

Media Release

AMEC Paragon launches optimized design process for increased accuracy and productivity

HOUSTON (XX February, 2009) – AMEC, the international engineering and project management company, announced today that AMEC Paragon, their oil and gas business in the Americas, now provides clients with ASD Global’s OptiPlant 3D modeling software for front-end engineering design (FEED), pre-FEED and concept estimating. The use of the software adds value by streamlining engineering resources and automating the FEED work process, improving concept estimates and overall project execution for clients.

“Customers today require engineering partners who understand their need for improved efficiencies, quality control and cost containment,” said Terrance Ivers, president of AMEC Paragon. “With that challenge in mind, we are focusing on streamlining work processes to complement the conceptual engineering expertise clients have come to rely upon from AMEC Paragon. As we network global project teams together, we optimize human resources and successfully achieve common project objectives.”

How it works

Clients are demanding more accurate engineering estimates at the conceptual stage, which require that higher quality engineering be conducted at very early stages to reduce re-work and re-design. An automated engineering application, OptiPlant enables an experienced piping designer – without a large team of support personnel – to quickly and automatically produce accurate 3D concept models and alternative design arrangements for pipe routing and other plant or offshore equipment layouts.

Additionally, OptiPlant allows engineers to respond quickly to client requests for changes and concentrate on equipment design rather than time-consuming revisions during the concept phases.

“The beauty of this tool is that it uses automation to route the pipe between specified start and stop points, and it’s very user friendly, which increases engineer productivity,” said Greg Kreider, AMEC Paragon’s project director. “The knowledge-based application assists in routing pipelines based on time-tested algorithms, design rules and other industry data embedded in the software. It allows junior designers and engineers to make connections and automatically rough-route the lines while senior designers and engineers focus on optimizing the pipe routing.”

According to Kreider, – who will present at Daratech’s 15th annual daratechPLANT conference on 23 February, 2009 in Houston – AMEC is streamlining work processes through knowledge-based solutions: “OptiPlant is like 3D modeling ‘light.’ On pre-FEEDs, FEEDs and concepts, 3D is not typically used because the information generated is not necessarily going to be the final rendering and because more powerful design applications used at these phases were too costly

to consider. But with this software, we are now able to incorporate the 3D feature cost effectively.”

For example, OptiPlant, when applied at a project’s early stages, can be used to route 100 lines of pipe in 20 minutes rather than the several hours required with more detailed, conventional 3D applications.

When developing an equipment arrangement in preliminary design phases, many iterations are required to meet the weight, space, process and other requirements defined by the client, hull provider, topside module constructors, or installation/hook-up contractors. AMEC Paragon, through OptiPlant, is able to quickly input initial equipment arrangements to route lines and easily make revisions within the software by moving basic equipment – like vertical towers, cylinders, tanks, pumps or horizontal exchangers -- from one location to another without breaking the necessary links.

Proven successes

AMEC Paragon has already incorporated the application on pre-FEED estimates for floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) unit topsides and semi-submersible platform projects. On the FPSO topsides project, the designer and engineer were able to complete 80 percent of the pre-FEED layout work in two days, leaving only the remaining 20 percent completed during engineering refinements as actual equipment sizes were established.

More recently, AMEC Paragon employed the software on a semi-submersible platform project to quickly create, refine and provide the client with a 3D model and major piping materials take-off (MTO) estimate. The estimates generated had MTO accuracy within 10 percent, used two designers instead of six and were delivered within one month. The models and data gathered during the estimate phase were later integrated into the FEED phase.

Because the produced data and models interface with existing design management systems and transfer to FEED and detailed design phases, OptiPlant can benefit entire project life cycles, says Sonali Singh, ASD Global’s vice president of Products & Enterprise Solutions.

”AMEC Paragon’s leadership and management had the vision to streamline and automate their work processes so they could be more responsive to their end customers,” said Singh. “This type of vision is rare in the current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) industry and it has been a real pleasure to collaborate with the company to implement their vision on these successful projects for their clients.”

Greg Kreider will discuss AMEC Paragon’s application of ASD’s OptiPlant in Houston on February 23. The DaratechPLANT conference at the Hilton Americas will present the session “Human Resources in the Hyper-Project World” between 3 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. More details about the conference can be found at www.daratechplant.com.

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AMEC (LSE: AMEC) is a focused supplier of high-value consultancy, engineering, and project management services to the world’s energy, power and process industries. With annual revenues of over £2.3 billion (\$3.4 billion US), AMEC designs, delivers and maintains strategic

and complex assets for its customers. AMEC's Natural Resources, Power and Process and Earth and Environmental businesses employ some 23,000 people in more than 30 countries globally. For further information please see www.amec.com.

AMEC Paragon, based in Houston, Texas, provides engineering, materials management, and construction management services to the oil and gas, pipeline and midstream industries. Specialties include onshore and offshore production facilities, onshore and offshore pipelines, floating production and subsea systems, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG facilities), alternative fuels facilities, stranded gas applications and heavy oil treatment facilities. Employing more than 750 people, AMEC Paragon has completed more than 4,000 projects in 30 countries for more than 260 clients. www.amecparagon.com

ASD Global has dedicated the past 20 years in transforming advanced and state-of-the art technology into powerful application solutions for the global process, power and offshore plant industry, for the state and federal government and many Fortune 500 commercial enterprises. ASD's solutions have positively impacted customers work process and ability to increase profitability through better use of information and knowledge of their industry into their important decision processes. For more information, visit www.asdglobal.com.

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