ESI Group and Datakit join forces in order to establish a link between CAD models and CAE.
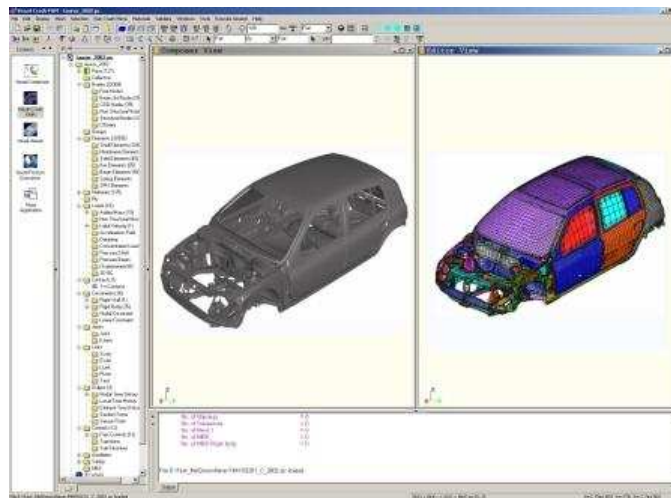
ESI Group, leader and pioneer of virtual prototyping and manufacturing solutions, provides industrial companies with reliable software,which enables them to substitute a maximum of physical tests by numerical simulation. This task, which includes CAE as well as numerical simulation, is always upstream in the design cycle of products or processes and
plays a major role in solving the difficult trade off between safety - performance - comfort - environment factors together with the requirements of profitability and time to market.

A few figures allow us to measure the importance of virtual testing solutions. Daratech Institute estimates the growth of numerical simulation needs at 12%, for 2004. ESI Group itself announces a 19% rise in total sales turnover and a 31% increase in licence sales for the first half of 2004,.
ESI Group employs nearly 500 people in the world. Its main markets are the United States, Brazil, Europe and Asia. Its software is mainly used in the automobile sector, in foundries, in stamping or assembly workshops , by equipment suppliers and obviously also within the research departments of the biggest companies. The deployment is made at the same time towards other markets, such as the defense, the nuclear energy or the micro-electronics industry.

Whatever the field of application, saving time on the product validation or process cycle requires working as close as possible to real conditions while having the complete design data available. First and foremost, this means being able to recover geometrical data stored in a standard format like Parasolid, STEP, VDA or a native one, mainly CatiaV4, CatiaV5, DWG 3d, UG, PRO/E and to be able to import it into ESI Group's simulation software . This can be either solid or surface 3D data, and includes all assembly components and their matrix tables.
In order to allow the user to quickly solve various considered solutions, and then to refine his choice by testing all possible alternatives, the assembly's construction process is preserved and the user chooses himself which parts are to be converted. These interfaces will be available for the group's software in the form of modules dedicated to data translation. Unix is the most popular hardware used (HP UX, Sun Solaris, IBM AX, Silicone SGI) as well as Linux or Windows.

By signing this agreement, Datakit opens the way to numerical simulation, making it a real strategic priority and major source of growth in the CAD-CAI market in the years to come.