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***Photonics Tech Briefs* Features How The Aerospace Corporation Reduced Design Evaluation Cycle Time By Over 50% On Flight Hardware Program**

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A case study on The Aerospace Corporation was published in the October 2009 issue of *Photonics Tech Briefs*. The article, which can be found at http://www.ptbmagazine.com/features/2009/feat1_1009.html, details how The Aerospace Corporation used the Comet™ integrated workspace on a flight hardware program to reduce their overall design evaluation cycle time by over 50%.

The article titled “Designing Electro-Optical Sensors Using Collaborative Systems Engineering Technology” explains how the team benefited from working with a single integrated master model that comprehends and integrates all levels of their engineering tools from Excel to a Pro/ENGINEER® design model to sophisticated engineering performance simulation tools for structural, thermal and optical (STOP) analysis.

The design of EO sensors requires careful attention to the thermal and structural effects that adversely affect optical performance in terms of instrument pointing accuracy and image quality. Teams of domain experts, each focusing on a separate aspect of the sensor, work towards understanding and managing its complex behavior. Comet software streamlined the fragmented process allowing domain experts to capture and automate analysis processes across multiple physics domains and have insight into overall system performance. The streamlined process saved time and improved quality.

According to Dr. David Thomas, Senior Project Engineer at The Aerospace Corporation, “The integrated STOP process that we developed allows an interdisciplinary analysis that formerly took several days or weeks to perform to be completed in a single day. The savings in cost and schedule required to perform this independent assessment, due to this dramatic reduction in design cycle time, were substantial given that six different integrated design analyses were required to complete this work.”

Key results from the recent project powered by Comet software are:

- Each new EO sensor analysis iteration could be performed and evaluated within a single day.
- The team saved time by conducting real-time design reviews with program management and the customer directly within Comet.
- Team members developed a deeper understanding of the multi-disciplinary behavior of the overall system.
- Instant feedback on the accuracy of the simulation model allowed the team to quickly predict performance and adjust models to improve subsequent design iterations.

A paper and presentation regarding this project delivered by Dr. David Thomas at the SPIE Optics + Photonics 2009 conference is available for download at <http://www.cometsolutions.com/moreinfo.html>.

About Comet Solutions, Inc.

Comet Solutions, Inc. provides software applications that enable manufacturers to achieve a product development process driven by engineering intent. Comet software is a performance engineering workspace in which engineers make determinations if design concepts meet engineering requirements during the early stages of conceptual and feasibility studies. By running analyses through reusable simulation templates powered by abstract modeling, engineers and designers gain insight into product performance much earlier in the product design process and make better informed decisions. With Comet software, companies exploit the full potential of their existing CAD/CAE/PLM tools and explore more design alternatives, enabling the rapid development and delivery of more innovative, higher quality, and cost-effective products.

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