Renault and ESI Group sign a framework agreement for strategic collaboration

The Associated Press

To accelerate innovation with Virtual Prototyping

Paris, France - May 16, 2013 - ESI Group , pioneer and world-leading solution provider in Virtual Prototyping for manufacturing industries, announces the signature of a framework collaboration agreement with Renault.

The agreement aims at supporting Renault's new strategic plan "Renault 2016 - Drive the Change", founded on Renault's ambition to make sustainable mobility accessible to all. The industrial challenge Renault faces is to improve the quality of its vehicles, while lowering prices and complying with new regulations aimed at reducing their environmental impact, especially CO2 emissions. This translates into a compelling need to accelerate innovation, necessitating the introduction of new materials and processes that have impacts that must be evaluated and tested quickly and reliably.

To this aim, as well as to generally enhance the processes that support innovation, Renault has implemented a Virtual Prototyping methodology. Different from traditional CAE methods, Virtual Prototyping helps assess numerous options rapidly; eliminating the need for physical prototypes and providing a powerful decision-making tool that enlarges the field of innovative possibilities and accelerates the identification of high value-added innovations.

Renault started using ESI solutions in the early 90's, to perform accurate and predictive manufacturing simulations and conduct virtual performance tests on its vehicles, prior to real tests.

In 2011, following the signature of a framework agreement for licences with ESI, Renault then adopted ESI's Virtual Performance Solution (VPS). Providing performance engineering and optimization across multiple domains, including crash, impact and occupant safety, as well as interior acoustics and seat prototyping, VPS works on a single core model and as a single software solution. Using VPS, Renault teams are able to predict the effect of manufacturing processes and material properties on a product's performance and replace the need for physical prototypes; saving cost and time and assuring the quality of their products.

Over the past years, Renault and ESI's co-creative approach has given birth to some of ESI's commercially available software solutions, including its passenger comfort software suite, now part of Virtual Seat Solution. Aimed at providing end-to-end Virtual Prototyping for seats, this solution enables engineers to perform multi-domain simulations related to seat manufacturing and performance, and provides a basis for optimizing seat design collaboratively using a single core model.

The framework collaboration agreement between Renault and ESI aims to strengthen the existing relationship and bring an increasing number of opportunities for further co-creation around ESI solutions.

Alain de Rouvray, ESI Group's Chairman and CEO, affirms "ESI will aim at providing solutions leading Renault to go beyond their standard objectives and to implement disruptive innovations. By helping Renault meet its cost, performance, lead times, and most importantly, its innovation targets, ESI will demonstrate the value of its co-creative approach in delivering substantial, tangible gains in competitiveness."

Jean Loup HUET, Director of Engineering Performance and Methods at Renault adds, "Renault is pleased to strengthen its collaboration with ESI, a strategic partner for end-to-end Virtual Prototyping. In alignment with our corporate strategy, our close collaboration with ESI will enable Renault to anticipate the needs for new technologies, and to proactively manage the innovations required to supply the competitive global automotive markets."

About ESI Group ESI is a pioneer and world-leading provider in Virtual Prototyping that takes into account the physics of materials. ESI boasts a unique know-how in Virtual Product Engineering, based on an integrated suite of coherent, industry-oriented applications. Addressing manufacturing industries, Virtual Product Engineering aims to replace physical prototypes by realistically simulating a product's behavior during testing, to fine-tune fabrication and assembly processes in accordance with desired product performance, and to evaluate the impact on product use under normal or accidental conditions. ESI's solutions fit into a single collaborative and open environment for End-to-End Virtual Prototyping. These solutions are delivered using the latest technologies, including immersive Virtual Reality, to bring products to life in 3D; helping customers make the right decisions throughout product development. The company employs about 950 high-level specialists worldwide covering more than 30 countries. ESI Group is listed in compartment C of NYSE Euronext Paris.

About Renault The Renault group, present in 118 countries, designs, develops, manufactures and sells passenger cars and light commercial vehicles under the Renault, Dacia and Renault Samsung Motors brands. To meet the new challenges facing the automotive industry, both environmental and economic, Renault is improving existing technologies with new generations of carbon-efficient engines and implementing its breakthrough 'Zero Emissions' programme. Renault has rolled out a zero-emission range featuring Fluence Z.E. and Kangoo Z.E. (launched in 2011), Twizy (an innovative urban quadricycle released in 2012) and ZOE (due to go on sale in spring 2013). The range brings innovation to the widest possible motoring public. With its partner Nissan, Renault is targeting world leadership in the mass marketing of zero-emission vehicles.

Alain de Rouvray, CEO, ESI Group and Jean Loup HUET, Director of Performance and Engineering Methods at Renault, January 24, 2013, at the Renault Technocenter in

Guyancourt, near Paris.

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