

Case Study

Quadra Solutions Ltd

Contact us

Tel: 01254 301 888

Email: sales@quadrasol.co.uk

Web: www.quadrasol.co.uk

Kavia Tooling Limited is a Yorkshire based British firm who specialise in the design and manufacture of complex or simple precision injection mould tools and plastic components. Continued investment in new injection moulding machines and advanced 3D design technology ensures efficient production, and that components are produced to the required tolerance levels.



Being a pioneering company, keen to develop advanced working processes and employ the most progressive technology, Kavia was the first company in the UK to trial and implement Autodesk Inventor Tooling 2009.

Autodesk Inventor Tooling is a new suite of technology for the European market and is developed specifically for mould tool design and manufacture. This suite has the specific tools required to create split lines, ejection points, fill marks, validate mould designs and much more. Inventor Tooling uses Moldflow technology, the industry standard, to ensure that all designs are optimized and high levels of analysis can be conducted to check flow and time to fill, air pockets and quality.

The business relationship between Quadra Solutions and Kavia began in 2005 and it was this relationship that led Kavia to Inventor Tooling. Although not officially released in the UK market, because of the strong relationship between Quadra and Autodesk and liaising closely with them, Quadra

managed to secure a test version of the software for Chris Cole, head of design at Kavia. Chris had been assessing the tooling solutions available on the market and had evaluated Vero, Unigraphics and SolidWorks. When Chris was shown Inventor Tooling and saw how easy and intuitive the user interface is, he was convinced this was the solution they were looking for.

Chris explains, "We have been working with Quadra for a number of years now, Steve Livsey from Quadra came in to see us when we were looking for technical support and someone to manage our subscriptions for us. I had been completing mould tool designs within Inventor and it could do it, but it was quite complicated and to teach someone else how to use my work flow would have been impossible. Steve has always worked closely with us and when we spoke to him about our issues with designing mould tools in standard Inventor, he suggested we have a look at Inventor Tooling. Steve Bedder from Autodesk and Quadra's technical engineer Dave Wilkinson came in to show us Inventor Tooling, and we were sold. Inventor Tooling is the perfect solution at the perfect time for us. It is easy to use and with a bit of training I think I can get my guys up to speed with it very quickly."



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Chris continues, "I have always used Autodesk software, starting off with AutoCAD as most people did and then moving into 3D. Inventor is fantastic and with this new Tooling suite I can stay with Inventor. I have always thought it is the best technology in the market for 3D design. After evaluating the other options out there, Inventor to me is still the most complete suite of technology and working with Quadra I feel that we are starting to really go places."

Chris will now be able to automate many of the manual repetitive tasks he used to complete in standard Inventor and the time and cost savings from this will be considerable for Kavia. Inventor Tooling will also decrease errors as it streamlines processes and guides users intuitively through the design process, so again decreasing time and costs. By having this additional functionality Chris will also be able to push the limits of what

he is currently doing, and spend more time innovating instead of performing monotonous tasks. A 3D model can be brought directly into Inventor Tooling and then the mould tool created from there which ensures that every aspect of the mould tool is correct before it goes into production.

Dave Wilkinson from Quadra commented that, "Chris and Kavia are very forward thinking in terms of where their design and manufacture processes are heading. We were very excited and pleased to be able to offer Chris the opportunity to test Inventor Tooling 2009 as we knew it was exactly what he needed. With the way Chris is streamlining the business and utilizing the machinery, technology and knowledge Kavia has, I think he will be very successful. Chris always likes to say, 'We are cheaper than China and on your doorstep.' Using Inventor Tooling Chris will be able to maximize his design efficiency and take on more work which will only lead to the business flourishing. At Quadra we are always happy to support our clients but also to help them push the boundaries, and working with Autodesk, this is what we have achieved here."



Inventor Tooling has been extensively developed so that Autodesk could bring it to market as a stable and mature product. It has now been rolled out in the most recent release from Autodesk. Web or onsite demos are available for companies who are involved in mould tool design and are looking for a more advanced, alternative solution.

