



Pratt & Miller Uses FARO Laser ScanArm for GM's Corvette Racing Program

AUTOMOTIVE - Reverse-Engineering & Inspection

PROBLEM

Based in New Hudson, Michigan, Pratt & Miller is a world-class engineering company that takes automotive programs from concept to reality. They are a respected industry leader providing cutting-edge engineering and manufacturing solutions to their clients. Their total design team uses the most advanced research and development technologies available.

Pratt & Miller performs first-article inspection for most parts; reverse engineers models, fabricated parts, and any purchase parts that lack accurate CAD; and verifies complicated bodywork, surface features, machine parts, and full interiors. Basically, they measure everything from small components to complete race cars.

Measuring with hand tools is time consuming and creates inaccuracies due to individual error. These tools

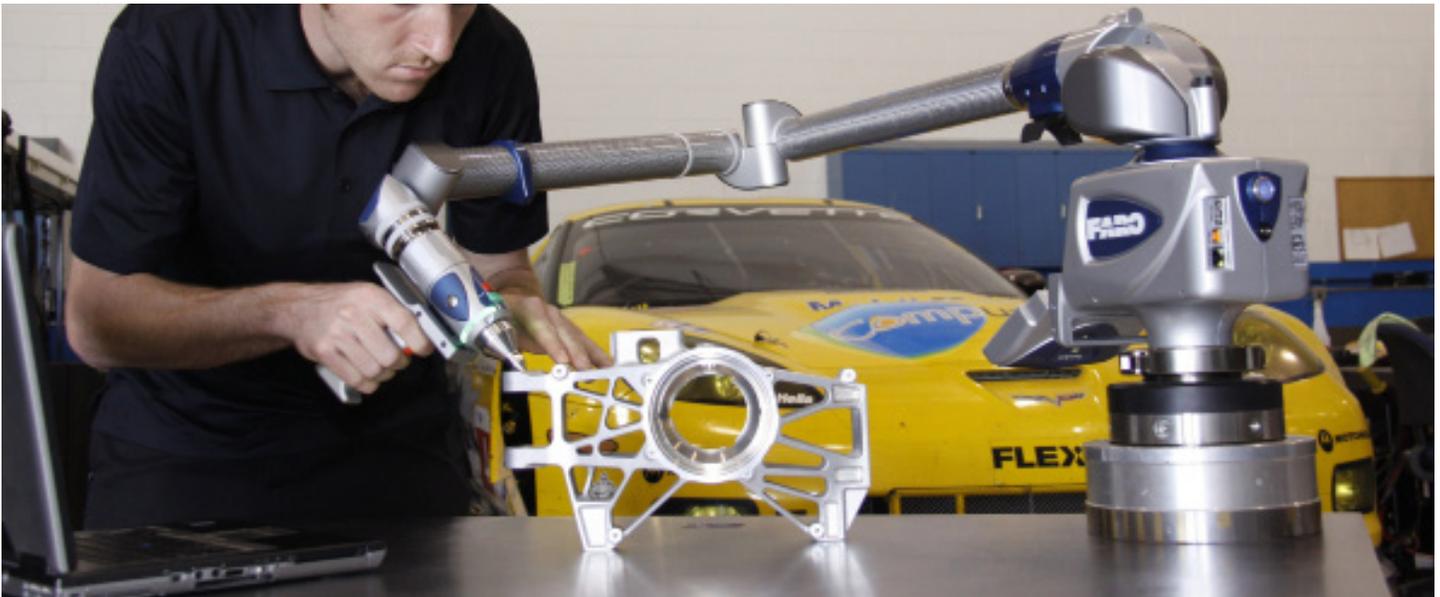
also did not provide Pratt & Miller with the means to measure its more complicated parts and freeform surfaces without undesirable contact. This work had to be farmed out and they lost direct control of data.

SOLUTION

FARO provided the accuracy Pratt & Miller was looking for at the speed they need. They have the utmost confidence in the results they get

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Pratt & Miller



from FARO. Co-founder Gary Pratt says, "We use FARO to design, construct, and analyze 'virtual' components, CFD, systems, and complete cars – every facet of a project from initial conception to the finished product."

The FARO ScanArm was selected for its portability, flexibility, accuracy, compact design, and reputation. Mike Kurylo, a design engineer at Pratt & Miller, says, "The quality of the FARO equipment, the ease of training, and the knowledge of their support are all first rate. Their customer service goes well above and beyond what one would expect from such a globally recognized technology firm. It feels like having your own pit crew!"

Gary Latham, a lead engineer at Pratt & Miller, says, "FARO is incredibly useful with our tight timeframes. About 30-40 percent of our parts are manufactured in the workshop and they need to be entered into CAD and now we can do that easily with faster data capture." They also use the ScanArm in their Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) to fill in any missing pieces of the puzzle. FARO returns control of the data process to Pratt & Miller and eliminates the need to farm out projects.

ROI

In today's ever increasingly competitive conditions, Pratt & Miller is always searching for every last bit of performance enhancement – be it in the form of speed,

time, accuracy, or efficiency. FARO answers the call on each of these.

The most intelligent design solutions are centered on the integration of the best tools. Pratt & Miller engineers use the most up-to-date and powerful computer software and hardware in existence. The next logical step for them was a FARO solution.

"We're constantly updating, expanding technology and FARO opened new parameters in manufacturing and engineering for us," Gary Pratt says. "FARO has really opened our eyes and they've been fantastic for us. Once you get something like this, you can't see how you did without it."

