



## Press Release

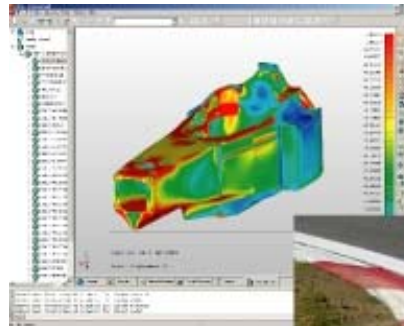
For immediate release

### **Minardi Formula 1 Race Team Shifts to Noran Engineering's NEiNastran FEA Software to Boost Technical Performance**

#### **Enhanced monocoque carbon fiber composite chassis is design target**

**Westminster, CA. May 11, 2005.** Noran Engineering, Inc. ([www.NENastran.com](http://www.NENastran.com)) announced that the Minardi Formula 1 Race Team of Faenza, Italy has completed an intensive six month evaluation program and has selected NEiNastran finite element analysis software for the future design and analysis of its race cars.

Minardi revealed that NEiNastran will be used in the design of its monocoque carbon fiber chassis in which a thorough and comprehensive analysis will render everything digitally, down to the smallest fiber. This will allow the chassis to be tested accurately and precisely in FEA to meet stringent safety standards. In addition, a host of design criteria including aerodynamics, flexural stiffness, structural requirements for suspension and engine mounting and weight can be analyzed. This ability to perform highly accurate analyses will enable Minardi designers to wring the most performance out of their designs, reduce their design-to-fabrication cycle time, and result in monetary savings by reducing the number of iterations needed in the thorough testing program prototypes must undergo.



Paolo Marabini, Chief Engineer for Structures and Calculation at Minardi F1 Team, commented on their software change, "We have chosen NEiNastran after an extensive and detailed internal benchmarking process, comparing the results, the performance and the features of the solver developed by Noran Engineering Inc. with those of our former FEA platform. Full compatibility, accuracy, along with the professionalism and quick turnaround of the technical support from Noran Engineering and SmartCAE have been the main reasons why we selected NEiNastran as our FEA software for the future."

Noran Engineering's CEO, David Weinberg, added his perspective on long time Nastran users like Minardi switching to NEiNastran. "The Minardi Formula 1 decision underscores a major point we have been making in the marketplace over the last year. NEiNastran's advanced features and Noran Engineering's technical support lets

Nastran users get significantly more out of their FEA investment. We strongly encourage competitive comparisons like Minardi's."

Noran Engineering's European Distributor, SmartCAE, guided the Minardi evaluation. Simone Ragionieri, SmartCAE's General Manager, commented on the keys to the successful changeover. "Becoming the technical choice of Minardi for structural analysis is an honor for us. It confirms the outstanding job done by our team in delivering accurate results, fast implementation, reduced modelling time, and easy access to legacy data. Our close contact with the development team at Noran Engineering means our customers are guaranteed added value, expert assistance with technical issues, and 'customer-driven' solutions".

#### **About Noran Engineering, Inc.**

Noran Engineering, Inc. (NEi), a leader in computer-aided engineering (CAE) software, provides a complete suite of analysis tools for structural, thermal, dynamic, fluid flow, fatigue, and optimization to the aerospace, automotive, maritime, military, medical, and consumer product industries. The core product, NEiNastran, runs on Windows, Linux, and UNIX platforms in both stand-alone and networked configurations. NEi's latest product, NEiWorks in SolidWorks, breaks new ground in engineering software by integrating Nastran with CAD to remove long standing barriers between designers and analysts. Website: [www.NENastran.com](http://www.NENastran.com). Telephone: 714.899.1220. Email: [info@noraneng.com](mailto:info@noraneng.com).

#### **About SmartCAE srl**

In addition to its role as European Distributor for Noran Engineering, SmartCAE also develops in-house simulation tools and provides consulting services in engineering analysis for automotive, nautical and industrial applications. SmartCAE is located in Prato, Italy. Website: <http://www.SmartCAE.com>. Telephone: +39 0574-404642.

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