MCAD/ECAD with Non-Electrical Layers on Flex/Rigid Designs

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Rigid-Flex Collaboration Considerations



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Technology-Driven Rigid Flex Design

Unique contours and high-speed interconnects





Lightweight and environmental conditions



Compact, lightweight, durable wearables



Medical - lightweight and reliable



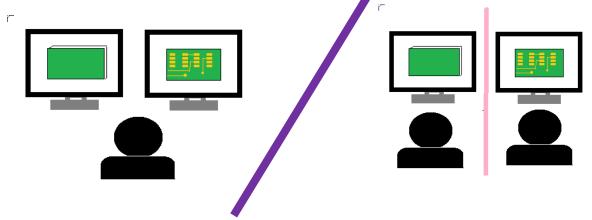
Who Is in the Drivers Seat?

- Physical design details
 - Who drives the physical design?
 - Who drives the circuit base material definition?



Decision making

- Mechanical restrictions vs. electrical requirements
- Multiple people in multiple disciplines (enterprise companies)
- One person in multiple disciplines
 - Startups
 - Small engineering teams



Rigid-Flex Structures

Design materials

- Rigid materials (FR4)
- Flex materials (Polyimide, Dupont Kapton, etc.)
- Conductive (1/4 oz. CU, RACU, silver, etc.)

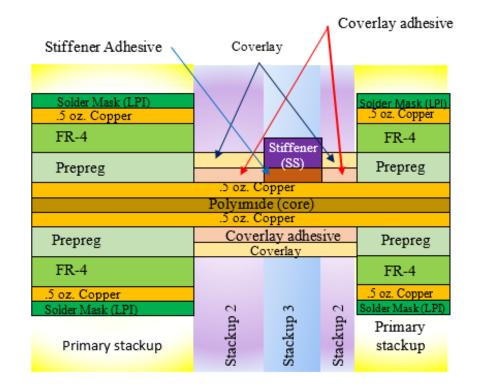
Adhesives

Structure definition

- Flex regions
- Rigid regions

Flex data

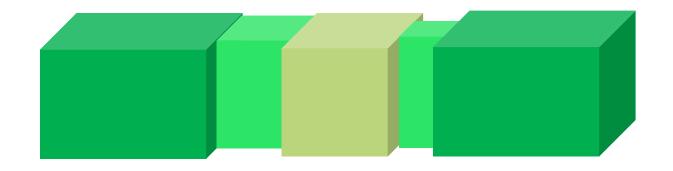
- Bend definitions
- Bend area



ECAD/MCAD Design Outline Exchange

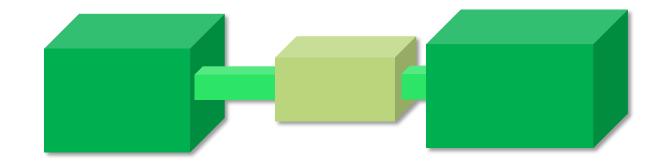
Current formats

- Base design is a uniform height
- No multi-stack awareness



• What is needed:

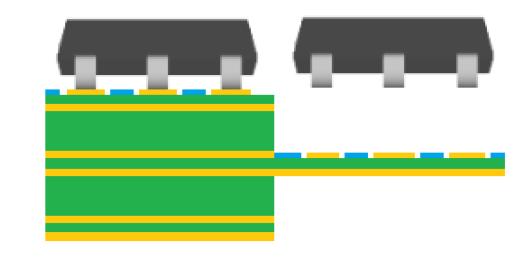
- Realistic zone-based stack up
- Stack-up defined thickness





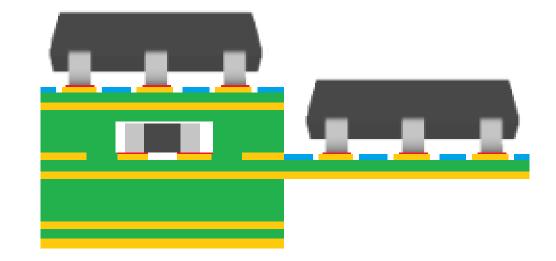
ECAD/MCAD Component Placement

- Current format support
 - TOP/BOTTOM representation
 - Copper surface based



What is needed

- Zone-aware component placement
- Embedded component placement
- Solder paste offset





EDMD Schema (IDX) Expanding Support for Rigid Flex

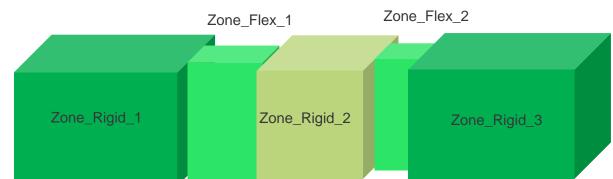


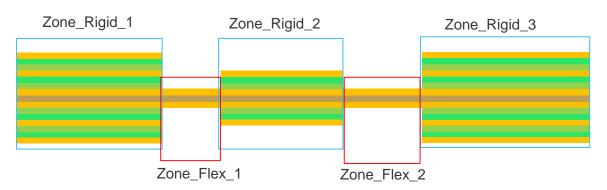
Basic Rigid-Flex Support Flow (MCAD Baseline)

- MCAD
 - Defines design outline
 - Defines rigid and flex zones
 - Exports IDX baseline

ECAD

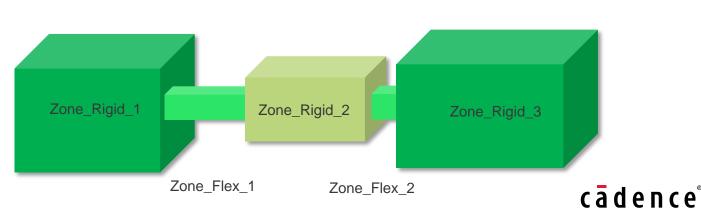
- Imports outline
- Defines multi-stack up
- Assigns stack ups to zones
- Export incremental IDX for zone thickness







- Imports incremental
- Applies new thickness



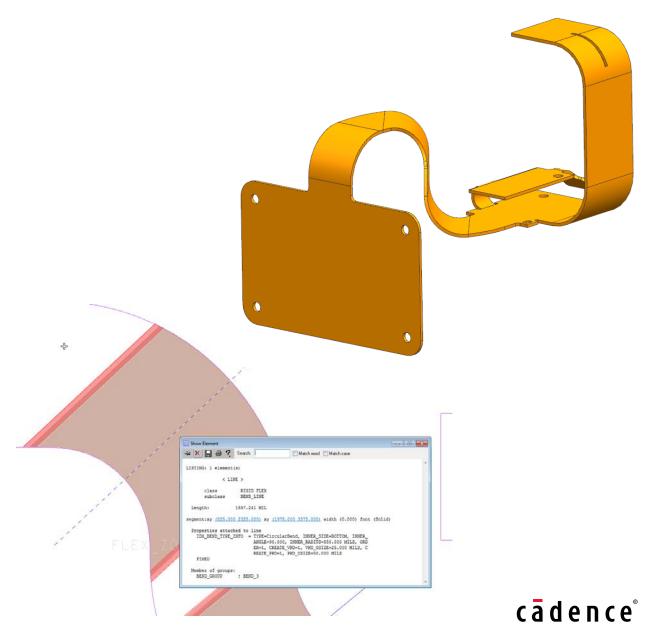
Basic Rigid-Flex Bend Data (Available in IDX 2.0 and 3.0)

MCAD

- Defines bend line
 - Bend radius
 - Bend angle
 - Bend direction
- Defines bend area
 - Bend extents

ECAD

- Imports bend data
- Places components on proper reference layer
- Applies paste mask offset



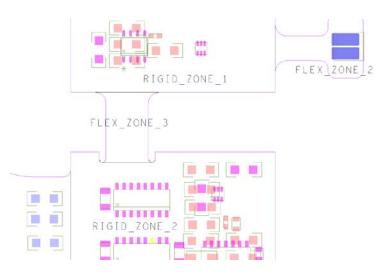
Basic Rigid-Flex Support Flow Placement

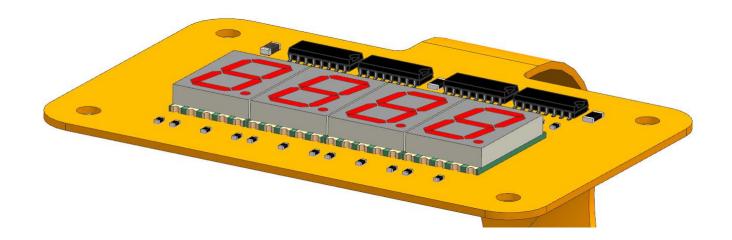
• ECAD

- ECAD zone-aware placement
- Export placement using IDX
 - Reference plane on actual layer
 - Add paste mask offset

MCAD

- Imports incremental IDX placement
- Places components on proper reference layer
- Applies paste mask offset

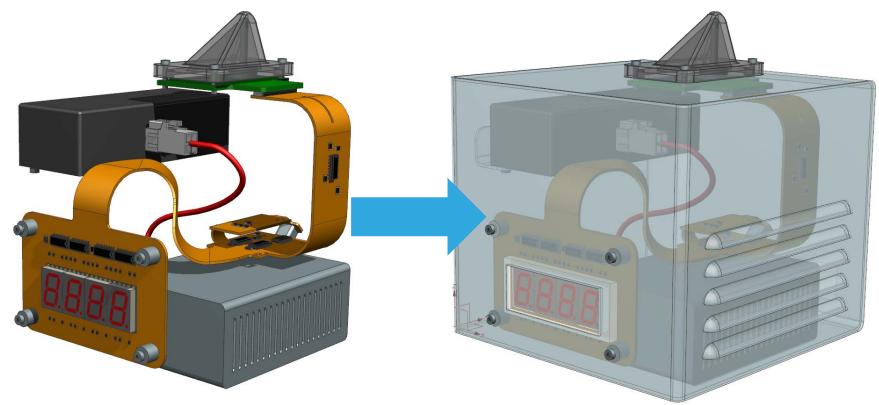






MCAD End Result

- MCAD
 - Proper design profile
 - Proper component placement
 - Bend criteria applied





Demo Movie

• Run Movie (Under Development)

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THANK YOU, PCB WEST SHOW MANAGEMENT