

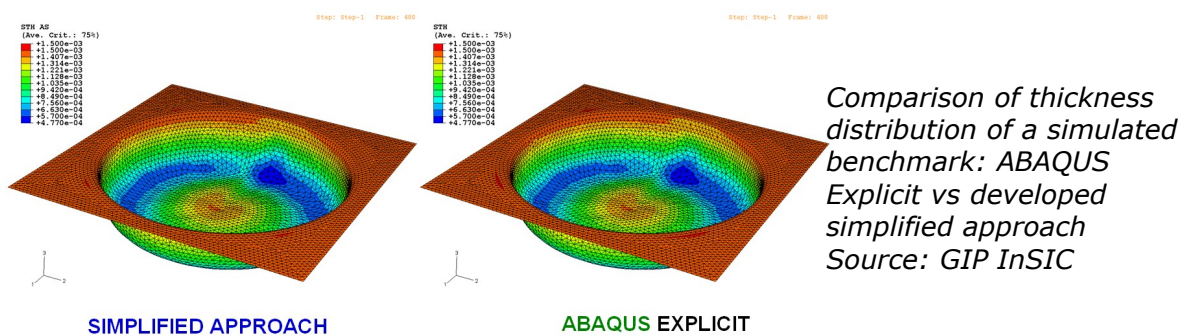
FLEXFORM project: towards the industrial implementation of a Rapid Manufacturing technology for sheet metal forming

Flexform is a consortium pooling the competence and experience of 19 participants coordinated by ASERM, among which are SMEs, IAGs and RTD performers in the fields of special vehicle production, metal technologies, software technologies and Rapid Manufacturing. The participants will encourage the adoption of Incremental Sheet Forming (ISF) by the industry and develop software tools to facilitate the change in production methods, from a manual towards an automated and computer assisted processes.

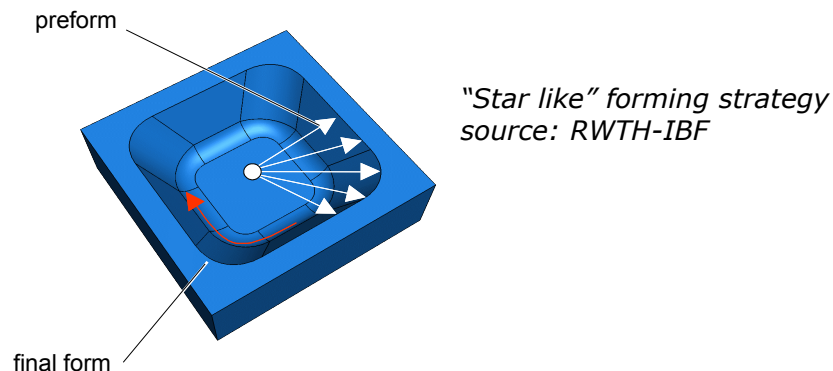
The project officially started on 1st of September 2006, and is planned to last 3 years, for a budget of approximately 3.3 M€ of which 65% is funded by the EC.

Partial results have already been achieved among which:

- A survey of SME requirements to get a deeper understanding of the sector's specificities and to ensure the usefulness of the further developments
- First promising simulation results using the technology of the "simplified approach", allowing for the quick prediction of the part's thickness. Results have been validated successfully against the commercial ABAQUS code. In parallel, the partners have worked on the treatment of path and kinematics conditions for ISF with a traditional "incremental" simulation software



- New atypical incremental sheet forming process strategies have been developed with success to improve geometric accuracy



The project will enter in the industrial implementation phase in February 2008. To know more about Flexform www.flexform.org will soon be available!

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