Siemens Partners with HP to Develop New Additive Manufacturing Software

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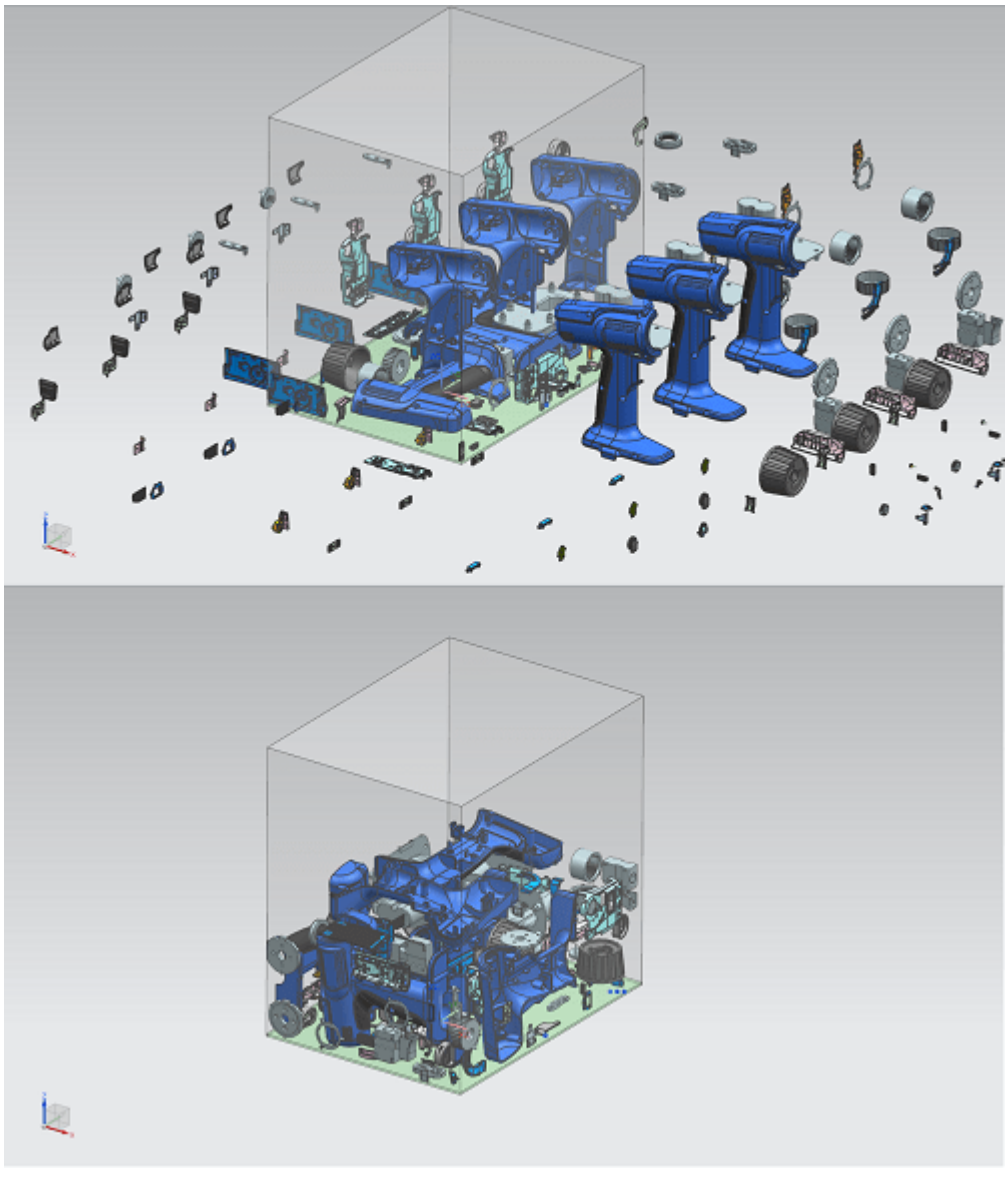
Industrial tech giants HP and Siemens have partnered to develop an AdditiveManufacturing (AM) software module. The new software module, Siemens NX AM for HPMulti Jet Fusion, is available from Siemens as part of their PLM Software for additive manufacturing. Thesoftware will only work with the HP Multi Jet Fusion system.

The NX software module will allow customers to develop andmanage parts in a single software environment for their 3D printing projects,avoiding data conversions and third-party tools. The software can be used with a project fromdesign to finished part. Siemens and HP hope the new software will helpengineers take better advantage of 3D printing's capabilities.



Auto-nesting improves packability in the build chamber, reducing cost per part. (Image Courtesy HP and Siemens)

According to the company, the NX software module will enableusers to combine design, optimization, simulation, preparation of print jobsand inspection processes for HP Multi Jet Fusion 3D printed parts in a managedenvironment. Users can load multiple 3D part models into NX, auto nest theparts and submit them to an HP 3D printer.

In the future, the NX and Multi Jet Fusion integration is intended to allow control over including material characteristicsdown to the individual voxel-level. This will result in the ability to printparts with variable textures, density, strength and friction, as well asthermal, electrical and conductivity characteristics.

Multi Jet Fusion 3D Printer. (Image courtesy of HP)

HP's Multi Jet Fusion 3D is a commercial 3D printing systemthat uses powder bed fusion, in which an energy source—heat lamps, in thiscase—fuses particles of metal powder together point by point, layer by layer,until an object is complete. Siemens new software aims to provide productlifecycle management (PLM) and electronic design automation (EDA) software 3Dprinting solutions. Over time, as the hardware and software get better,manufacturers will establish additive manufacturing as a truly industrialproduction process.

For more information, visit Siemens and HP. For more onmetal additive manufacturing, check out this great ENGINEERING.com whitepaper on the subject.