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DATACAD LLC to Launch High-End Architectural CADD Program at AIA 2000 Convention

DataCAD® 9 Will Also Be Previewed at Show

DATACAD LLC will launch an advanced version of its award-winning DataCAD architectural CADD software at the AIA 2000 Convention, booth 1742 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, May 4-6, 2000. DataCAD Plus is intended for the 'power' CADD user, offering advanced 3D modeling features found in competitive high-end architectural programs. The software will retail for U.S. $1,995. DATACAD LLC will also preview the next major release of its flagship product, DataCAD 9, due for release in third quarter 2000.

DataCAD Plus is based upon DataCAD core technology and is the result of a collaborative effort between DATACAD LLC and softTECH GmbH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of mb Software AG.

Highlights of DataCAD Plus

ZAC™ (Zone-based Architectural Construction): DataCAD Plus gives users the ability to quickly develop architectural models based on room areas and floor zones. Accurate, 2D construction drawings can automatically be generated from 3D ZAC models.

2D/3D ZAC entities based on complete Andersen® Door & Window Catalog: DataCAD Plus includes a ZAC-based library of the entire line of Andersen doors and windows. Additionally, DataCAD Plus allows designers to draft and model with the entire Andersen window and door catalog.

Custom Roof Modeling: DataCAD plus provides integrated roof modeling tools. Complex roofs can be easily created by automatically recognizing roof boundaries. Once a roof is created, it can be further

customized dynamically using pitch, ridge height, eave height, and overhang editing options. DataCAD Plus' custom roof modeling tool supports multi-pitched roofs, dormers, and framed openings.

Preview of DataCAD 9

DataCAD 9 will be enhanced to meet the design needs of larger, commercial firms and will also provide new tools that meet the specific needs of builders and contractors, DataCAD's fastest-growing market segment.

DataCAD 9 will be the second major Windows release of this award-winning 2D and 3D architectural program. It will feature many productivity-enhancing features that users expect from their Windows-based business software. These include a **multiple document interface (MDI)**, giving users the ability to have an unlimited number of DataCAD files open simultaneously; **cut-and-paste** of private vector and public metafile data between DataCAD and other business applications; **global unlimited undo/redo**; and **context-sensitive toolbars**.

Other highlights include:

XREF's: Users will be able to reference an unlimited number of DataCAD drawings within a single DataCAD file.

Entity-to-View Mapping: This feature enables users to link drawing data to specific drawing sheets. Any entity can be assigned to a particular view, and any entity can be selected to 'window' into any view.

Batch Plotting: DataCAD 9 will support batch plotting of single or multiple drawings with multiple plot layouts. Users can queue up entire print sets using a simple, Explorer-style interface to access any number of plot layouts and then automatically plot these to multiple devices or files.

New OpenGL-based Shader: DataCAD 9 will feature a new OpenGL-based shader for fast rendering and hidden line removal. The new shader has also been enhanced to support multiple light sources and control over lighting effects.

Integrated Rendering: For the first time, DataCAD will feature fully-integrated photo-realistic rendering. Unlike most rendering programs, DC Render supports hybrid rendering which enables users to select individual entities and apply different rendering methods, such as ray tracing, phong, or gouraud. By enabling users to combine rendering methods, DC Render can greatly reduce the time required to render a final image. DC Render also supports drag-and-drop materials mapping. Further, bitmapped

textures can be scaled to real-world values. (For example, an architect can specify that a brick bitmap is 2 2/3" x 8".)

Integrated 32-bit Windows Estimating: DataCAD users will be able to assign materials and costs to drawing entities and symbols. This information can then be exported directly to Estimator, where additional information such as overhead, labor costs, and profit can be added. DataCAD users can also export material take-offs directly from the 3D FrameIt macro included with DataCAD. The Estimator for Windows will output to popular business accounting programs, such as Quicken® and Quickbooks®.

About DATACAD LLC

DATACAD LLC is an independent, privately held company that provides robust computer-aided design and drafting solutions to architecture, building, engineering, and construction firms. According to the most recent AIA firm survey, DataCAD is the second most widely used CADD software among American Institute of Architects (AIA) member firms.