

# Press Release

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## Tools from the cloud

### **EU promotes project to give small and medium-sized companies access to high-tech software**

**High-tech software for engineers is expensive. Small and medium-sized enterprises, however, do not need it on a regular basis. In the EU project CloudFlow, researchers are developing special software solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises. In the process, all options come directly from the cloud.**

(Darmstadt/Rostock/Graz) The engineer's most important tool is the computer. Be it a bridge, car or lawn mower, nowadays each product is designed on the computer and its suitability is tested in computer simulations even prior to the first prototype. At least in theory, this is actually the case. In practice, mainly small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) must do without the many options offered by the engineering software available on the market. "Small engineering offices only have a demand for some special solutions a few times per year", explains Professor André Stork of Fraunhofer IGD. "Orders requiring such high-tech solutions are therefore either passed on to experts or not accepted."

It is the mission of the eleven partner institutions from seven countries of the EU project CloudFlow to improve this situation. They are coordinated by Stork and his team. The idea is to use the so-called Cloud technology to open up new possibilities for the work of the SME. Expensive special software is no longer installed on the engineers' computers but will function via the internet on the CloudFlow platform. Engineering technologies (such as CAD, CAM or CAE) by various providers will be made available there in the years to come. On the open platform, products may be designed and simulated. The available servers are providing very high performance computing to solve complex problems (High Performance Computing; HPC). "We would like to invite providers

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and users of engineering software all over Europe to participate in CloudFlow with open calls for tender", explains Stork.

Stellba Hydro GmbH & Co KG (re-engineering and manufacture of hydropower turbines) is testing the Cloud-based solutions for their practicability as an end user. In the future, the company would like to use Cloud technologies in engineering, simulation, data administration and production quality control. CloudFlow offers an opportunity to help shape them and gain experience.

"Cloudflow" is a collaborative project funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (grant agreement N° 609 100).

## **Already participating in the project:**

Research institutions:

- Fraunhofer IGD ([www.igd.fraunhofer.de](http://www.igd.fraunhofer.de)) and Fraunhofer IIS ([www.iis.fraunhofer.de](http://www.iis.fraunhofer.de))
- SINTEF ([www.sintef.no](http://www.sintef.no))
- DFKI ([www.dfki.de](http://www.dfki.de))
- University of Nottingham ([www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk))

Software provider (SME):

- Missler Software ([www.topsolid.com](http://www.topsolid.com))  
CAD/CAM software provider
- NUMECA International ([www.numeca.com](http://www.numeca.com))  
CFD software provider
- Jotne ([www.epmtech.jotne.com](http://www.epmtech.jotne.com))  
PLM software provider
- ITI GmbH ([www.iti.de](http://www.iti.de))  
System-simulation software provider
- CARSA ([www.carsa.es](http://www.carsa.es))  
Provider of business models and IT security

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## HPC-Provider

- Arctur ([www.arctur.si](http://www.arctur.si))  
Provider of HPC infrastructure

## End user

- Stellba Hydro ([www.stellba-hydro.de](http://www.stellba-hydro.de)) active in the hydropower turbine business (maintenance, service, manufacture)

For further information:

[www.eu-cloudflow.eu](http://www.eu-cloudflow.eu)

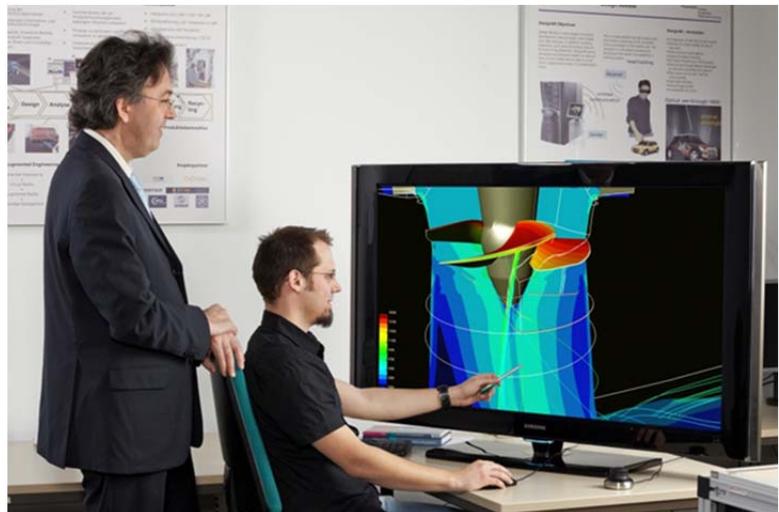


Image: High-tech software for engineers is expensive. Small and medium-sized enterprises, however, do not need it on a regular basis. In the EU project CloudFlow, researchers are developing special software solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises. In the process, all options come directly from the cloud.

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Fraunhofer IGD is the world's leading institute for applied research in Visual Computing. Visual Computing is image- and model-based information technology. It includes computer graphics, computer vision, as well as virtual and augmented reality.



Fraunhofer IGD develops prototypes and complete solutions pursuant to customer-specific requirements. The researchers at Fraunhofer IGD use, record and process images and graphics for all conceivable computer-based applications.

The research and development projects of Fraunhofer IGD directly relate to current business issues. The application spectrum of the concepts, models and practical solutions is as diverse as it is specialized. It ranges from virtual product design via medical science, transportation all the way to multi-media learning and training.



Together with its partner universities, Fraunhofer IGD researches various key technologies and cooperates with companies in many different industry sectors. In addition to the head office in Darmstadt, Fraunhofer IGD has further sites in Rostock, Graz and Singapore. It has more than 200 (full-time equivalent) employees. The budget amounts over 17 million euros.



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