

## 3Dconnexion and Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire Power-Up the Surfboard



What began as a childhood dream of Powerski™ founder Bob Montgomery is now a cutting-edge and very cool product, the Powerski Jetboard™. Over 100 patents protect the unique, award winning design which propels its rider up to 40 miles per hour. Powerski has garnered awards from Popular Mechanics, Popular Science and Time Magazine to name a few. 3Dconnexion motion controllers, Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire and HP workstations are the preferred tools for Powerski as they create revolutionary products and forge ahead into uncharted waters.

Vice President of Engineering and head designer Leo Greene first became a fan of the 3Dconnexion SpaceBall motion controller during the thirteen years he spent as a pre sales Application Manager and Senior Technical Manager at PTC. The device's ability to simultaneously pan, zoom and spin quickly won him over because it eliminated many separate, repetitive movements needed to navigate with just a mouse. "It's much faster," says Greene. "Plus to do it all fluidly and smoothly gives a better understanding of where you are in the model. You're less likely to be lost."

The SpaceBall, like all 3Dconnexion motion controllers, gives Leo the ability to work more efficiently by off-loading all navigation functions from the mouse. This creates an easier two-handed work style that delivers free-flowing interaction with your model inside Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire. "I've always felt working with one hand is less effective than two hands," he says. "With two hands you feel much more comfortable and involved."

Because of the dimensions of the Jetboard, Leo works with many parts that are long and flat. The SpaceBall saves him time and frustration by allowing him to work without interruption in a specific area of his model. "Being able to pan, zoom and spin simultaneously allows me to continue to work in the area that I'm interested in, rather than having to zoom

out and pan to find where I was...over and over and over again. That's a huge benefit," he explains." The 3Dconnexion controller provides quick and accurate navigation in all Pro/ENGINEER work modes such as Sketch, Part Modeling, Assembly or even Preview mode. This allows viewing and inspection of the sketch or model from all angles to verify changes while you continue to edit and modify with the mouse.

Greene also gets added functionality from his controllers by assigning Mapkeys with his favorite Wildfire shortcuts and keyboard modifiers such as Shift and Ctrl to the controller's programmable keys.

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"I take advantage of the controller keys quite a bit. They allow me to continue to plow through my design without having to stop and search for a key on the keyboard."



"With Wildfire we had to re-learn the Pan/Zoom/Spin commands, so it was the perfect time to integrate this tool into our engineering design environment." Greene and Powerski now find it impossible to design without a 3Dconnexion motion controller. The SpaceBall has earned itself a permanent place on Leo's office desktop and the portable SpaceTraveler always joins him on the road. "Whenever I'm using Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire, I have a 3Dconnexion motion controller up and running," he says. "I'm never without one."