

# Enabling Model Based Machining with a new Data Standard



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**STEP Tools, Inc.**

<http://www.steptools.com>

## The standard for 40 years!

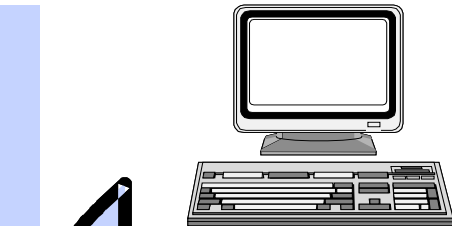
machine-specific part program with axis data generated by a postprocessor

vendor-specific extensions of the original standard

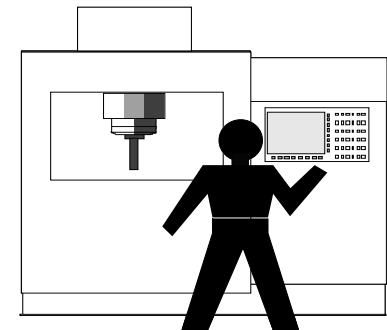
only primitive motion and switch commands

no standardized data format for spline processing and sophisticated NC technology

```
%  
N05 G54  
N10 G00 Z10.000  
N15 G91 G0 Z200  
N20 T5 D1 WW  
N30 G90 M5  
N35 G00 X0.000 Y-150.000  
N40 G00 Z5.000  
N45 M08  
N50 S3183.000  
N55 M03  
N60 F1477.000  
N65 G00 X60.000 Y-150.000  
N70 G00 Z5.000  
N75 G00 X60.000 Y-150.000  
N80 G01 Z-0.500  
...
```



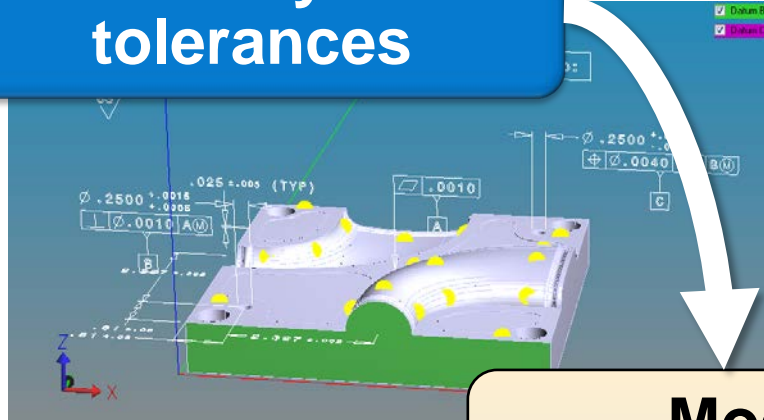
Ideal for Paper Tape!



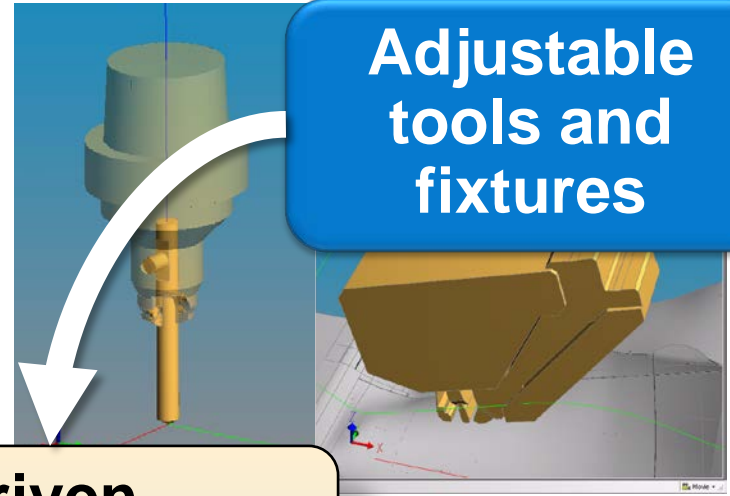
**STEP-NC** replaces this with a rich, integrated data format

Courtesy WZL RWTH Aachen

Geometry with tolerances

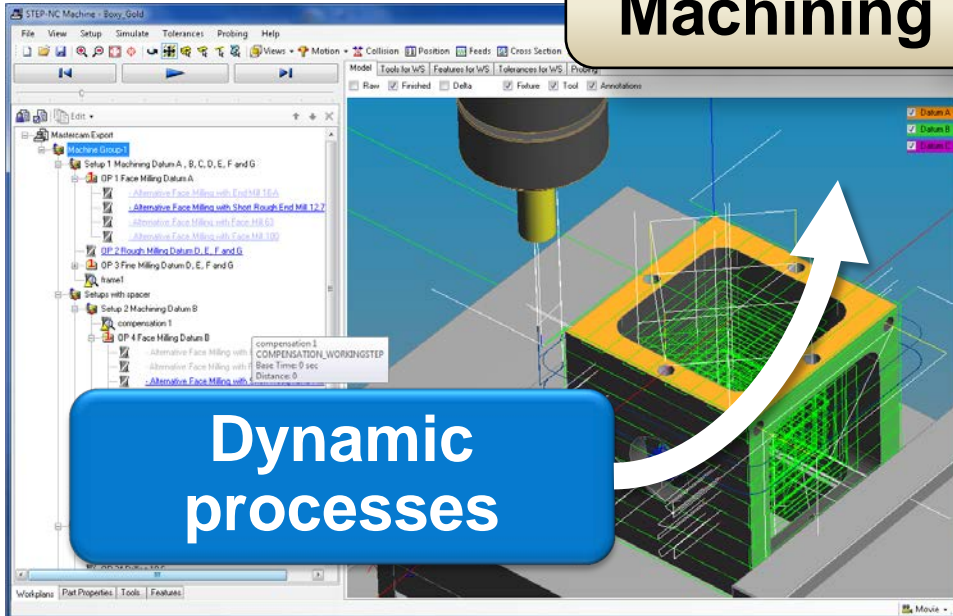


Adjustable tools and fixtures

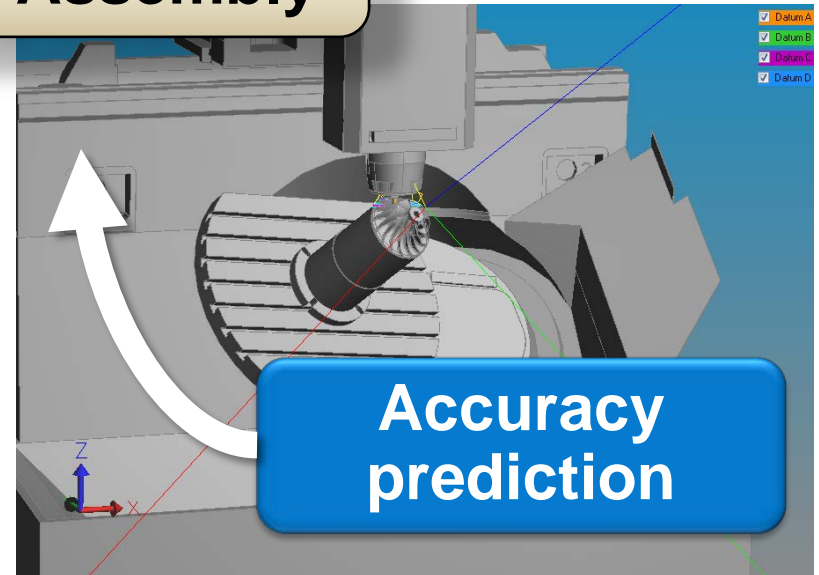


Model Driven  
Machining & Assembly

Dynamic processes



Accuracy prediction



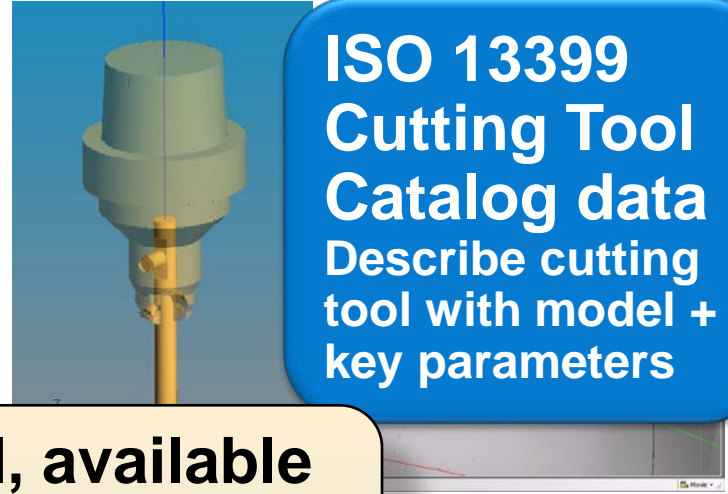
## ISO 10303-242 STEP

Describe design requirements including shape and PMI



## ISO 13399 Cutting Tool Catalog data

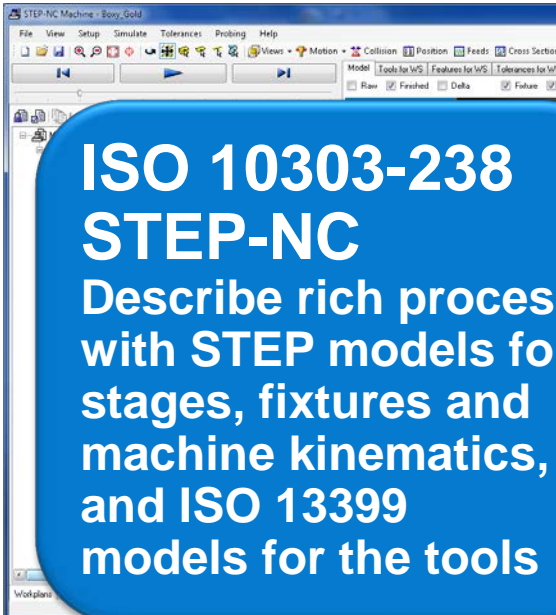
Describe cutting tool with model + key parameters



All published, available and tested with enabling software

## ISO 10303-238 STEP-NC

Describe rich process with STEP models for stages, fixtures and machine kinematics, and ISO 13399 models for the tools



## ISO 10303-242 STEP

Rich machine models with kinematics and ASME B59.2 accuracy data



# How do we know - 10 years of testing



## Models enable process savings

- We asked Sandvik and Iscar to optimize a Boeing machining program
- We sent them CAM files for selected operations
- They read the files into their systems and selected better tooling
- They returned an optimized process to Boeing



- **Tests at Boeing and KTH (Sweden) confirmed our estimates**
  - Profiling time 2,680 sec reduced to 859 sec
  - Pocketing time 1,104 sec reduced to 726 sec

# How we made the savings

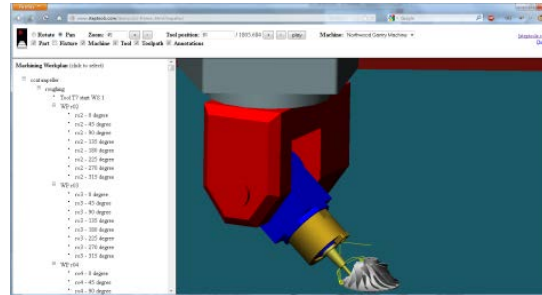
1. Select operation to be optimized

Boeing  
GE  
P&W  
**OEM  
CAM**

2. Save in-process models As STEP

**STEP  
File**

Catia  
Mastercam



**Tool  
Vendor  
CAM**  
Sandvik  
ISCAR

3. Make tooling recommendations

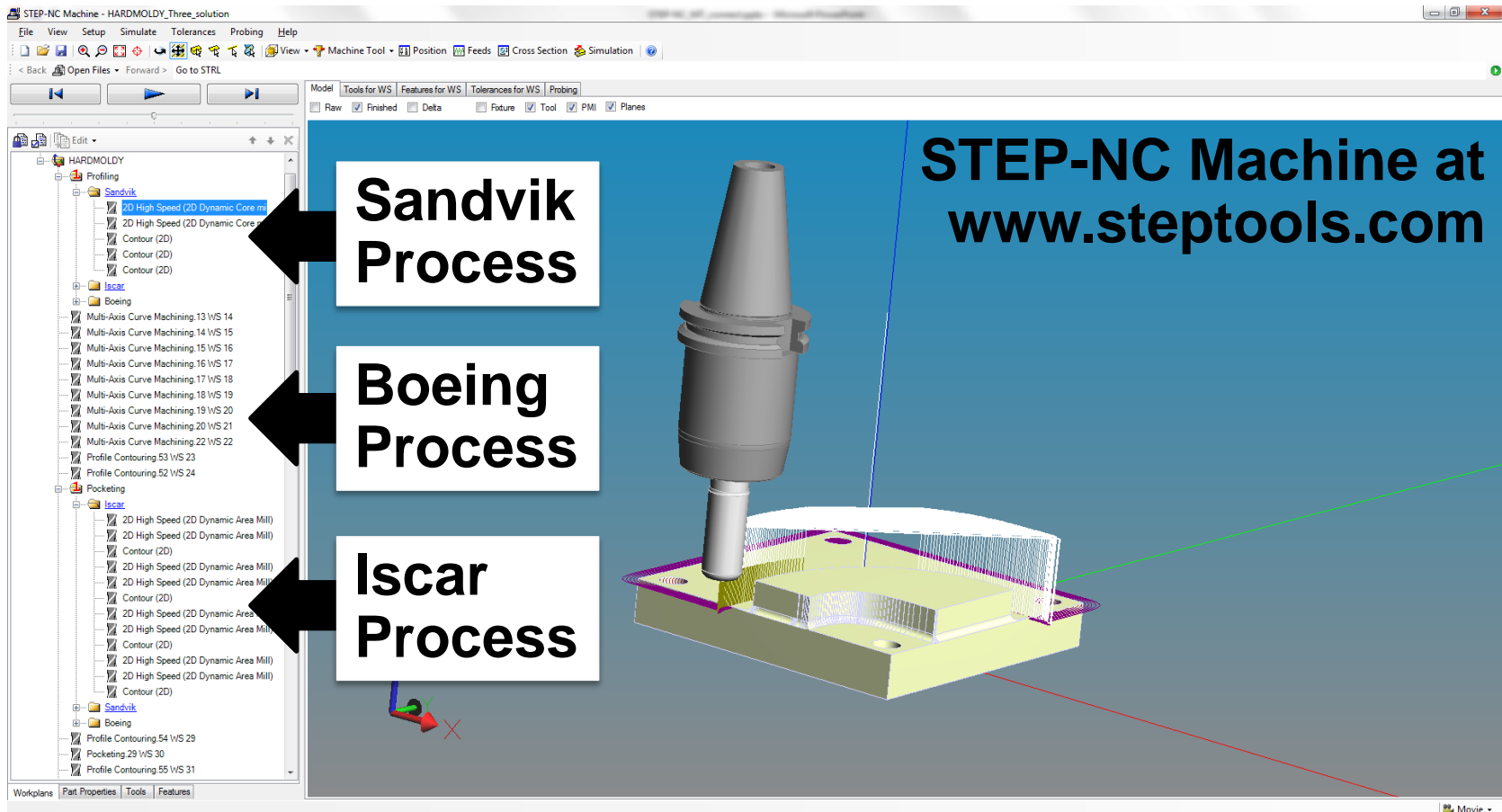
Job  
shop  
**Machine  
Tool**

**STEP-NC  
File**

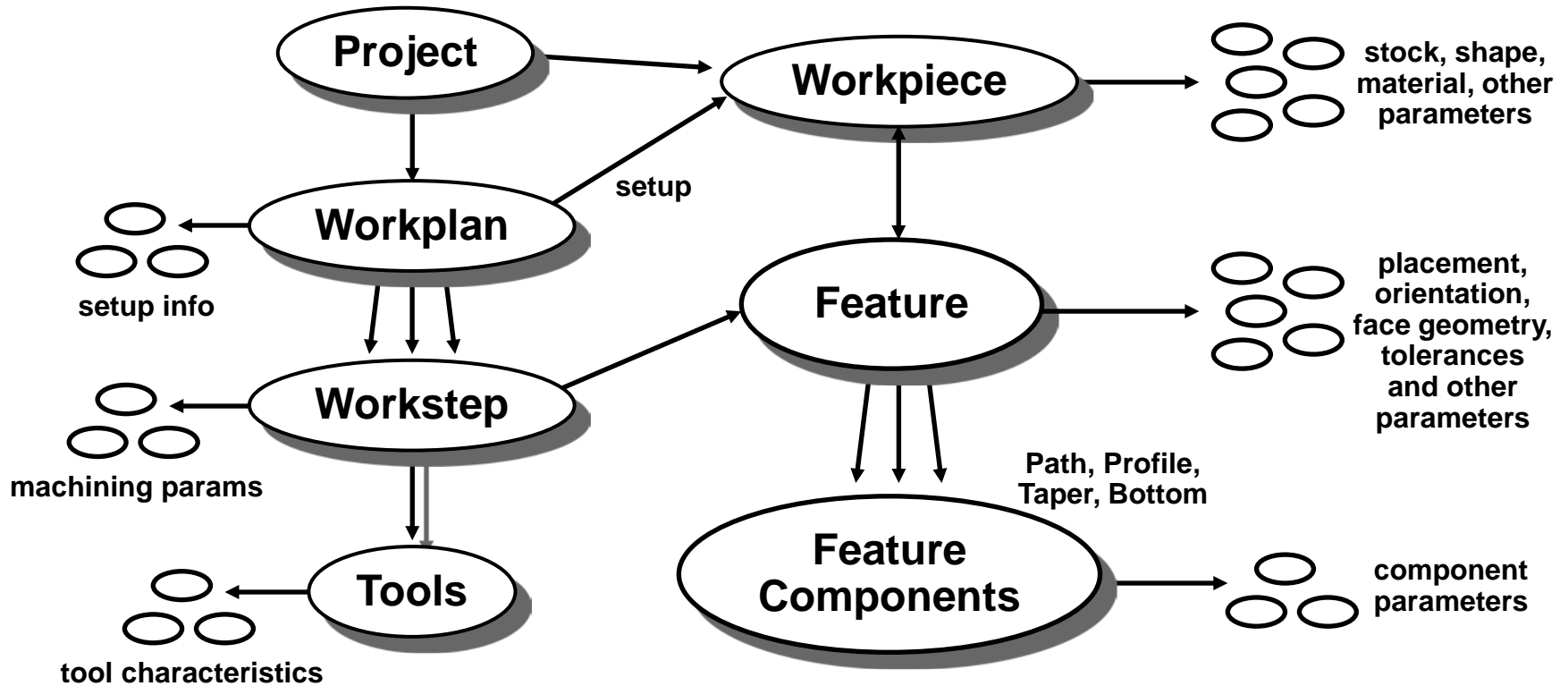
4. Export as STEP-NC process

5. 15% to 30%  
better  
machining

- **Get better solutions from your tool vendor!**
  - **Send them a STEP Model, Get a STEP-NC process back**

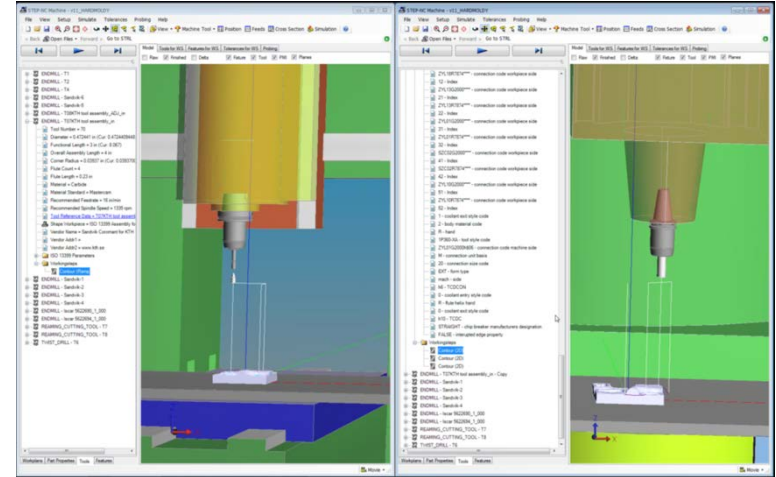
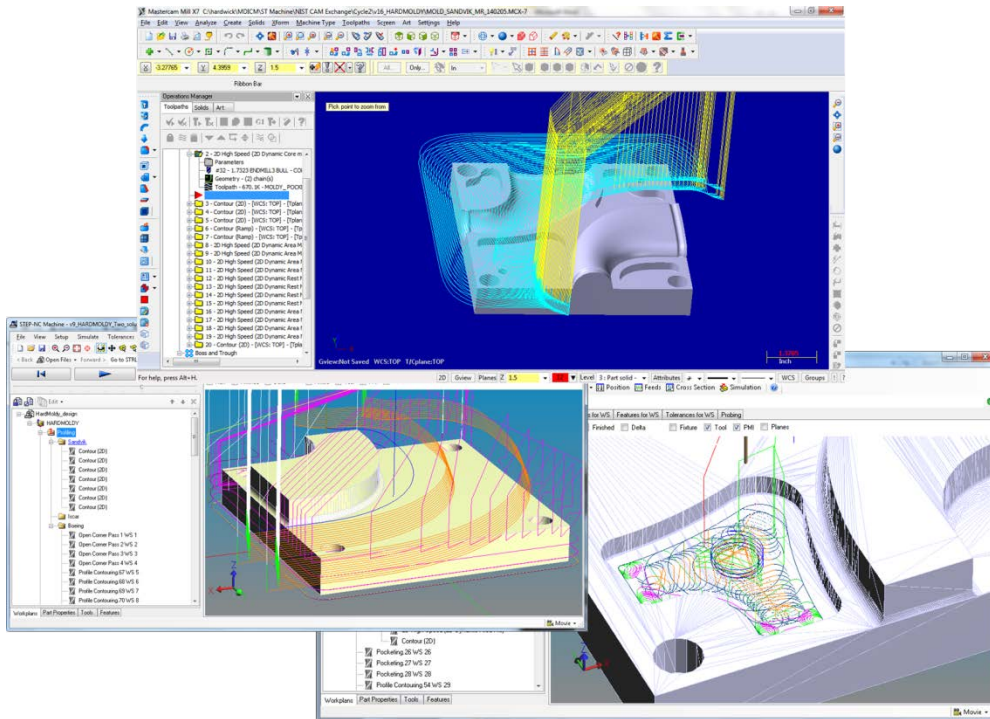






- Enables CAM to CAM data exchange and cloud services
- Enables direct machining from models
- Enables high fidelity simulations everywhere

# Other advantages of model based machining

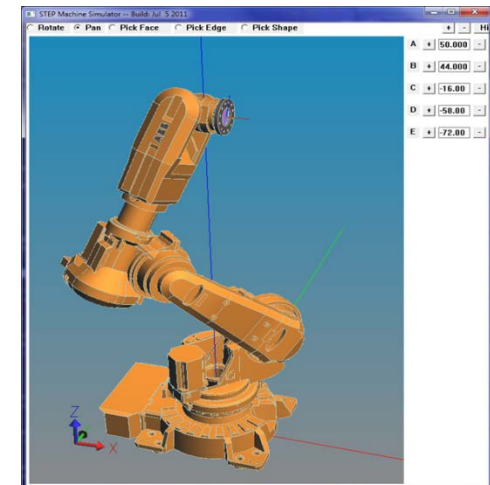


## Tooling Substitution

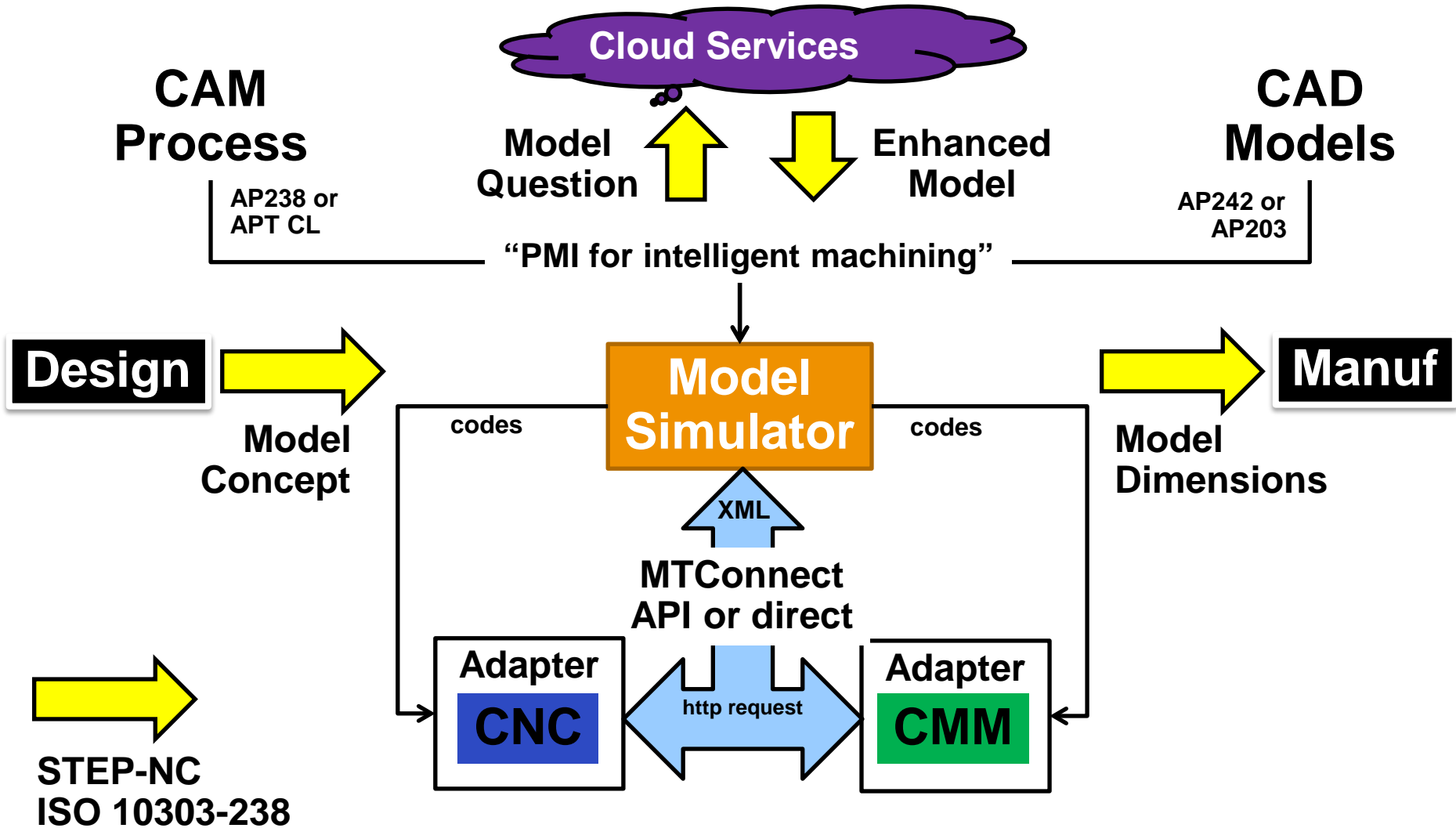
## CAM to CAM data exchange

- 5-axis nesting
- Adaptive machining
- Long term archiving

## Robot Machining



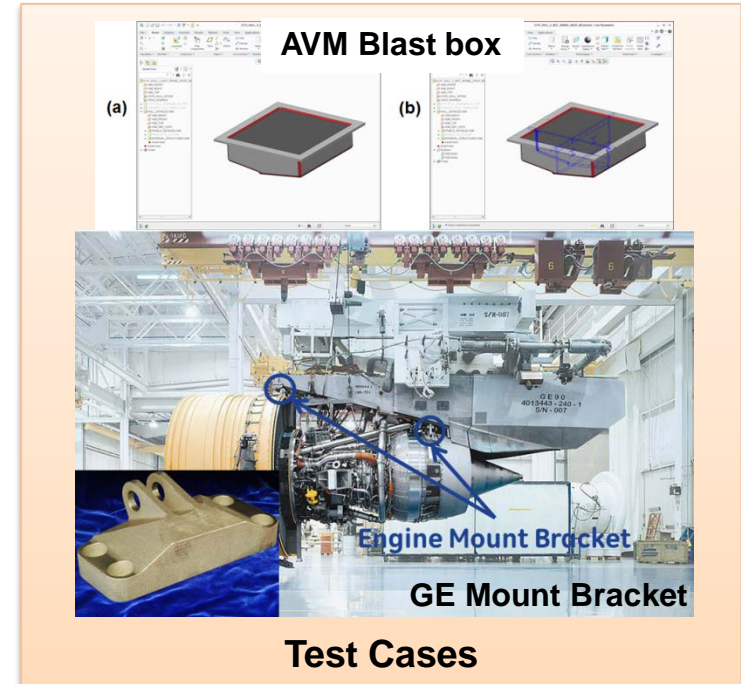
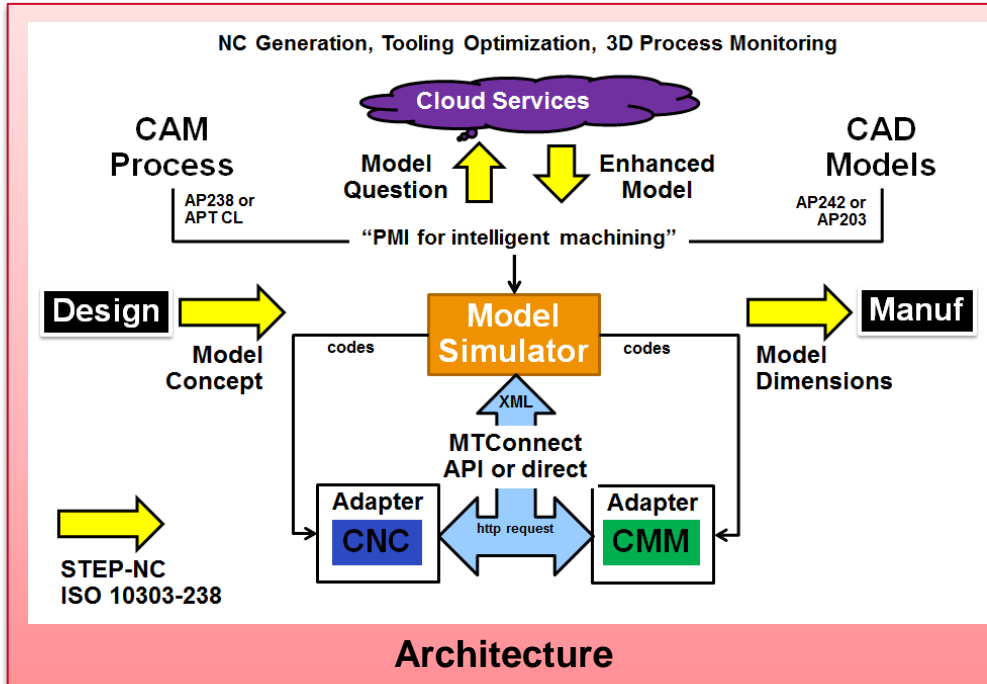
NC Generation, Tooling Optimization, 3D Process Monitoring



# Key points

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- **PMI for intelligent machining**
  - The required geometry, dimensions and tolerances
  - Also other PMI such as surface finish
- **MTConnect or API for feedback**
  - Real time simulation of the machining results
  - Software evaluates conformance to PMI requirements
- **Shop receives a model from design**
  - OEM sends a 3D model with PMI
  - No need for a drawing or redundant data entry
- **Cloud services for optimizing the model**
  - Third party software optimizes the solution
  - Models of the product, process and available resources
- **OEM receives a model of the result**
  - Evaluates fit into the assembly
  - Determines if more machining is necessary



## Purpose:

- Enable cloud services for manufacturing
- Simplify machine operation

## Metrics:

- 15% to 30% faster machining by optimization service
- 35% faster planning by NC generation service
- 50% reduced operator attendance by 3D monitoring

## Key Technologies:

- Services to generate NC code for industry stage models
- Services to visualize machining processes in smart phones and web browsers
- STEP Tools, Inc. “National Simulation Service” to evaluate satisfaction of PMI tolerance constraints

## Standards deployment

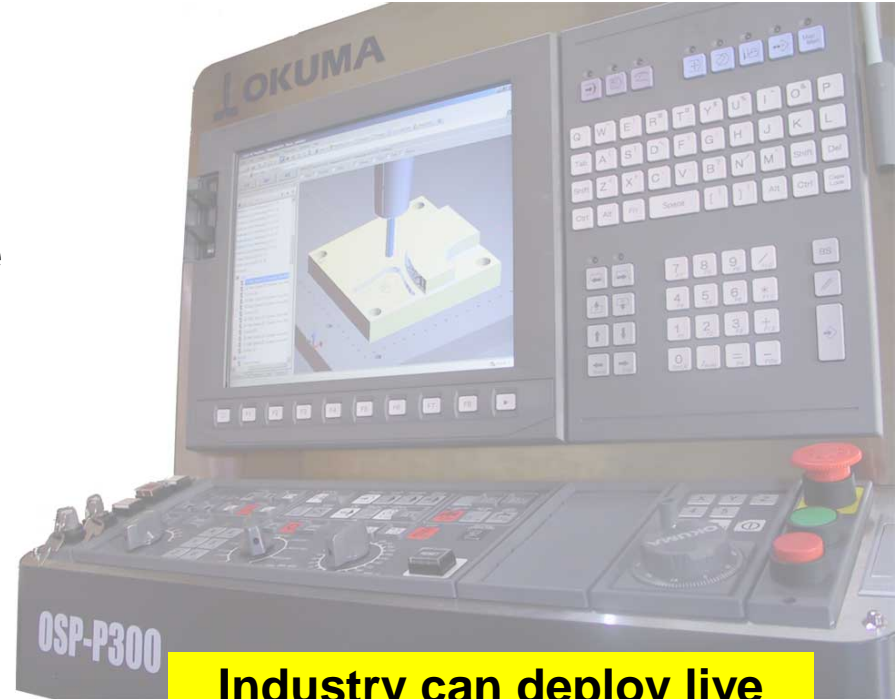
- Stage model machining
- Supply chain enrichment
- PMI Tolerance assessment

## Transition Partners:

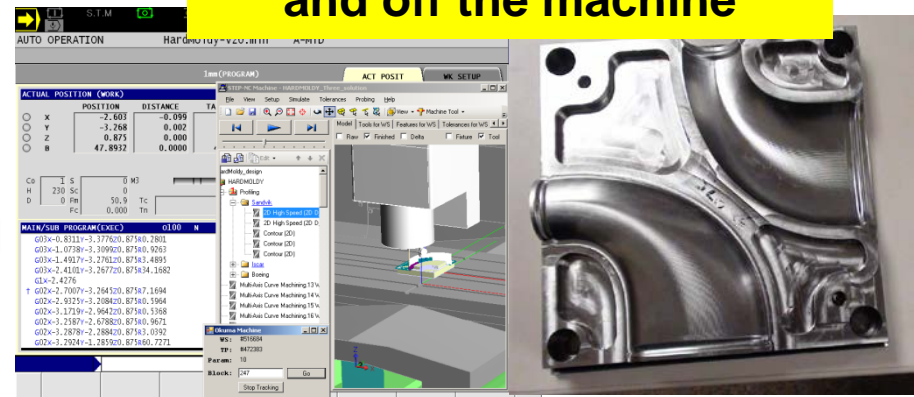
- OMAC (end users & vendors)
  - Boeing, GE, Caterpillar, General Dynamics etc
  - Sandvik, Iscar, Okuma, Makino, Mazak, DMG
- Universities
  - RPI, PSU, Vanderbilt
  - Huntsville consortium
- Services
  - TARDEC / RDECOM
  - WVA, NSRP

## Three to Five year benefits

- **Easier Machining**
  - Process is graphical
  - System is intelligent
  - Corrections are in the context of the PMI
- **Better Machining**
  - Third party solutions
  - Swap machines when available
  - Less tool wear by “better driving”
  - Curve and surface geometry for greater accuracy
- **More flexibility**
  - Share solutions with suppliers
  - No more post processors
  - Monitor in 3D on smart phones and in browsers
  - Balance machining requirements



**Industry can deploy live simulation everywhere on and off the machine**



- **End users**
  - Boeing, General Electric, Scania, Pratt & Whitney
  - Make STEP-NC data, Test new cloud services,
  - Machine parts in house and with suppliers
- **Cutter vendors and other solution providers**
  - Sandvik, Iscar
  - Share catalog data
  - Develop cloud services
- **Machine vendors**
  - Okuma, others in negotiation
  - Host STEP-NC simulators,
  - Machine directly or indirectly from STEP-NC
- **CAM vendors**
  - Mastercam, Catia V5
  - Read and write STEP-NC data
  - Enable direct machining of curves and surfaces
- **Software suppliers for the standards**
  - Datakit, ITI, EPM, ProSTEP, LKSoft, STEPCode
  - STEP Tools interfacing toolkit ST-Developer®
  - STEP Tools model based machining simulator STEP-NC Machine®