AST News

The Quarterly Update from AST Technology ~ Specialist in Mould Cost Optimisation, Quality and Delivery

MARCH 2012

SEE AST AT NPE2012 AND ANTEC

AST will be exhibiting on NPE2012 in Orlando, Florida, from April 2-5, in stand #4681 on the second level of the West Hall at the OCCC. The team looks forward to meeting with customers and will highlight new advancements with its CVe Monitor, as well as its full array of services including Design for Manufacturing (DFM) Review Services and more programs that are critical to optimising mould production and part quality.

*Click **HERE** to register for free admission to the NPE2012 show floor (a $120 value!) and visit AST in stand #4681.*

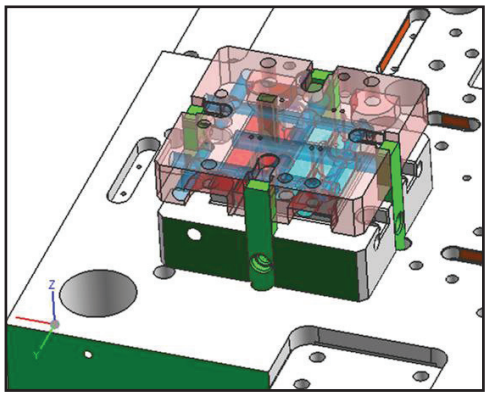
Shaun Ruck, who is AST's Development Manager, will present a paper at ANTEC, a technical conference that is co-located with NPE2012. Titled "Improved Management of Production and Capacity through Application of Mold Based Data Collection", Shaun's presentation will begin at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4.

For more information, visit **www.npe.org**, **www.antec.ws**, or email **contact@ast-tech.de** to set an appointment to meet with the AST team during NPE2012.

CASE STUDY: LONG-TERM TOOL OPTIMISATION PROJECT

AST just finished a tool and moulded component optimisation project at a major medical manufacturer that ranged over a 9-month period of time.

This customer faced extensive costs for tool repair on a suite of tools running in their production line. It is critical for these tools to run with as little downtime as possible in order to produce high quality parts at a high volume. AST helped to reduce these costs in the long run by reviewing component design, tooling and the company's production environment.



AST helped its customer improve component quality by introducing floating core and cavity stacks.

It is predicted that the company will save €100,000 per year by reducing unscheduled mould repairs as well by improving productivity and yield.

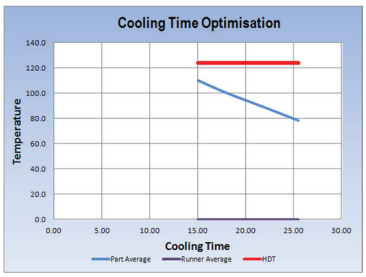
Call AST to optimise your moulding project: +49 (0)5221 7 630 695

DID YOU KNOW?

A tip for optimising cooling time... First, check the component temperature with the original cooling time to determine whether there is an opportunity to reduce the cooling time. If there is, make the change and allow the process to settle for 5-10 minutes before re-checking the part and runner temperature.

Repeat this process until the part temperature approaches the material heat distortion temperature (HDT) or a problem occurs with the part quality, such as sticking, ejector pin damage, distortion, etc. Always make sure that the cooling time is longer than the time required to prepare the melt for the next shot or the cycle time will not be stable.

Click **HERE** to find other helpful tips in past issues of the AST News that can help optimise your production outcomes.



*Cooling time optimisation is part of AST's MoldPro application for qualifying injection moulding processes. Click **HERE** to enlarge image.*