

Raymarine chooses CADSTAR from Zuken for productivity and EMC options

C A S E S T U D Y



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Nigel Wright, Product Design Manager, Raymarine

Raymarine produces a wide range of recreational marine electronics products including Radar and Autopilots. The company's rate of innovation and new product development has been accelerating and they now design some 30 to 35 printed circuit boards for use in these products each year.

Their previous PCB CAD system had been in use for 15 years but a number of factors limited its usefulness. Design productivity was limited by the user interface, there was limited interfacing to mechanical 3D CAD tools and no credible option for EMC or signal integrity analysis.



RL80C Raychart 10.4"

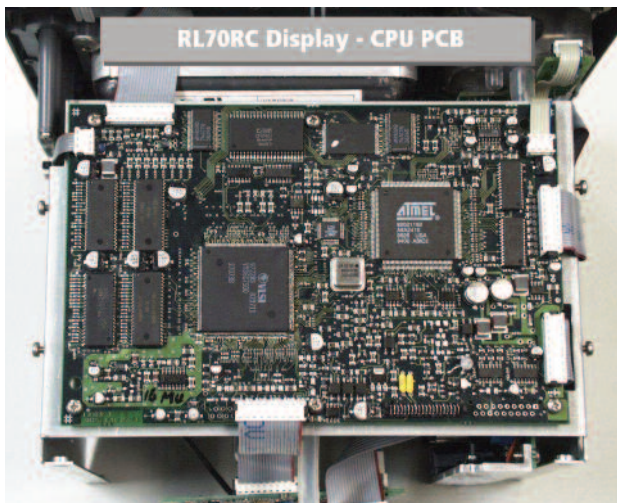
The Raymarine team led by CAD Systems Manager Ray Attwood, undertook an initial review of available solutions including Veribest, Mentor Graphics, PADS, OrCAD, and Zuken's CADSTAR. The need for a cost effective, industry standard system with intuitive user interface narrowed the field to PADS and CADSTAR.

CADSTAR was finally selected after an in-depth comparison of the last two contenders. The deciding factors were its ease of use, the availability of signal integrity and EMC simulation modules, and technical support infrastructure.

Ten schematic licences and three layout licences were bought from Quadra Solutions, Zuken's leading European distributor. It is estimated that the investment in CADSTAR will be paid back through productivity improvements within 12 months.

Raymarine are introducing CADSTAR at both their UK headquarters in Portsmouth and in their US design centre at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. They already rely on electronic data transfer between sites and suppliers and are planning to exchange CADSTAR. design data in the same manner.

Commenting, Product Design Manager, Nigel Wright said: *"You reach a point where 'good enough is no longer acceptable', and investment in increased software and hardware performance becomes self-justifying. Raymarine's main driver behind the CADSTAR purchase is ultimately reduced time to market through fewer design iterations. CADSTAR will deliver these benefits via its intuitive user-interface and improved integration with both 3D Mechanical CAD Systems and Thermal Analysis software tools. Other factors influencing the decision, included better access to sub-contract resources with an industry standard system, and importantly, the depth of knowledge and technical support demonstrated by Quadra Solutions, one of the CADSTAR distributors in the UK, during the evaluation."*



RL70RC Colour Radar - CPU Board