MULTIPHYSICS EMPOWERING
DIGITAL TWINS A LIST WORLDWIDE
STRUCTURES A LIST WORLDWIDE
CUSTOMIZATION
PHOTONICS IT-SOLUTIONS
PHOTONICS IT-SOLUTIONS
PHOTONICS IT-SOLUTIONS
SAFETY AND SECURITY 50 5.000+
INNOVATION DIGITAL
AUTOMATION DIGITAL
ENGINEERING

CADFEM





Years of CADFEM

When Günter Müller founded his company CADFEM in 1985, he was well prepared. The Finite Element Method (FEM), on which modern simulation technology is based, had always fascinated him. As a student and doctoral candidate at the University of Stuttgart and as a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley — both strongholds of modern FEM applications — he worked intensively with the ideas of its pioneers.

These pioneers are still present at CADFEM today. Some of them, such as Ray Clough, Richard Courant, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Isaac Newton and Walter Ritz, have even inspired the names of conference rooms at the CADFEM headquarters in Grafing, which opened in 2022. The largest room there bears the name "Swanson", named after John Swanson, who founded Ansys.

Günter Müller got to know John Swanson during the early stages of his career. Of course, it was already about FEM. In 1982, they began working together on the marketing of Ansys, which led to the founding of CADFEM in 1985.

- → Günter Müller: The history of the Finite Element Method
- → Günter Müller: The history of Ansys

Foundation & the First Steps

The "CAD-FEM Company for Computer-Aided Design and Calculation mbH" was founded on March 29, 1985, by Otto Jandl (who specialized in CAD) and Dr.-Ing. Günter Müller (who specialized in FEM). As an official Ansys Support Distributor, the most important business area of the two-man company was the marketing of a software called Ansys.

CADFEM's partner status with ANSYS



ANSYS® SUPPORT & DISTRIBUTION

1985: The first company headquarters is in Ebersberg, where the company moves into a sublet at Collin am Sportpark. John Swanson and his company SASI invite the young entrepreneurs to the Ansys User Conference in Pittsburgh and they attend. 1986: Growth: CADFEM's turnover rises to over DM 1 million after just one year. The company now has 9 permanent and freelance employees and moves into its own offices. I Orders are good: calculation projects from many different industries are processed. I Investments are made in the latest hardware and an IBM PC/AT, a MicroVAX II (2 MB main memory) and a Tektronix 4014 graphic terminal are purchased. 1987: Otto Jandl, one of the two founders, leaves the company. I Several Ansys users join together to form the Ansys User Club e.V.. At regular meetings, they formulate user requests that CADFEM passes on to the Ansys developers. 1988: The 100 customer milestone is reached.

New customers from this period



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LS-DYNA and Crash Simulations

In addition to the Ansys business, the collaboration with John Hallquist begins. The engineer from Livermore, California, developed the FEM code Dyna-3D, which CADFEM added to its portfolio. The crash program LS-DYNA and Ansys LS-Dyna were subsequently developed from this code.

→ Learn more about Ansys LS-Dyna

1988



"Mr. Ansys"

Erke Wang knows the Ansys software like no other. After moving to Germany from China in 1988, he quickly became one of the faces of CADFEM and later became technical director. In an interview, he provides insights into his background and his fascination with technology.

→ An interview with Erke Wang

1989



Simulation in Print

As of 2024, 60 issues of the CADFEM Journal have been published. The first was published in 1989 — as the first major marketing tool; at that time still under the name "Infoplaner". Not only was the CADFEM Journal a popular source of information before the Internet age, but it also still has a loyal readership today.

→ CADFEM Journal

4th Ansys Users Meeting in Herrsching

1986

36 participants come to the 4th Ansys Users Meeting in Herrsching am Ammersee in 1986. The first annual meeting was organized by Günter Müller in 1983. It has grown year after year and has become a flagship event for CADFEM. As of 2025, it has become an international CADFEM Conference Series.

→ CADFEM Conference

The CADFEM Brand

For its 5th anniversary in 1990, CADFEM is given a new logo. The trademark logo with its specially developed typography has represented the company for 35 years. It stands for simulation expertise and groundbreaking projects. CADFEM becomes a brand.

CADFEM's partner status with ANSYS



ANSYS SUPPORT DISTRIBUTOR

1990: SASI, the company of Ansys founder John Swanson, turns 20 | Additionally, CADFEM opens an office in Hanover. 1991: The 8th user meeting, now called the CADFEM Users' Meeting, welcomes over 100 participants. I After the fall of the Iron Curtain, contacts are established with Eastern Europe, including SVS FEM (Czech Republic) and MESco (Poland). I CADFEM opens an office in Stuttgart. 1993: Communication between SASI and CADFEM is now by e-mail – a 2,400 bit connection makes this possible. In a short fax message, John Swanson announces that SASI has been sold to an investor: "I sold my company. John". I CADFEM opens an office in Chemnitz. 1994: CADFEM develops the first interface from Ansys to LS-DYNA. I The number of participant days at CADFEM trainings exceeds the 1,000 mark. 1995: With the foundation of CADFEM (Suisse) AG in Aadorf, Switzerland, the CADFEM family grows for the first time. The managing director is Markus Dutly, who had previously worked in Grafing for several years. 1996: SASI becomes the publicly traded ANSYS, Inc. 1998: Together with other simulation specialists from all over the world, TechNet Alliance AG is founded.

New customers from this period



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FEM für Praktiker

Günter Müller and his colleagues Clemens Groth and Uli Stelzmann have published 4 volumes of the book series "FEM für Praktiker". Volume 1 (Fundamentals) was published in 1992, followed by others on Structural Dynamics, Temperature Fields and Electrical Engineering. The books pave the way for countless German speaking users into FEM practice with Ansys, as they are supplied with a test version for practicing what has been learned.

1993



New Technology Within Historic Walls

For 30 years, the landmarked striking building at Marktplatz 2 in Grafing had been the headquarters of CADFEM. When the company moved there in 1993, the latest IT was introduced with a switch. As the company continued to grow and technical requirements increased, the areas used were repeatedly expanded and modernized, and in 2022 the company relocated to a new headquarters.

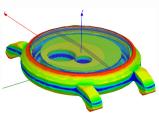
1998



CADFEM Goes Online

We're online! CADFEM's first homepage goes online in 1998. The website www.cadfem.de was spartan and textheavy — and very slow. It was programmed, edited and hosted by employees from IT and marketing.

1999



Time for Simulation

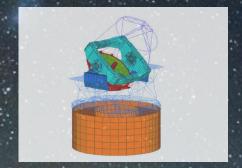
80% of Swiss watch manufacturers simulate with CADFEM and Ansys. That's 35 companies, including IWC, Audemars Piguet, Chopard and Patek Philip. Since 1999, CADFEM (Suisse AG), with its special expertise in the field of watch simulation, has increasingly become a fixture in the industry.

→ Watch Simulation Overview

Groundbreaking Projects in the Early Years

Simulations for Maximum Precision when Looking into Space

The giant telescopes (VLT) operated by the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in the Chilean Atacama Desert have a diameter of 29 meters. On behalf of ESO, CADFEM supported the development of the world's most advanced optical instrument with various calculations back in 1990. Because even the smallest effects can impair the quality of the images, the aim was to precisely model its behavior under vibrations, wind, solar radiation and many other physical stresses.

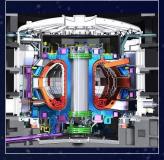






A CADFEM Tool for the Simulation of Painting Processes

The Virtual Paint Shop (VPS) represents three methods developed by CADFEM for the simulation of painting processes for vehicle bodies: dipping in the paint or cleaning bath (VPS/DIP), cathodic dip painting (VPS/EDC) and drying (VPS/DRY). Upon the initiative of BMW AG. CADFEM developed and partially patented the VPS tools. Following the presentation of VPS at an international symposium in 2002, further projects were commissioned by OEMs.



Simulations for the Energy of Tomorrow

ITER (International Ther-

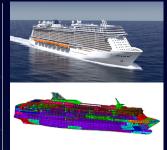
monuclear Experimental Reactor) is the first prototype of a nuclear fusion reactor. The aim of ITER is to demonstrate the technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes. Development has been underway since the 1990s; construction began in 2007 in southern France and is expected to be completed in 2035. Since ITER is uncharted territory, reliable simulation results are essential. CADFEM has been supporting the project company in the development of the reactor and its components since 1998. The spectrum ranges from non-linear structural mechanics, dynamics and temperature to flow, electromagnetics and

multiphysics.



Simulation for the Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche in Dresden

The planning and civil engineering office of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfram Jäger was heavily involved in the reconstruction of the Frauenkirche in Dresden, Germany. From 1994, 11 years before its consecration in 2005, Prof. Jäger and his team carried out comprehensive Ansys calculations of various areas of the building with support of CADFEM. Among other things, the dome, the foundations and the masonry were reconstructed according to their historical model.



Digital Slimming of a Cruise Ship

The "Brilliance of the Seas" cruise ship was more than 1.000 tons lighter than originally planned when it was launched at the Meyer shipyard in 2001. How did this come about? During the design process, a team from Meyer Werft, CADFEM and inuTech systematically reduced the weight of the ship using suitable, specially-developed numerical methods. Based on thousands of optimization variables, and taking countless restrictions into account, the complex ship structure was optimally utilized - in strict compliance with all safety standards, design, time and cost specifications.



Discover more inspiring simulation projects

Internationalization

From day one, CADFEM has thought and acted beyond borders. The logical result has been the establishment of international partnerships, shareholdings and company foundations - primarily in Europe, but also in the USA and North Africa. The move into India in 2007 laid the foundation for success in Asia. CAD-FEM APAC is now active under the leadership of Madhukar Chatiri at several locations in India, as well as in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines.

CADFEM's partner status with ANSYS



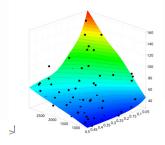
Competence Center FEM

2000: Extraordinary numerical solutions are the specialty of the newly founded inuTech GmbH, of which CADFEM is a shareholder. As part of the Tadra project, the CADFEM House is built in Tibet, a place where orphans are cared for and supported. 2001: CADFEM opens offices in Berlin and Lausanne (Switzerland). 2002: Three legendary FEM experts - John Hallquist (LS-Dyna), John Swanson (Ansys) and Richard McNeal (MSC) - are guests at the CADFEM Users' Meeting in Friedrichshafen. 2003: Ansys introduces the new Ansys Workbench user interface. 2004: For the first time, CADFEM is certified according to DIN EN ISO 9001 (2000). I JJohn Swanson receives the John Fritz Medal of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) for outstanding engineering achievements in science and industry. 2005: CADFEM Austria commences business operations in Vienna. I Virtual City Systems is founded, CADFEM's partner for urban digital twins. 2006: Fluent becomes part of the Ansys product family as well as the CADFEM portfolio. 2007: HP appoints CADFEM as a Preferred Partner, with additional hardware manufacturers following. 2009: CADFEM in Germany gets a new management: Erke Wang, Jürgen Vogt and Christoph Müller take over for Günter Müller, who is driving many other CADFEM projects.

New customers from this period

ebmpapst	•
hansgrohe	8
PALFINGER	•
schunk 6	•

N/AGO



Made in Thüringen: Ansys optiSLang

4,000 design variants of a chassis spring - but which is the best? To find out, the supplier Mubea uses Ansys optiSLang. Variant studies to quickly determine the optimum design are a typical use case for the software. It was developed as optiSLang by Dynardo GmbH, a company founded in Weimar in 2001 in which CADFEM holds a stake. Ansys acquired the company in 2019 and added the software to its portfolio.

- → Use Case: Ansys optiSLang at Mubea
- → Learn more about Ansys optSLang

2002



eCADFEM - How much software should there be?

In 2002, CADFEM IT developed and internationally offered "eCADFEM", a pay-per-use system for on-demand Ansys licenses. This form of software usage was still very unusual at the time and CADFEM was practically a pioneer as an application service provider. Today, flexible, cloud-based "on-demand" licensing models such as "Ansys Elastic Licensing" are standard practice.

→ Learn more about License-as-a-Service

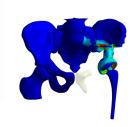
2005



European School of Computer-Aided Technologies (EsoCAET)

Since the start of EsoCAET in 2005, over 170 graduates have completed the 24-month part-time "Simulation Based Engineering" master's program. The internationally oriented training program was developed and implemented by CADFEM together with the universities in Landshut and Ingolstadt in response to an EU initiative. The course is still offered by the universities today. Under the umbrella of EsoCAET, further courses and training programs have been held in Germany and abroad.

2006



Simulation in Medicine and Biomechanics

Numerical simulations have long played a subordinate role in medicine, medical technology and biomechanics. However, this changed in the 2000s. In 2006, CADFEM became one of the first commercial providers to become intensively involved in this field, combining its own CAE expertise with the specialist knowledge of medical and biomechanical engineers. A company was created: CADFEM Medical, which today operates worldwide as Simq GmbH.

→ www.simq.de

Think globally, act locally



CADFEM International GmbH and CADFEM Group

All CADFEM national companies are connected via CADFEM International GmbH, which was founded in 2009 and is based in Grafing near Munich. In addition, there are the Ansys Channel Partners in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe: INAS, MESco, SVS FEM and SimTech. CADFEM International GmbH stands for continuity in the actions and values of CADFEM, because its shareholders are the members of the Müller family, Christoph Müller its CEO. CADFEM International GmbH and CADFEM International AG, which is lead by Markus Dutly and promotes DeepTech startups, together form the CADFEM Group.

→ www.cadfemgroup.com

The CADFEM Philosophy

"Think globally, act locally". CADFEM believes in the collective strengths of an international ecosystem of small and medium-sized companies. Their high degree of independence combined with flexibility, openness and a local mentality have proven their worth in working successfully and trustingly with local customers.

TechNet Alliance

TechNet Alliance is a worldwide network for numerical simulation. which was founded in 1998 by CADFEM and other Ansys Channel Partners. Suppliers of complementary products as well as experts from industry, research and education are also part of the alliance. The approximately 100 members from over 20 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and America meet twice a year to exchange experience and knowledge.

- → www.technet-alliance.com
- → The history of the TechNet Alliance

Locations and founding years of the CADFEM Europe and CADFEM APAC companies



More than Software

CADFEM has always seen itself as a solution provider for numerical simulation. In addition to software, training, user support and consulting services have always been an integral part of the portfolio. Because these high-quality services are a great added value for customers, CADFEM expanded its offering in 2010 under the leadership of Managing Director Jürgen Vogt and sharpened its profile: "Simulation is more than software".

CADFEM's partner status with ANSYS





2010: Hanser-Verlag publishes the "Praxisbuch FEM mit Ansys Workbench", authored by CADFEM employee Christof Gebhardt. 2011: The customer magazine Infoplaner gets a new name and is now called CADFEM Journal. 2012: Summer academies for doctoral students are offered for the first time at universities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. | Additionally, a new office is opened in Innsbruck. 2013: CADFEM launches its own YouTube channel. Some of the now over 200 videos have well over 100,000 views. 2015: Partner companies IDAC in Ireland and England change their name to CADFEM UK & Ireland. CADFEM also begins selling the Rocky DEM software for particle simulations, which later becomes part of the Ansys portfolio as Ansys Rocky.. 2017: Ajej Gopal replaces long-time CEO Jim Cashman at Ansys. 2018: Together with the newly founded partner ITficient AG, CADFEM develops solutions for predictive maintenance with digital twins. 2019: As the Ansys offering grows to include software for optics and photonics, CADFEM also expands its expertise in these areas. I CADFEM France is founded with headquarters in Lyon.

New customers from this period

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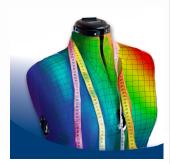
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Customized Software

Ansys solutions cover an enormous range of tasks. Nevertheless, there are always reasons to adapt them to user-, company- or industry-specific requirements. The individual development and customization of software is part of the service provided by CADFEM. Since 2012, such projects have repeatedly resulted in independent add-on solutions for Ansys, which are offered as CADFEM Ansys Extensions. Tools are also developed with partners: Ansys Composites PrePost from the Ansys portfolio was developed by CADFEM together with EVEN AG from Switzerland.

- → Learn more about CAD-FEM's customization and automation services
- → Learn more about the CADFEM Ansys Extensions

2015



Customized Hardware

CADFEM also supplies fully configured and ready-to-use IT systems from leading hardware providers. What makes them special is that they are precisely tailored to the individual requirements of simulation tasks or high-performance computing (HPC). Together with the customer, the best IT solution is determined on a vendor-neutral basis and, if desired, set up ready for operation. CADFEM is certified as an "Ansys Systems Integrator Partner".

→ Learn more about CADFEM's hardware and IT-services

2017



Premiere of Ansys Discovery

Model – Explore – Analyze: In 2017, Ansys attracted attention with Ansys Discovery. The new software with its high degree of automation and the first intensive use of GPU technology "democratizes" simulations. Since the physical behavior of components and processes can be displayed very intuitively and practically live, the range of applications and users is expanded. Ansys will be presenting the innovation live for the first time at CADFEM - in front of 700 guests at the Simulation Conference in Koblenz.

- → Learn more about Ansys Discovery
- → Video: The premiere of Ansys Discovery

2018



Customized Training

Know how: CADFEM training courses on Ansys and simulation have become very popular and have an excellent reputation. For more than 30 years, they have been held exclusively as face-to-face events. In 2018, CADFEM began developing eLearning formats with the support of ZEIT-Akademie, and one year later the first eLearning course on Dynamics was published. The eLearning courses are created in the company's own studio and are available in various languages. Along with online training courses, that were vastly expanded during the pandemic. CADFEM customers now have a choice of three formats from over 100 different Ansys titles. CADFEM is thus the largest provider of training in the field of simulation and digital engineering.

→ Learn more about CADFEM's trainings and eLearnings

Digital Engineering

With the digitalization of entire development processes and product lifecycles, companies ensure efficiency, flexibility and resilience. Simulations with Ansys are a key to this, especially if they are understood and used as an integral part of the development chain. CADFEM advises and supports its customers individually and comprehensively in this transformation.

CADFEM's partner status with ANSYS



2020: The CADFEM Learning Subscription is offered throughout CADFEM and is booked and used intensively. 2022: Matthias Alberts is appointed to the executive board of CADFEM Germany, followed in 2023 by Matthias Hörmann and Josef Overberg in. 2023: CADFEM receives the newly introduced Apex partner status from Ansys, the highest partner status. 2024: CADFEM founder Günter Müller celebrates his 80th birthday. I The CADFEM Conference also returns to in-person format after the Corona break and two years in digital form. I The CADFEM Blog is launched 2025: CADFEM modernizes its appearance; the logo is also further developed. I On the business platform LinkedIn, the CADFEM companies together have over 55,000 followers - tripling the number over 3 years. I Matthias Alberts takes over the management of CADFEM Europe.

New customers from this period



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Individuality as Standard

There is no such thing as off-the-shelf digital engineering. Instead, success depends on how well the technologies used reflect the individual conditions and requirements of an organization. CADFEM provides its customers with the necessary expertise, ranging from data and process management, automation and digital twins to solutions for model-based systems engineering and functional safety. For this spectrum, CADFEM is certified as an Ansys Services Partner.

→ Digital Engineering with CADFEM and Ansys

2022



A new home for CADFEM Germany and CADFEM International

After two years of construction, the time has come. CADFEM will move into the new company building in Grafing-Schammach in 2022. A representative new headquarters has been created using sustainable solid wood construction and, of course, various simulation tools in the planning phase. This spacious and inviting building, a commitment to the future, is home to CADFEM Germany, **CADFEM International and** several partner companies. The architects from nbundm* have received several awards for their work.

→ Project report of nbundm* architects (in German)

2023

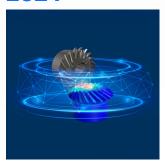


Blueprint — The Digital Engineering Talk

With "Blueprint", CADFEM is launching a new event format in 2023. The talk with decision-makers from well-known companies will be broadcast live from the CADFEM headquarters. It is aimed at employees and managers from small and medium-sized companies who are responsible for or involved in digitalization topics and development processes. It gives them impulses for their own decisions - far beyond simulation. The concept is a success: The Blueprint on AI has well over 1,000 participants.

→ CADFEM Blueprint — The Digital Engineering Talk (in German)

2024



CADFEM AI: AI and ML for Digital Engineering

Al becomes part of Digital Engineering and the Al startup PI Probaligence becomes part of the CADFEM Group, With CADFEM AI, CADFEM supports customers in the targeted, comprehensive and sustainable planning, implementation and use of AI and ML in their digital product development processes. CADFEM AI includes the AI products from Ansys as well as the additional expertise and the STOCHOS solution from PI Probaligence.

- → Al for Simulation and Digital Engineering
- → The CADFEM eBook about AI in product development

Ready for the future

CADFEM and Universities

CADFEM supports more than 500 university locations. This includes the provision of Ansys licenses for teaching and research as well as our Academic Initiative. Within this framework, CADFEM promotes close contact with students and teachers through joint workshops and technology days on campus. CADFEM visibly supports student teams and other university projects and are literally in constant exchange — via CADFEM lecturers at the universities or professors who hold training courses at CADFEM. This is achieved through joint summer schools, research projects, student research projects, master's and diploma theses.

- → Simulation in academia and research
- → Use Case: Ansys and CADFEM Austria at Higher Technical Education Institutes (HTLs)

CADFEM and Research

CADFEM Group companies are involved as initiators, partners or service providers in national, European and international research projects. The range of topics is broad, and the expertise of CADFEM in simulation and digital engineering is always in demand. With the Ferdinand-Braun-Institut, the Forschungszentrum Jülich, over 40 Fraunhofer Institutes, the Hahn-Schickhardt-Gesellschaft, the Max-Planck-Institut (MPI), the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Empa and CERN, many renowned research institutions from German-speaking countries belong to the CADFEM customer base.

CADFEM and Key Technologies

Industrial sectors with great growth potential include automation, biotechnologies, decarbonization technologies, new forms of mobility, electronics, quantum computing and the digitalization of products. Thanks to leading software solutions from Ansys and the experience and know-how of its own experts, CADFEM is ready to provide its customers with support in these emerging specialist areas. The same applies to the cross-cutting topics of artificial intelligence and digitalization — in these key technologies as well as in more traditional markets.

CADFEM and Startups

Startups are a growing customer group of CADFEM. Starting in 2025, more than 50 such dynamic companies worldwide will be supported by the CADFEM Group with software solutions from Ansys and services from CADFEM in the realization of their innovative ideas — and this number is growing. In addition, CADFEM International AG financially supports around 50 DeepTech start-ups and, if required, with technology, knowledge and its network. Climeworks, whose solution for CO2 extraction is used worldwide, has made outstanding progress in this area.

- → CADFEM Group Startups Investments
- → Ansys Startup-Programm



CADFEM and industrial trends

Other companies in the CADFEM Group are not referred to as CADFEM, nor is their core business the marketing of Ansys products. In these companies, highly specialized interdisciplinary teams develop innovative products and digital technologies with great added value for current megatrend.



Digital twins for the analysis and optimization of climate systems in buildings and neighborhoods.

inuTech

Development of software and algorithms for special simulation tasks.



Autonomous shuttles for the last mile.



Digital twins of high-precision road maps and infrastructure.



Smart Factory and digital twins for industrial plants.



Probabilistic AI/ML solutions that are especially suitable for simulative applications.



Digital twins for medical applications.



Digital twins of cities and landscapes.



Empowering Digital Engineering

40 years after CADFEM was founded, what today would be regarded as a simulation start-up has become a globally active and successful group of companies in the field of digital engineering.

Such a development could not have been anticipated at the time. But it was inevitable, because Ansys, simulation and the way products are created have changed fundamentally – just like the products themselves. The innovations are becoming increasingly fascinating at ever shorter intervals – innovations that were initiated by digital engineering.

However, not everything has changed. Some things have remained the same. This includes the philosophy that the family-owned company CADFEM has lived by for 40 years: passion, openness and competence for technology combined with friendly and respectful collaboration.



CADFEM APAC



Employees

Locations

1.100+

Simulation Projects 2024

Ansys experts

110+

Seminar Titles

9.000+

Seminar Participants 2024

5.000+

Customers

500+

University Sites



In good company – our customers

CADFEM serves over 5,000 customers worldwide. From industry, research and education. From 1-person companies to large global players. They belong to a wide variety of sectors, ranging from traditional companies to newly founded start-ups. A small cross-section of our international customer base:













arvballe









































































































































CADFEM

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