

 **Press release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSE release gPROMS 2.0

New look-and-feel part of major 2001 development programme

At the company's annual User Group Meeting in Windsor, UK, Process Systems Enterprise (PSE) of London today announced the release of gPROMS 2.0, the first phase of a series of major enhancements to its world-leading gPROMS dynamic process simulation and optimisation software package over the course of 2001.

Key features of gPROMS 2.0, which will be available for download from PSE's web site from 14 May, include the "Model Builder" project environment, a completely new look-and-feel for gPROMS aimed at enhancing user productivity by streamlining the development of complex process models. Also in the release are new capabilities aimed at Control Engineers, and a package of facilities for System Integrators who are combining gPROMS and other software to create customised applications.

"gPROMS is already the tool of choice for expert process modellers building high-accuracy models of their process for optimisation of design and operations," says Costas Pantelides, Technology Director of PSE. "With the rollout of capabilities we plan over 2001, we will extend the benefits of a high-end modelling tool and its applications to the relevant users through all walks of the corporation – whether these are plant engineering personnel or operators using the decision support tools they have created."

The Model Builder environment provides users with an integrated 'project workbench' environment which allows them easily to build and keep track of complex process models, create and use libraries of company-specific models and manage multiple projects. Features such as built-in instant syntax checking simplify model creation. Future versions of the environment to be released during 2001 will include 'intelligent' editors, case management tools and enhanced result presentation.

For control engineers the new linearisation facility, which generates a linearised model from the detailed dynamic process model, provides an easy route to state-space analysis of processes in traditional tools such as Mathworks' Matlab™. It also provides a powerful capability for generating linear models for applications such as model-based predictive control (MPC), contrasting with the traditional approach of building such a linearised model by perturbing the actual process. Also released is the gPROMS-SIMULINK interface, which enables any gPROMS process model to be packaged as a function block within Mathworks' SIMULINK™ software. This provides for the first time the ability for detailed process models developed in gPROMS (for example, complex distillation or reaction systems) to be used within the control engineers' tool of choice.



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For system integrators, there is a range of new features aimed at enhancing gPROMS' position as the most open simulation environment available, enabling it to be deployed rapidly and reliably as the simulation engine at the heart of custom software applications. New features such as the gPROMS Server enable a full gPROMS model to be dynamically loaded within other software, and the Equation Set Object server provides complete access to structural and numeric information for those building highly customised facilities. The Dynamic Optimisation Object structure enables specialist third-party optimisation code to be incorporated within gPROMS with minimal effort, and the Cape-Open physical properties socket enables calls to any Cape-Open compliant properties package. These developments mean that virtually any other piece of software which can add value to the process model can be embedded within gPROMS, and gPROMS can be embedded in virtually any other system, via a variety of techniques.

About gPROMS:

gPROMS was originally developed at the Centre for Process Systems Engineering of London's Imperial College to address the shortcomings of first-generation equation-oriented dynamic simulators. It is widely used for its industry-proven capabilities in detailed modelling and optimising process plants under dynamic, as opposed to steady state, conditions. Dynamic optimisation adds a whole new dimension to process optimisation, allowing the equipment design, operating procedures and control settings of complex process plants to be optimised under transient conditions against target objective functions, in sharp contrast with the limitations of steady-state optimisation and the trial-and-error dynamic methods of the past.

About Process Systems Enterprise Ltd:

PSE (<http://www.psenterprise.com>) is one of the fastest growing providers of model-based technology and services for design and decision support to the process manufacturing industries. The company was founded in 1997, originally to deliver and support in the commercial market innovative process modelling technology originating from London's Imperial College. Among its unique offerings are advanced software packages, services and expertise for modelling and simulation of manufacturing processes and optimal design, planning, scheduling and operation of flexible manufacturing facilities. PSE has established itself as a leading independent high-tech provider to a growing, global customer base that encompasses the largest process manufacturing and automation companies in the world. The company is a winner of the prestigious UK Queen's Award for Enterprise and Innovation for 2001, for its gPROMS mathematical modelling framework and dynamic optimisation technology.

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For further information, please contact:

Jonathan Felton

Business Development

Process Systems Enterprise

Bridge Studios

107a Hammersmith Bridge Road

London W6 9DA, United Kingdom

Tel +44 20 8563 0888

Fax +44 20 8563 0999

Email j.felton@psenterprise.com

On-line media information is available at: <http://www.psenterprise.com>