

News

3D EXEC SAYS COURT DAMAGES WON'T BE LARGE

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VALENCIA - The chief executive of 3D Systems Corp. said Monday that damages resulting from a patent infringement lawsuit against the company will not amount to as much as the plaintiff has asserted.

The "solid imaging" company, which manufactures machines that create solid models out of computer images, was sued by EOS GmbH, a German company, for infringing on patent rights.

"Over the past few weeks, we have received a number of inquiries about the effect of the recent rulings by the Federal District Court in Orange County," said Chuck Hull, 3D Systems co-founder and interim chief executive officer.

"We believe the magnitude of damages claimed by EOS in recent communications are highly exaggerated and not likely to be awarded."

In August, the U.S. District Court ruled that the Sinterstation and Vanguard laser sintering systems sold by DTM Corp. infringe on patent rights held by EOS. 3D Systems owns DTM and is liable for any damages resulting from the litigation.

Munich-based EOS has estimated that damages for the infringement amount to at least \$40 million and asserts that DTM's infringement was willful.

"The infringement ruling should be no surprise to 3D Systems, as it simply confirms what they told us in writing when we were negotiating the license agreement. ... With these new rulings it is very clear who is infringing whose patent rights," said Hans Langer, the CEO of EOS.

3D's latest turbulence comes on the heels of several months of drama at the Valencia-based company.

Last month, Brian K. Service resigned after nearly four years as president and CEO of the \$102 million Valencia-based company.

In April, 3D Systems ousted James Selzer as chief financial officer, and in May the company demoted Grant Flaharty from the chief operating officer's role. The executive exodus was the result of February revelations that \$3 million in earnings was misreported as revenue for 2002 instead of 2003. Without those earnings, the company failed to turn a profit in 2002.

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Search Summary

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