THE RAPID PROTOTYPING IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

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In today's economic conditions, the possibility of functioning with the lowest costs is extremely important for the economic agent. This is possible by adopting some new working methods, which means retechnologizing, changing personnel, for example. To assure maximum efficiency, the new working methods have to be applied from the first stages of products development.

In this train of thoughts, computer assisted methods must be applied both in design and manufacturing (CAD-CAM). A very good and also representative materialization of this assertion is the Rapid Prototyping (RP). These technologies appeared about twenty years ago, and up to the present they knew a spectacular evolution, being used in almost each field, from industry to medicine.

As automotive industry is a very important field from both a technical and an economical point of view, Rapid Prototyping technologies (RPT) found there a very large applicability from the very beginning. This applicability grew in process of time, also due to the fact that Rapid Prototyping technologies were in a continuous development and improvement. Thus, today, along with RP models necessary for patterning, Rapid Prototyping technologies are even used to manufacture RP models which can be used as functional parts or even functional tools.

SELECTIVE LITERATURE

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