

The CAE Forum was first established on the Internet platform XING on 28 April 2008.

The foundation by Dirk Pieper derived from a desire to exchange information about numerical simulation by using an interdisciplinary approach with system boundaries such as companies and cooperation partners. The participants of the network are initially recruited between XING members with reference to the topic and they come from different companies and universities.

Interestingly, the „offline-exchange“, the actual face-to-face communication, found the general approval on this Internet-based interconnection of know-how. The at first purely virtual exchange became very quickly an actual and real one: technical meetings are held, and in Hamburg, Braunschweig, Cologne, Rüsselsheim, Stuttgart and Munich simulation regulars' tables, where people can meet in order to discuss or chat, are set up.

At the meeting in Hamburg the idea of the "North German Simulation Forum" was born. In a larger context a circle of interested people from industries and universities comes together, in order to listen to lectures, that are held by experts for parts of the numerical simulation. The first North German Simulation Forum took place on 29 October 2009 and on 07 May 2015, the North German experts will meet for the tenth time. The network is a partner of the Landshut CAE Forum of the University of Landshut. The event will take place for the third time on 5. Mai.

In general, the exchange of knowledge between experts from the work area of numerical simulation is focused on. The finite element method and the multi-body simulation attract attention as well. However, the exchange is not limited to purely technical issues. Methods of numerical analysis are discussed as well as qualification, education and self-improvement. In addition to that, further synergies are constantly recognized and promoted where possible.

The network isn't meant to be a user forum for a specific software, but a place, where technical possibilities can be used as tools and means to meet a certain target, to develop numerical solutions

The CAE-Forum currently counts more than 2,700 members and is growing steadily. With over 160,000 page views in the past year, the domain CAE-Forum.de is very pleased because of the lively response. The CAE forum is monitored by its founder Dirk Pieper, who also organises the off-line activities such as the above-mentioned regulars' tables, conferences and appearances at trade shows. In 2012 the CAE Forum was present among companies that deal with numerical simulation at the NORTEC, the North German Trade Fair for Manufacturing Technology. In 2013 such a communal stand was present for the first time at the HANNOVER MESSE as part of the trade fair "Digital Factory" and in 2014, the CAE Forum was present for the first time at the euromold with lectures throughout the whole fair.

In addition to such face-to-face interaction, the exchange between simulation experts of the CAE Forum is now held on various network platforms: in addition to XING the group 'Simulation FEM / MKS / ..' is represented even on LinkedIn, Google+, Facebook and Twitter. All important information about the network are provided on www.cae-forum.de.



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