

AutoCAD Civil 3D is here!

AutoCAD Civil 3D, a comprehensive package for the design, drafting and management of civil engineering projects, has been customised for use in South Africa.

Featuring a local coordinate system as well as a wide array of local standards, the software is currently being tested on a range of projects at local pilot sites.

The South African launch of AutoCAD Civil 3D is scheduled for the week of 23 July.

Meanwhile, customer reports from civil engineering firms across the world demonstrate the impact the software is having on project design and management.

Korea's oldest engineering firm, Dohwa Consulting Engineers, which has completed more than 5 000 projects in Korea and abroad, turned to Civil 3D to overcome the limitations of 2D design in civil engineering workflows.

Dohwa has been able to:

- Complete road designs 40 percent faster
- Reduce overall design costs by 50 percent
- View instant 3D images of road designs
- Provide clients with multiple design alternatives
- Make design changes quickly and easily.

The firm sees 3D design becoming a dominant technology in the industry. Its principal client, the Korean government, demands 3D presentations of information for demonstrating new products and their impact on the environment to its citizens.

Dohwa expects its move to Civil 3D will not only meet its clients' needs and give it a competitive advantage, but also help to further develop Korea's roadway infrastructure.

Across the globe, in Canada, Herold Engineering, which works with clients in both the public and private sectors, found that design changes were jeopardising the firm's productivity.

One of the first projects undertaken using Civil 3D was a new bridge for the city of Nanaimo in British Columbia. This 30-metre, two-lane structure was to replace an existing bridge nearing the end of its life.

With 250 metres of approach work and a water main running across it, the bridge's design included a number of independent elements. As the design neared completion, the client decided that the bridge and its approaches needed to be moved two metres.

"Making this change was no problem," says Herold civil engineer, Nathan Tobridge. "We simply changed the alignment, and all the interdependent elements of the design changed automatically. It took a couple of hours to fine-tune the design, but all the tedious work – the annotation and the drafting – were completed immediately. Without the use of dynamic modelling, a major change like that would have required at least two days of work on the alignments and profiles."

By turning to Civil 3D ahead of most firms, Herold is doing more than simply saving hours – and days – on projects. The firm is also ensuring that it can beat the competition on future bids.

Click here [<http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/index?siteID=123112&id=8777485>] for more customer stories on the use of AutoCAD Civil 3D in engineering projects. ◆



A major roads infrastructure project ... by Dohwa Consulting Engineers, Korea. AutoCAD Civil 3D's dynamic modelling simplifies the design and drafting process.

INVITATION: Experience AutoCAD Civil 3D now

Attend the launch of AutoCAD Civil 3D and find out from our experts how to increase productivity, reduce errors and save valuable time in the design, drafting and management of your next engineering project.

Discover how AutoCAD Civil 3D 2008 enables you to:

- Increase accuracy by working with a dynamic model
- Evaluate multiple 'what-if' scenarios quickly to improve customer service
- Work more efficiently via automatic plans production.

To find out about an AutoCAD Civil 3D event near you, click here or contact Dale Welch at 011 805 1555.

Free downloads extend design collaboration



Digital collaboration ... simplifying project management.

Design collaboration received a boost recently when Autodesk announced that it would be making Autodesk Design Review 2008, its comprehensive review, mark-up and design collaboration software, available for download free of charge.

The company also released its free Autodesk Freewheel on-demand Web service that enables CAD teams to view and print designs within a Web browser, without installing any software.

These solutions strengthen the ability of civil engineering design professionals to share and communicate design comments from non-CAD reviewers—digitally and globally. Tight integration of Design Review and Freewheel with AutoCAD software products provides an easy-to-use, seamless solution for Autodesk customers collaborating in both 2D and 3D.

"Autodesk Design Review supports all-digital collaboration and communication of design changes, as well as easy integration of feedback into Autodesk civil applications," says Autodesk application engineer, Linda Sangweni.

"Users can view files, and print, measure and mark them up as part of the review process. The 2008 version of the software adds new features, including 3D measuring and mark-up with persistent views and user-defined coordinate systems as well as version comparison."

Freewheel addresses the need to share lightweight versions of 2D and 3D designs with project teams, without requiring the installation of software. It currently allows users to upload, view, print and share design information from within a Web browser and across Windows, Mac, Linux and wireless platforms. Beyond simplified sharing of designs, Freewheel enables Web designers to integrate 2D and 3D CAD information within Web applications and Web sites, without requiring installation of special software or plug-ins.

Product availability

Autodesk Design Review 2008 is a free download, available at <http://www.autodesk.com/designreview-download>. Autodesk Freewheel Web service is available free of charge at <http://freewheel.autodesk.com>. Terms and conditions apply. ◆

Autodesk posts new records

Licences of Autodesk design software applications have just exceeded the eight million mark. This reflects growth in 2D software applications, new software licences in emerging economies, and robust revenue increases in model-based 3D software.

Recording continued gains in adoption of its industry-specific solutions, Autodesk has passed the one million milestone for users of its 3D model-based design solutions – AutoCAD Civil 3D for the civil engineering sector, Autodesk Inventor for mechanical design, and Revit software products for the architectural market.

This achievement underscores the broad demand for Autodesk's 3D solutions that deliver digital prototyping, allowing customers to visualise and simulate the real-world performance of their designs without a heavy reliance on costly physical prototypes. ◆

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