

## From 2D to 3D with Rwanda's Gasabo

The Rwandan ICT is designing a 3D computer graphics program which will aid manufacturers' conversions of 2D models. This application, called Gasabo 3D Design, will be exported to the United States.

 By [David Kezio-Musoke](#) 19 Apr 2007

This ICT government project is being built with the help of the US firm, SolidWorks Corporation.

Dr Raphael Mmasi, the Director of National Computing Centre of Rwanda Information and Technology Authority (RITA) told Highway Africa News Agency recently that, "The 3D graphic drawing computer system will help manufacturing companies in US and around the world streamline product development, cut costs and re-use design data."

Only the 2D computer design system has so far been available for use in graphic drawings by the manufacturers in the US. 3D and 2D graphic drawing programs, usually referred to as CAD, are computer-based tools that assist engineers, architects and other design professionals in their design activities.

Rwanda is said to be the only African country to embark on building a graphic application that will convert 2D data into 3D models, as required by manufacturing firms.

Mmasi said that besides RITA, other parties involved in the Gasabo 3D Design project include the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and the École Technique Officielle (ETO) Gitarama High School, which will help train the required manpower to spearhead the project.

"To access the Rwanda-provided 3D CAD service, the US firms will have to pay, creating an ICT business venture between the two countries," he said.

Mmasi said home industries, engaged in manufacturing processes that use graphic drawings, are also expected to benefit from the system.

"ICT is not all about computers, but efficient production from their use," he said, noting that Gasabo 3D Design project aims to include a fast, accurate file conversion as a service. This will enable worldwide SolidWorks customers to leverage their existing 2D design data without having to do it in-house.

SolidWorks' commitment to provide software and business expertise to launch and grow the project, has prompted its CEO, John McEleneey, to visit Rwanda to observe preparations for the implementation of the project.

Gasabo 3D Design project is expected to provide large manufacturers with a cost-effective and fast way to convert vital 2D files into accurate 3D models, which they will be able to modify and build upon to meet customer needs.

This efficiency is intended to help both international and national companies stay alert, so they can design better products and excel in a global economy.

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