

Increasing fluid power capabilities with additive manufacturing

Global engineering technologies company, Renishaw, recently collaborated with Domin Fluid Power to help the company maximise productivity when designing and manufacturing direct drive valves. Using metal Additive Manufacturing (AM) techniques, the company can now manufacture smaller, more efficient drives and reduce cycle times from five and a half hours to just one.

Domin collaborated with Renishaw to develop a new, stable, state-of-the-art technology suite for the fluid power sector. The company visited Renishaw's AM Solutions Centre in Stone, Staffordshire, UK, to develop its understanding of AM and understand how the technology could help them to produce highly efficient drives for customers.

"Metal AM allows you to stretch the art of what is possible in the fluid power sector," explains Marcus Pont, general manager of Domin Fluid Power. "After spending years on testing different prototypes and designs we have developed our knowledge in AM that will enable us to produce efficient parts for customers. For example, we have

designed one of our drives that is 25 percent of the original size, 25 percent more powerful and produced at a third of the cost."

"At Renishaw we are always looking for opportunities to be involved with developing emerging technologies that make positive changes in the industrial world," explains Martin McMahon, AM lead technical consultant at Renishaw. "We've worked with Domin throughout the whole process."

"Additive manufacturing is a key technology for Domin. It gives the company the ability to build complex parts, free of tooling and with minimal operations and assembly. Trying to integrate such complex functionality into such a small design would not be possible using conventional manufacturing techniques."

Manufacturers in a wide variety of sectors can use AM technology to improve productivity in high value, small volume production. Renishaw's latest system, the RenAM 500Q, is currently broadening the market appeal of AM into applications that were previously uneconomical due to its



efficiency. The compact system features four 500 W lasers to speed up the printing process by up to four times, improving productivity and lowering cost per part. At its state-of-the-art site in Stone, Renishaw showcases its expertise in additive manufacturing. Partners can visit the Solutions Centre to help unlock the potential of AM and develop an efficient end-to-end process.

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123 Insight expands accounts connectivity options for its MRP software

123 Insight has announced the release of expanded connectivity options from its MRP system to popular accounts systems. In addition to established accounts interfaces to Sage 50 and Pegasus Opera and integration with Access Dimensions, tight integration is now offered between 123insight and Sage 200, with more systems being supported shortly.

123insight's Advanced Accounts Interfaces (AAI), in conjunction with 123insight partner Applied Business Solutions, provide a simple and robust way to link sales and purchase order processing with Sage 50 or Pegasus Opera sales/purchase ledgers. 123 Insight Ltd has, in conjunction with approved partner Solweb, launched Accounts Gateway® for Sage 200 and Access Dimensions, delivering seamless integration and providing valuable accounts data directly within 123insight.

Customer and Supplier name and address details are automatically synchronised between 123insight and your chosen accounting system. Users of 123insight, via Accounts Gateway can see all sales invoices

that are outstanding, as far as payment is concerned and the same applies from the purchasing side of your business with purchase invoices. In both cases, any unallocated payments are clearly displayed for all. Any relevant reference numbers, e.g. sales order number, purchase order number, despatch note number flow freely between the two system, providing you with the visibility and control over your operations.

In addition, there are comprehensive "credit control rules" which will check for a series of "conditions" at order placement and despatch; taking the appropriate action if they are violated.

Guy Amoroso, managing director of 123 Insight Ltd says: "The addition of Accounts Gateway allows 123insight customers to choose the option that best fits their business. Furthermore, it also makes 123insight more attractive to a wider accounting systems audience. We'll be rolling out Accounts Gateway options for Sage 50 and Xero later this year, with other accounting systems to follow."



All options are available for a low monthly subscription, with pricing at **123insight.com**.

Founded in 2000, 123insight provides an award-winning end-to-end solution that is suitable for virtually any manufacturing environment, including Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS), aerospace, marine, automotive, medical, food, textiles, electronics and oil. It has options for CRM, service and repair, e-commerce and integration/interfaces into all major accounting systems.

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