

## **RENAISSANCE SERVICES RECEIVES NSF GRANT TO ENABLE COLLABORATIVE PRODUCT DEFINITION**

**Springfield, OH – September 24, 2004** – Renaissance Services, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation ([www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)), is exploring the potential of Collaborative Product Definition Management. This project is focused on transforming the relationships between aerospace contractors and their suppliers which design subsystems. Two major aerospace companies are working with Renaissance Services to make this Web-based solution a reality.

Today, aerospace companies subcontract more of the design and manufacture of subsystems to their suppliers. In doing so, they must ensure that the suppliers possess all the necessary requirements to build these systems. This is the source of greatest risk in this relationship – the supplier lacking clarity about the characteristics and requirements specified by the prime contractor.

Renaissance Services co-founder Dan Z. Sokol commented, “Our experience and research have shown that a large percentage of the cost of quality is driven by misunderstanding and misinterpretation of design intent.” Sokol added, “By getting clarity early in the product lifecycle, the primes will be able to increase product development velocity and reduce quality escapes.”

Understanding design intent is essential to producing parts that conform with the growing number of industry standards that have been adopted by prime contractors. To do so, suppliers must interpret specifications, design features, and identify characteristics to meet the design intent of the prime contractors. However, left to interpretation by the supplier, this practice is often ambiguous, time consuming, and often leads to non-conformance.

Phase I is planned to be completed by the end of 2004. Cohesia Corporation, headquartered in Mason, Ohio, is a subcontractor to Renaissance Services on this NSF project.

Renaissance Services provides advanced technology and services to companies engaged in the design and manufacture of engineered products.

Renaissance is a pioneer in the approach of managing detailed product characteristics as part of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM). The Renaissance approach recognizes that focusing on requirements at the characteristic level, and the seamless transition of those requirements to each level of the supply chain, we can help our customers achieve their quality and productivity expectations over the lifecycle of their products. Renaissance is teamed with a number of software companies that are addressing various parts of this PLM vision.

The company is headquartered in Springfield, Ohio. Visit the Renaissance web site at [www.ren-services.com](http://www.ren-services.com).

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