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## Z Corp. Raises the Ante on 3-D Scanners

### New handheld model offers high-accuracy for \$28,900 per unit

*Doug Smock, contributing editor -- Design News, September 15, 2009*

The fast-growing 3-D scanning market is sure to get another push from a new handheld, portable model from **Z Corp.** that is priced at \$28,900.

Scott Harmon, vice president of business development at Z Corp., says the **ZScanner 600** eliminates the need for fixed-position tripods, bulky mechanical arms or external positioning devices, which can make hard-to-reach areas such as auto interiors difficult to scan. The new model fits into a carry-on suitcase.

Resolution is 0.1 mm and XY accuracy is up to 80 microns.

The 3-D scanners use technology from **Creaform** that captures data in one continuous scan rather than in numerous shots from fixed positions, eliminating post-processing time to integrate static shots into a cohesive scan. ZScan Lite software produces a .stl (stereolithography) file for import into a 3-D CAD software package or output to a 3-D printer.

The scanner reads data from photo-reflective targets placed on a surface. The scanner "paints" the object with a projected laser crosshair and the surface is recorded by the ZScanner 600's binocular cameras. A polygon mesh of the surface is generated on a computer screen in real time.

"In general, we recommend that these scanners be used primarily for reverse engineering and basic types of inspection applications," Harmon told *Design News* in an interview. "If you're getting into very high tolerance inspections, then you probably are going to end up using a CMM (coordinate measuring machine)."

One of the key markets for the new scanner is small- to mid-size companies that might be using a service bureau for reverse engineering. "Now for the cost of a couple service bureau projects, they can get their own scanner," says Harmon.

The new Z scanner won't be the lowest-price scanner on the market. **Next Engine** is selling a 3-D scanner for \$2,995.

"The ZScanner is capable of scanning a much, much broader array of object sizes and shapes," Harmon said.

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