

HELIUM3

CASE STUDY

Helium3 is a young and dynamic product development consultancy providing a full range of design services. Our services range from 1-day on-site consultancy, running SolidWorks on a high performance laptop, to designing new products and managing their development from concept through to production.

We chose SolidWorks as our core 3D CAD package because we feel it more than surpasses its competition on price, ease-of-use, and its sheer depth and breadth of functionality - creating and modifying complex geometric shapes and intricate components with ease.

We now produce prototypes with complex forms directly from CAD models and utilise SolidWorks' strong data transfer capabilities to work seamlessly with 3rd parties. The ability to produce a myriad of associated documentation such as Assembly and Exploded diagrams "at a touch of a button" is also of real benefit when offering a "to production" design service.

The choice of VAR was made easy by several expert recommendations, and we remain impressed by NT CAD/CAM's genuine enthusiasm for their product and their commitment to providing high quality support. One company to whom we provide ongoing CAD and design consultancy and which offers a useful case study (highlighting the effectiveness of SolidWorks), is Advanced Handling Ltd.

Advanced Handling are leading manufacturers of materials handling equipment and as a consultant, I introduced SolidWorks to design and develop new and exciting products with them and to improve the documentation of their existing products. Voyager (shown here) is the first flagship product from AHL to be designed in SolidWorks. A far cry from their existing "boxy" products, this was designed and developed in months - not years. SolidWorks was used on this project throughout the design process from initial concept to detailed component design and associated documentation.

Introduced at Manufacturing Week at the NEC Birmingham, and now in full-scale production, this product has been awarded Millennium Product status, it features in the Millennium Dome and was awarded joint winner of "Industrial Product of the Year" at the Design Week 2000 Awards. At Helium3 we are committed to further CAD investment, enhancing the services offered to our clients. After 2 very successful years using SolidWorks it has increased our productivity, when compared to conventional 2D CAD packages, by up to 4 times! I can highly recommend NT CAD/CAM and can comfortably say that both they and SolidWorks have more than exceeded our expectations.

