Paris, France, 21 December, 2012

ESI honored with the '*Innovative Alliance*' EFB award at EuroBLECH 2012

Recognizing ESI's contribution to spurring competitiveness in the Sheet Metal Forming industry

Paris, France – 21 December 2012 – ESI Group, pioneer and world-leading solution provider in Virtual Prototyping for manufacturing industries, received the EFB's "Innovative Alliance" prize at EuroBLECH 2012, an important international event dedicated to Sheet Metal Forming, which took place from 23 to 27 October in Hanover, Germany.

This award recognizes the contribution of members of the European Research Association for Sheet Metal Forming (Europäischen Forschungs-gesellschaft für Blechverarbeitung, or EFB) who successfully engage in industrial networking with other companies and industrial institutions operating in the field of Sheet Metal Forming, while promoting research towards new materials, processes and quality control.

Andreas Renner, GM of ESI GmbH, declares, "*We are very proud of this award, which speaks to our continuous commitment to help the industry be more competitive by developing breakthrough simulation technologies. We believe this prize also recognizes the contribution of our customers and partners. Only through our continuous dialogue can we develop practical solutions to address the most relevant industrial challenges of our time.*"

Under the motto "*Experience your Product*", ESI presented the latest version of its Sheet Metal Forming software simulation suite PAM-STAMP 2G and PAM-DIEMAKER for CATIA V5, addressing design and manufacturing issues directly within CATIA V5's generative modeling environment.

The ever-increasing need for higher quality sheet metal products, and the need to optimize processes to cut manufacturing costs, calls for innovative simulation solutions. With PAM-STAMP 2G and PAM-DIEMAKER for CATIA V5, ESI provides OEMs with established solutions that have long been recognized by the Sheet Metal Forming industry for simulating and optimizing products or parts, and consequently help them achieve the panel shapes required to deliver exciting designs and structural performance that exceeds safety, weight reduction and other objectives.

ESI is the pioneer and world-leading solution provider in virtual prototyping.

Market Data

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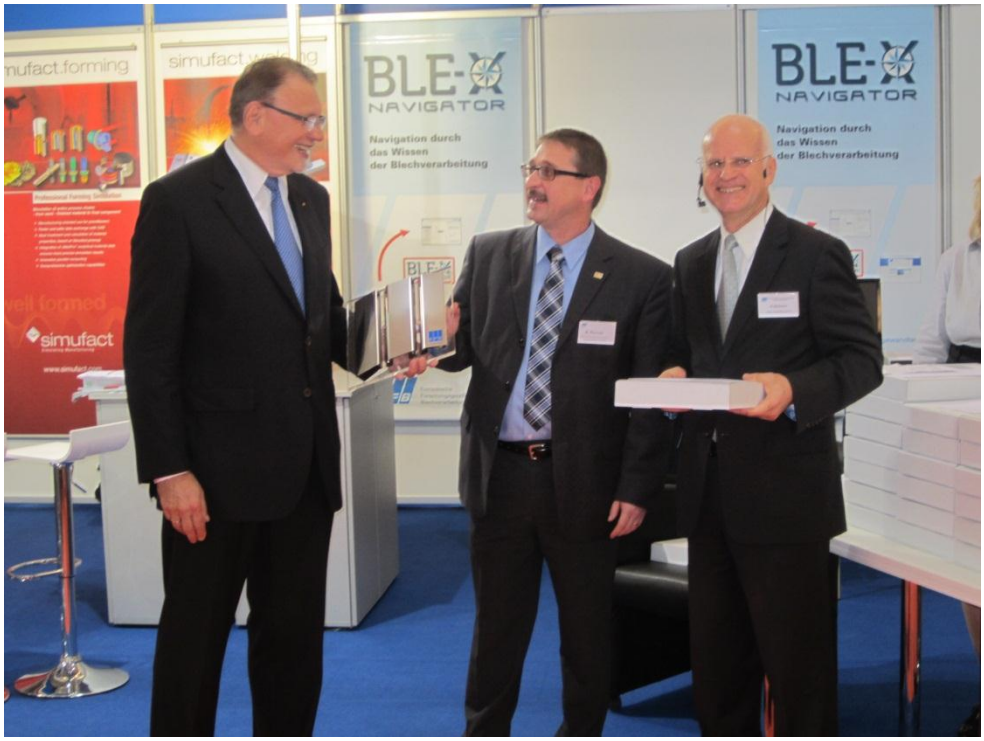
Visitors also experienced ESI's new range of collaborative decision-making solutions: IC.IDO. Using immersive 3D technology, visitors could visualize virtual prototypes and experience the value of embedded real time physics for collision detection and simulation of flexible pipes and cables. With IC.IDO, companies bring their industrial products to life, long before any physical prototype exists. This allows them to collaboratively make decisions cross-function, cross-area and cross-discipline for every important phase of the development process.

Andreas Renner adds: "*EuroBLECH is an excellent opportunity for ESI to establish a dialogue with industry specialists and of course, our customers. The solutions we presented at EuroBLECH triggered vivid interest.*"



Wilfried Jakob, President of the EFB (left)**, Andreas Renner**, ESI Group, receiving the Innovative Alliance EFB Award (center) and **Dr. Norbert Wellmann**, CEO of the EFB (right)

For more ESI news, visit: www.esi-group.com/newsroom

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 of 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 900 high-level specialists worldwide covering more than 30 countries. ESI Group is listed in compartment C of NYSE Euronext Paris.

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