

Media Release

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Spatial Freedom's Astroid delivers unique CAD viewing and control functionality to Solid Edge users

Spatial Freedom Inc, (<http://www.spatialfreedom.com>) the designers and manufacturers of the Astroid 6000 spatial controller, today announced the latest release of the Spatial User Interface (SUI), which is being demonstrated this week at PLM World. (see <http://event.plmworld.org/>) to the Solid Edge community.

John Hilton, president of Spatial Freedom Inc, said:

“The combination of the Astroid and version 3.0 of our Solid Edge add-in, delivers to Solid Edge users a level of integration and new functionality that has never before been available with any spatial controller or in any CAD package.

I have wanted to provide this type of advanced 3D viewing capability for over two decades, basically since I invented the Spaceball®. Solid Edge is the first CAD package that can benefit from this significant development in viewing dynamics. It puts the Solid Edge user with an Astroid at a distinct advantage over any other CAD user. The Astroid now delivers the ability to get inside the design to freely move about in real time to inspect design elements in minute detail. This is a powerful new tool and is stunning the CAD community.”

SUI Features include:

- Three modes of interaction; object control, camera control and pan/zoom control.
- In object control you push and spin the model about a 3D point called the motion handle.
- In camera control you push and spin the virtual camera around and through a stationary model.
- In pan/zoom control you push and zoom the 2D image.
- Automatic sensitivity adjustment ensures consistent pan/zoom operation.
- The motion handle is displayed as a small graphic like a mouse cursor and can be placed anywhere on the model.
- Perspective views have the view angle displayed.
- Camera control has an optional 'Prevent Tilting' feature to stop the camera tilting sideways.
- Buttons are programmed just like keyboard function keys.

SUI Benefits

- Greatly improved viewing interaction leading to significant productivity improvements.
- Operation is intuitive leaving the user to concentrate on the design, not on how to control the view.
- This is the first time CAD users can get inside their designs in the design environment. (We are hearing many “Wow, I didn’t know I could do that with Solid Edge system!” type of responses.)
- The motion handle ensures you are always in control of the model – you can position and orient the model with ease.
- Camera control delivers the ability to freely fly in and around a design for quality design reviews, fantastic demonstrations and, with AVI capture, quick product animations.
- Visibility studies are a breeze.

www.spatialfreedom.com

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Notes to Editors

About Spatial Controllers

Spatial controllers are a type of 3D mouse with a spring mounted sensor that detects a 3D push and twist. The sensor is lightly held by a user’s fingertips and is pushed and twisted in any 3D direction. The push and twist is commonly used to move and rotate an object around on the computer screen. Spatial controllers are also known as 3D motion controllers and 3D input devices.

About Spatial Freedom, Inc.

Spatial Freedom was founded by John Hilton, the inventor of the Spaceball, to commercialize his new spatial controller technology. His vision and desire to create a new generation low cost spatial controller for the CAD/CAM/CAE industry led to the development of the Orion™ technology and later the commercial development of the Astroid 6000, the first truly affordable spatial controller. For more information see www.spatialfreedom.com.

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