



Lantek News

N.º 16

April 2006

NEW VERSION OF LANTEK EXPERT

Lantek presents the latest version of **Lantek Expert, Version 25**, at **MACH Exhibition** to be held in Birmingham. With **Version 25** of **Lantek Expert**, Lantek makes a very important step forward in improving the sheet metal work by developing a new product that allow the sheet metal fabricators to manage and optimize the different fabrication processes as efficiently as ever before.

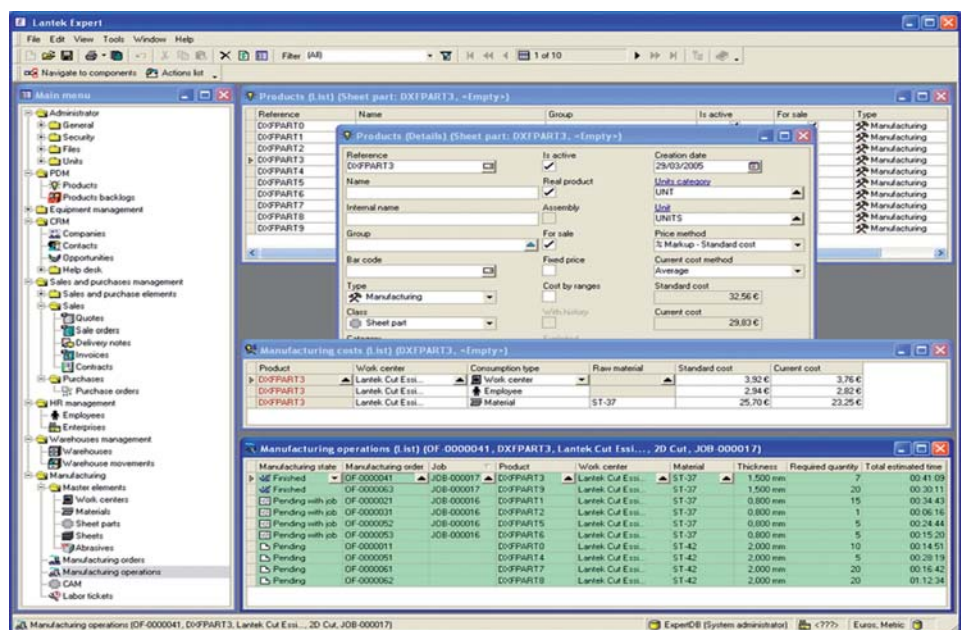
The intense work carried out by the 25 engineers of **Lantek's** Development Team over the last few years allows the sheet metal CAD/CAM leader to present a extremely powerful solution thanks to the design and development of a new technological architecture. This new design has been accomplished using the most advanced design and programming technologies currently available.

Lantek's customer base of more than 5.600 users around the world have played a crucial role in the new version's development process. Listening to the improvement suggestions and new functionality demands made by this large user community has helped **Lantek** come up with the most advanced sheet metal CAD/CAM solution available in the market.

Version 25 of **Lantek Expert** allows **Lantek** customers to achieve maximum efficiency while saving time and money on an every day basis. The new **Lantek Expert** presents a new user interface with powerful filters, navigation options and a very intuitive and flexible work frame.

Some of the most significant new **general features** are:

- User programmable and customizable advanced filters.
- Navigation: possibility to access any data from any module.
- Possibility for the user to easily define new own fields in the database.
- Improved security of control access to the system itself as well as to the data that each user can access.
- A unique report center from which the user can have



access to all the reports available in the system.

Other **important features** from the **functionality** point of view are:

Report Design Module. The new version includes a specific module for the easy and fast design of reports, offering the user the possibility to modify the reports in real time, adding zooms, detail lines, dimensions, texts, etc. The system allows the user to access almost all the fields in the database.

Nesting Module. New nesting algorithms have been developed, achieving better material utilisation, both in automatic and semiautomatic modes. The nesting process has been improved in such a way that the resulting nestings are more efficient and regular.

Machining. More than 50 improvements in automatic and semiautomatic machining functions have been developed for cutting, punching and combination machines.

Simulation. New features have been developed in order to achieve a more accurate and realistic sheet machining simulation, thus, giving the user better control of the verification process:

- The simulation process can be started at any point.
- Simulation can be done step by step.

Product - Case Study

- Simulation of “next instruction” can be performed
- The user can stop and restart the simulation process at any point

Different visualization formats are available in the nesting module. These new options allow the user to configure the data to be viewed and the position where the user wants to view this data.

Manufacturing Orders Module. Time and cost control has been extremely optimized and productivity statistics are now available in the system. With this, the user is able to have real time information of all jobs as well as of the status of each machine and operator.

Sales Module. The management of price is now based on cost and/or profit margins. A new Quotes Module has been developed with a new wizard to generate quotes in an intuitive and mechanic way, allowing the user to calculate each quote as accurately as possible.

Production Control Module (Wos). Nesting loading and processing is now faster and more efficient, achieving a stronger integration with modules such as Inventory, Palletizing and Time and Cost Calculation modules.

Inventory Module. Lantek have developed an “intelligent” inventory management module. The system works now with product bookings (when entering a purchase order, the system tells the user if the products are available at the warehouse or not, and automatically, the system performs bookings of products accordingly) and management of minimum stock, giving the user information at any time about the available products and the products that should be produced or purchased.

The inventory control can be done using three different methods:

- Fifo
- Lifo
- Average Quantity

Lantek saves material at JCB Cab Systems

For eight years, Rugeley based JCB Cab Systems Limited have been building cabs for the JCB product range, supplying the UK based plants in Rocester, Uttoxeter and Cheadle. The company produces around 140 cabs per day, ranging in size from 1 metre wide for micro machines to 2.5 metres wide for the largest diggers. Each cab is fabricated and assembled to suit the individual build requirements of each JCB plant.

At JCB Cab Systems, the world steel shortage focused attention on the efficient use of material. It uses sheet steel ranging in thickness from 1.2 mm to 15 mm. During its seven day week, four shift pattern, it consumes around 7,000 sheets, producing more than 40,000 piece parts every week.

The sheet material is cut on JCB Cab Systems’ four laser profiling machines which range in power from 1.8KW up to 3.2 KW and are fitted with 3m x 1.5m beds with automatic loading equipment. Initially, the sheet nesting was static, making it easy to fulfil weekly requirements with fixed nests that corresponded to known groups of products. Whilst this simplified the logistics of controlling parts flow, the disadvantage for JCB Cab Systems was that these static nests did not maximise the material usage.

The potential savings in material costs from dynamic nesting of the weekly product mix drove the company to evaluate different software solutions. Stephen Dunion, Materials Manager for JCB Cab Systems, said, “The evaluation took place at our Cheadle Earthmovers site - we chose **Lantek’s Expert II Cut Plus** for its ease of use and dynamic nesting capabilities.”

The company has four weeks advance visibility of requirements from the other UK based JCB plants, nesting each week’s production at the end of the preceding week. He elaborated, “*There are about 50 top level assemblies, each of which can contain up to 150 different parts. Our SAP system identifies the individual components required and uses a Microsoft*



*Excel file to pass the data into our two **Lantek Expert II Cut Plus** systems where nesting takes place.”*

The ability to nest the week’s requirements is

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made possible by the transfer of this information. Once the nesting is complete, the **Lantek** system is able to feed information back to SAP about material utilisation and machine run times. Stephen Dunion explained, *"The nesting is quite complex. There are groups of parts*



which will not nest well together, and additionally there are different thicknesses and grades of material to be considered." On completion of each nest the Lantek system automatically generates NC code to drive the laser profiling machines.

Two manufacturing engineers work (one on a part-time basis) on the **Lantek** systems. One enters CAD geometry to keep up with the ongoing programme

of design improvements at JCB, while the second concentrates on the nesting process. Nesting is carried out using **Lantek's** algorithms, supplemented by manual nesting, to fully optimise the results for a full sheet. Stephen Dunion said, *"Savings have been achieved through improved material utilisation of the dynamically nested proportion of parts, although this has introduced different problems for JCB Cab Systems."* Each nest is unique, so it is difficult to identify individual parts and their subsequent route around the shop floor once they come off the laser profiling machine, making the control of the flow of parts much more complex. To solve this, each component is etched with a code during laser cutting, which indicates the product group and next operation. Whilst this results in a reduction in laser productivity, this is offset by an improvement in material utilization.

Currently **Lantek** are working with JCB Cab Systems' SAP developers to further automate the integration between the systems and move to the next level of material utilisation with more advanced nesting techniques. Stephen Dunion concluded, *"The system has yet to completely fulfil our expectations, but has become a strategic element of our parts manufacturing process."*

Lantek Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Lantek celebrates during this year 2006, its 20th anniversary and the continued success of its range of CAD/CAM products.

Lantek's origins date from 1986 in Aretxabaleta (Guipúzcoa). Since then it has gained more than 5,600 customers in 76 countries. Lantek moved to Miñano (Álava) in 2000 concentrating all its efforts on its customers and on being consolidated as the world leader in the field of CAD/CAM software for the cutting and punching of sheet metal.

In 1992 **Lantek** makes the decision to specialise and concentrates on developing software for the sheet metal sector. **Lantek** focus's its efforts on customer's needs and starts the development of CAD/CAM solutions for sheet metal cutting industry including, punching and oxicut. In 1996 **Lantek** decides to follow new technologies and opts to update its MS/DOS product into Microsoft Windows®. This investment in development makes **Lantek** the first company in this sector that updates its product to the new technologic trends.

During the years 1997-1999, **Lantek**, following a very clear and aggressive strategic plan, prioritises its international expansion in such a way that it opens up offices in 8 countries (France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, USA, Japan, Benelux, UK). Export volume continues to grow, contributing 80% to its total revenue. Equally **Lantek's** staff increases to 60 people.

The year 2000 is a very important year for **Lantek**. Increased global presence, the excellence of its products, and the number of satisfied customers, puts the company in a position where it can sign important collaboration agreements with relevant manufacturers in the machine-tool environment, such as LVD-Strippit among others.

In 2000 **Lantek** opens its new Head Quarters in Álava Technologic Park, with the main objective of establishing the required means and resources for this period that was thought to be very important for **Lantek** development. As a global solution supplier for companies in the sheet metal world **Lantek** expanded its development to additional products to compliment the already successful CAD CAM.

In 2004 **Lantek** diversifies its work and creates a product line focusing on enterprise information integral management. This new business unit called **Lantek** Business Solutions S.L. is created with the objective of fulfilling the management needs of SME's in the services sector (engineering, consulting).

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Exhibitions 2006: Lantek in MACH 2006

EXHIBITION	DATE	PLACE
SAMUMETAL	09th - 13th February	Pordenone (Italy)
BIEMH	06th - 11th March	Bilbao (Spain)
INDUSTRIE	27th - 31st March	Paris (France)
SIMTOS	12th - 17th April	Seul (South Korea)
LAMIERA	10th - 13th May	Bologna (Italy)
MACH	15th - 19th May	Birmingham (U.K.)
EXPOMIN	23rd - 27th May	Santiago de Chile (Chile)
MECANICA	23rd - 27th May	Sao Paulo (Brasil)
FIMAQH	30th May - 03rd June	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
MTP POZANAN	19th - 22nd June	Poznan (Poland)
MSV	18th - 22nd September	Brno (Czech Rep.)
EUROBLECH	24th - 28th October	Hannover (Germany)
FABTECH	31st October - 02nd November	Atlanta (U.S.A.)
JIMTOF	01st - 08th November	Tokyo (Japan)

Lantek without borders

With the purpose to increase its presence in Asia, Lantek, a supplier of CAD/CAM software for the sheet metal industry, will open a new branch office in China.

The opening of this new branch office is the consequence of the significant growth experienced by Lantek in China in the last two years, as well as the promising expectations of sheet metal machine tool consumption in this country, which is seen as an important growth opportunity for CAD/CAM sales by the Spanish company.

The other side, our 7th european branch office will be in Poland.



If you would like to receive **Lantek News**, fill in this coupon and send it to **Lantek Systems**, Malvern Hills Science Park, Geraldine Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3SZ (UK). You can also ask to receive it by fax: 168-458-5201.

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