

Mechanical engineers ride the surge

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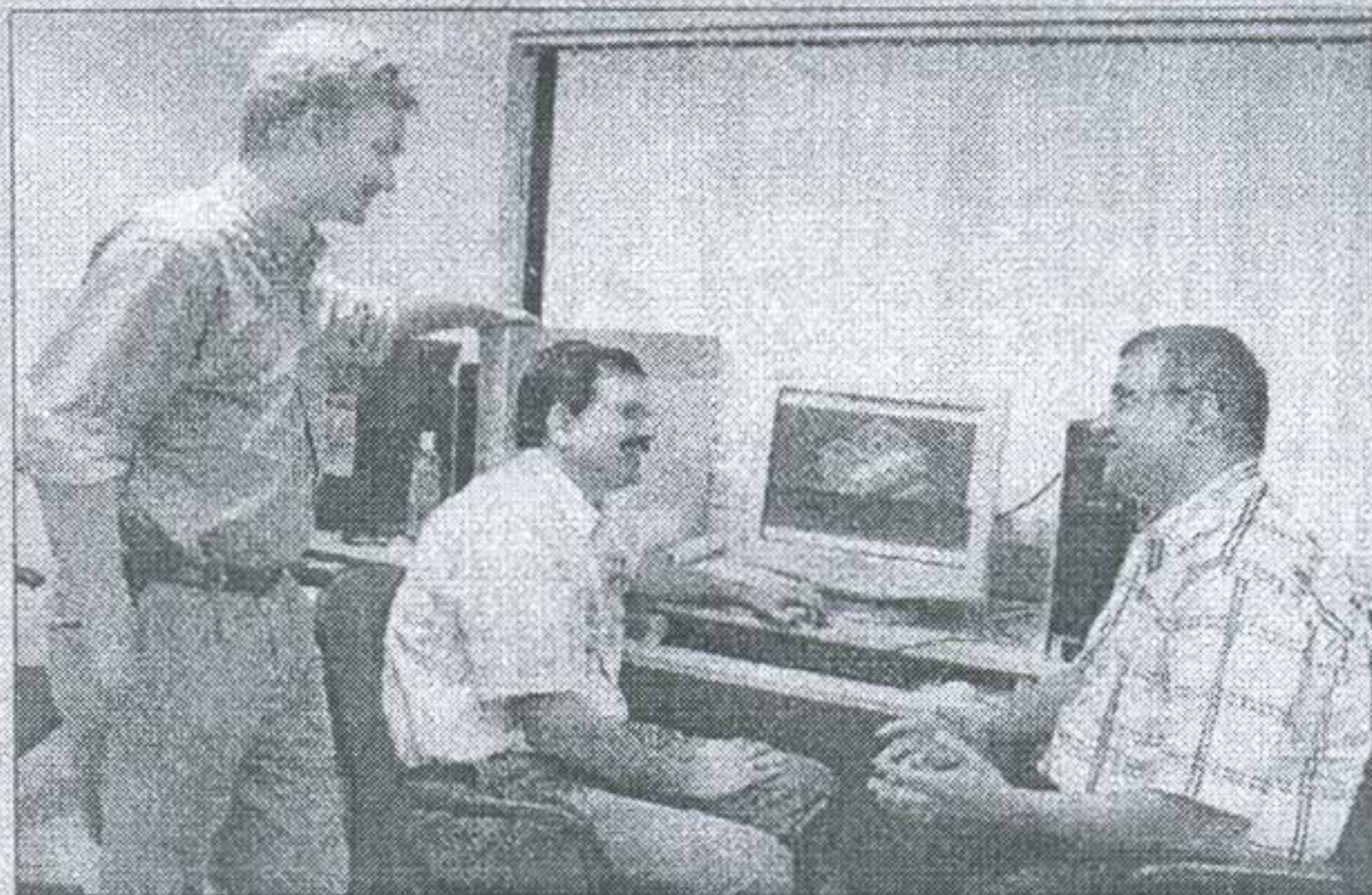
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SOFTWARE is passé. The new mantra is engineering services. Having been overshadowed by the IT industry in India, engineering services have made a comeback. More and more students are getting back to engineering services rather than doing any software course and getting into coding.

Pradeep Sinha, a fresh mechanical engineer is serious about pursuing his branch. "Mechanical engineering is finally getting its due respect. We are getting paid like the IT guys and there are equal chances of going abroad," says he. Another engineering student Mohit Galani says, "I am learning CAD/CAM simultaneously with my mechanical engineering and we guys know it is the next big thing."

Agreeing to this view is Deepak Shikarpur, CEO and director, Autoline Dimensions Engineering services, a leading Pune based player and part of the \$ 60 million Autoline Group, "By 2020 the offshored engineering services will be a \$ 50 billion industry and Pune has been identified as a potential hub. We have the potential of becoming a world leader in the engineering services industry. There is going to be massive demand

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GETTING MECHANICAL: (From left) Gopal Patwardhan, Deepak Shikarpur and M Radhakrishnan

for mechanical engineers with CAD/CAM experience," says Shikarpur. Autoline Dimensions has taken the lead in catering to this niche sector. The demand for mechanical engineers is so high that the group intends to double its headcount in the next three months.

The company has already taken a slice of the global pie and is working for auto giants from

Italy, Germany and the US. "We work on the concept to delivery model. Engineering (design) services is a rapidly growing industry in India with an identified worldwide global market of \$125 billion plus. This means that students can definitely opt for mechanical engineering after their twelfth and they will be paid equal to the IT guys. Email hrd@autolinedimensions.com to learn more," says M Radhakrishnan, director, Autoline Industries Ltd. Autoline Dimension is helping in the resurgence of the mechanical engineering branch by recruiting diploma holders and allowing them to pursue an AMIE degree while they continue working.

"Mechanical engineers need to focus on the fact that engineering services companies are now also great paymasters," said Gopal Patwardhan, UK based venture capitalist. Amit Joshi, a mechanical engineer who shifted to Java is back to CAD/CAM. "The sector is set for a boom and I am back to where I belong. I feel proud to call myself a mechanical engineer. The inferiority complex has gone," says he.

...And the evergreen branch of mechanical engineering is back with a vengeance.

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