver a suite of software to analyze product cost, formability, die design, and process feasibility. FASTBLANK for Solid Edge is available for download at www.forming.com.

About Solid Edge

Solid Edge (www.solidedge.com) from EDS is powerful 3D CAD software that allows manufacturing companies to Design with Insight and to reduce time to market, improve quality and lower cost. The exclusive Solid Edge Insight technology embeds design management capabilities directly within CAD, providing insight into design intent to the entire organization and enhancing collaboration. Insight, complemented by Solid Edge’s superior core modeling and process workflows, has reduced Engineering Change Orders (ECOs) and their related rework by 50 percent or more. The extensive Solid Edge user community is comprised of designers at thousands of companies worldwide, including Alcoa, NEC Engineering, and Volvo. The Solid Edge Voyager Program includes 160 integrated engineering software applications and computer hardware solutions.

About EDS

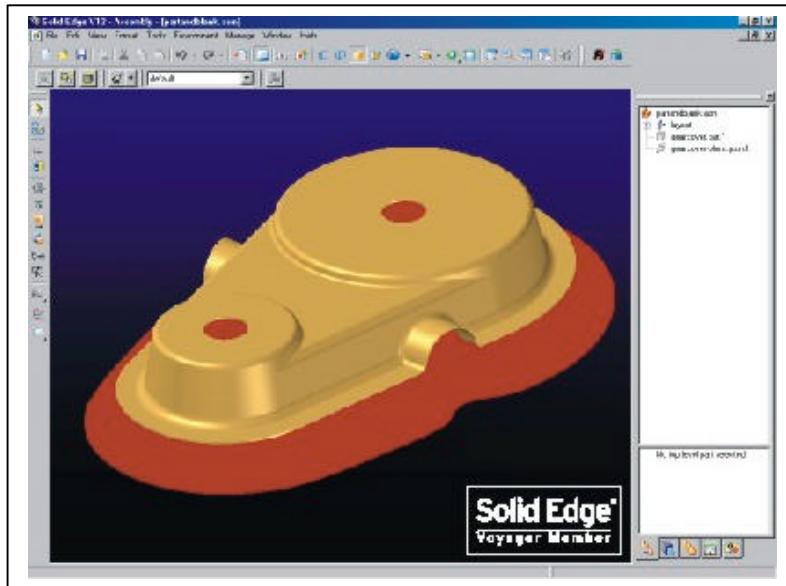
EDS, the leading global services company, provides strategy, implementation, business transformation and operational solutions for clients managing the business and technology complexities of the digital economy. EDS brings together the world’s best technologies to address critical client business imperatives. It helps clients eliminate boundaries, collaborate in new ways, establish their customers’ trust and continuously seek improvement. EDS, with its management consulting subsidiary, A.T. Kearney, serves the world’s leading companies and governments in 60 countries. EDS reported revenues of \$21.5 billion in 2001. The company’s stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: EDS) and the London Stock Exchange. Learn more at www.eds.com.

About Forming Technologies

Forming Technologies Incorporated is the world's leading developer of computer aided engineering software for design and simulation of sheet metal components. FTI has developed a suite of software to analyze product cost, formability, die design and process feasibility. For the past 15 years, FTI has provided OEMs and suppliers in the automotive, aerospace and appliance industries with innovative software and training solutions designed to reduce development time and material costs. FTI and its global network of partners provide sales and technical support to customers in more than 30 countries. For information, or to download a trial license, visit the company's Web site www.forming.com or call 1-888-329-4448 (outside of North America, call +1-905-827-2997).

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Slide:



Caption:

“FASTBLANK for Solid Edge provides users with a powerful tool for developing complex blank shapes for stamped parts.”