



## **Vt. students to gain science, technology skills through new program**

MONTPELIER – Governor Jim Douglas today said Vermont’s students and teachers would receive free access to some of the world’s most powerful design and mechanical engineering software as part of the Real World Design Challenge.

The goals are to inspire and engage students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and highlight the economic importance of having the world’s most skilled and innovative workforce in these fields. It is open to any school that chooses to participate.

The challenge will provide students and teachers with access to the professional tools, training and connections to industry experts that they need to address a “real world design challenge.” In this case, aviation industry engineers have already defined a challenge that is currently being addressed by the aviation industry.

After learning the basics of design, teachers and students will be inspired to come up with innovative solutions to the challenge.

Participating schools from throughout Vermont will be considered to represent the state in a national competition hosted in Washington, DC.

Governor Douglas said the partnership, and the challenge at the center of its curriculum, would help young Vermonters obtain the skills they need to succeed in this century and help Vermont’s economy grow.

The initiative is a partnership between the state, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, Parametric Technology Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Corporation and Flomerics, Inc.

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