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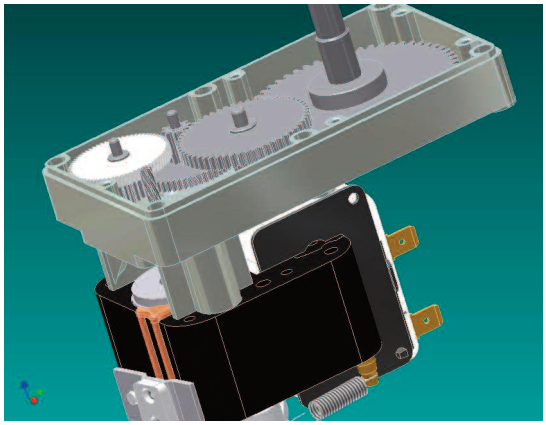
Autodesk

Mellor ELECTRICS LIMITED

As one of the world's leading gear motor manufacturers, Mellor Electrics has customers across the globe, from US to Australia and Japan. Its products form an integral part of vending machines, pellet stoves and pellet heating equipment, pumps, medical equipment, catering equipment and more. As such, it is vital that Mellor products are reliable, consistent and accurate throughout their working life.

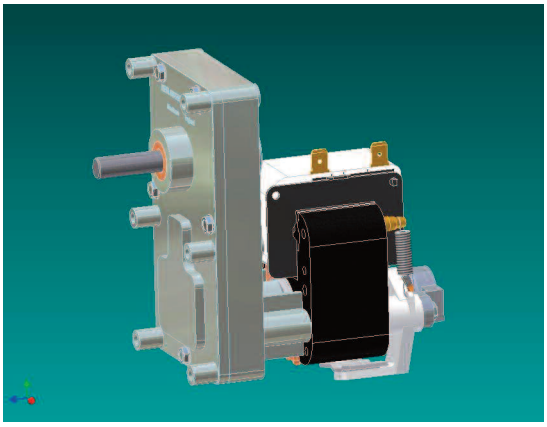
To achieve this Mellor keeps the majority of processes in-house, so maintaining control of all aspects of production. It pays particular attention to its design and production facilities ensuring it uses the latest and best machinery, turning centres, testing equipment and CAD facilities. This is why it has used Autodesk Inventor Series for the past year and a half.

Technical manager Lee Clarke says that Inventor was chosen as the only manufacturing design software that allowed the team to work in both 2D and 3D. This, he explains, has many advantages – not only does it extend the value and life of legacy 2D drawings, but it also means that they can chose to design in whichever way is most appropriate to the task.



"We can produce 2D drawings which can be almost instantly converted into 3D. This saves a considerable amount of time." But this is not to say that he doesn't see many advantages to designing in 3D: "If something is wrong then I know straight away," he explains.

It is also helping speed up the process of designing one-off products for Mellor's global customers: "Before, when a customer asked for a specific gear box, we would need to design it, produce a sample and send it to, say, Germany or Australia.



"This could take weeks. And if they wanted changes, of course, this would add to the time even further." Now the team designs and models in 3D and sends the images by email. Changes can be made almost instantly, radically minimising the lead time on the products.

"Inventor allows us to cut out complete stages of the process, but still give a better service," concludes Clarke.

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