

Automotive Data Project

Tempus Developments, the provider of mobile data solutions, has used the FASTrim™ process offered by Midas Pattern Company to fulfil a high profile, time-critical contract to supply a major utilities provider with in-vehicle computers for its service engineers. The design brief outlined the need for a remote touch screen accessible in the cab of commercial vans that could access a laptop computer located in the rear.

Having won the tender, the company commenced the detailed design process, opting for a pull-down, interior roof-mounted 10.4" TFT Active matrix screen with resistive touch overlay. Once the first design had been completed, and because of the commercial pressure it was under, Tempus had to quickly find partners for both rapid prototyping and the production of the components, including the casings; it was therefore relieved to come across the FASTrim™ process offered by Midas Pattern Company.

Midas set about machining a set of FASTrim™ tools that would provide Tempus with its first prototypes. However, the process was fraught with interruptions due to ongoing design modifications. "The goalposts kept moving and we had a hectic few weeks with many different revisions of design," explained Tempus Developments' Design and Development Manager, Richard Abram. "From a design perspective we could react very quickly but it's not so straightforward for a tool-maker. However, Midas was fabulous at keeping track and implementing the changes."

The other issue was the number of mouldings the FASTrim™ process could produce. "Once again Midas proved excellent at maintaining the tool so that all-in-all I think we obtained around 100 sets - far more than is normally recommended," concluded Richard.

