When Emerson & Renwick, leading manufacturers of production machinery, began to assess the viability of migrating to a 3D design solution, the company's 40,000 legacy AutoCAD drawings weighed on everyone's minds. These drawings could still be put to good use and they still wanted to ensure that they could be easily accessed.

The move to 3D was prompted by a major order, so ease of transition was also a big criteria. Autodesk Inventor Series was the obvious choice, but, as section leader, Steve Edmundson, explains, they wanted to be certain they were making the right investment.

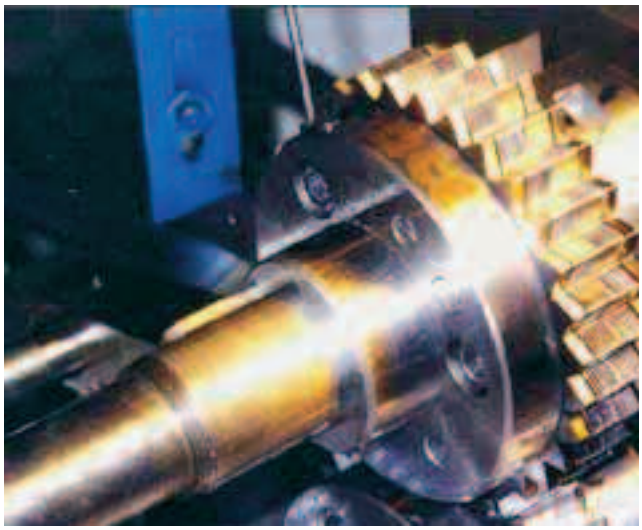
"Consequently no stone was left unturned – we looked at everything including Solid Edge and SolidWorks – and everyone got involved including our managing director," he recalls.

However, they eventually decided on two seats of Inventor, especially as it meant they could easily continue to use their AutoCAD drawings.

Now, three years later, they have 12 standalone and 4 networked seats of Inventor. The software is used on all their projects designing machinery to make radiators for the automotive industry, mainly for export. They are also just beginning to use it for their wallcoverings sector.

"The savings have been significant. Using 2D you only find an error when a product is built, now we can eliminate design errors and interferences before we actually make anything," says Edmundson.

"We are also making good use of the Mechsoft functionality built into Inventor 10 and the Ansys FEA and Inventor integrates with our EdgeCAM system, so everything works together very well and compounds our cost and time savings even further."



He explains that he is also currently investigating Autodesk Vault, the work-in-progress data management solution that is part of Inventor Series. "We certainly have a need to use a solution such as this. On this site we have 15 draughtsmen working on one project but on different sub-assemblies. We need to be sure nobody is working with old data."

Overall, it is clear that the team enjoys many benefits of working in 3D. "It addresses the need for a better common design concept," concludes Edmundson. "Not everyone can "read" 2D, but now, other departments and more importantly the customer knows what we are talking about and what they are getting at the end of the process."

Web:www.quadrasol.co.uk **Tel:** 01254 301888 **Fax:** 01254 301323 **Email:** sales@quadrasol.co.uk