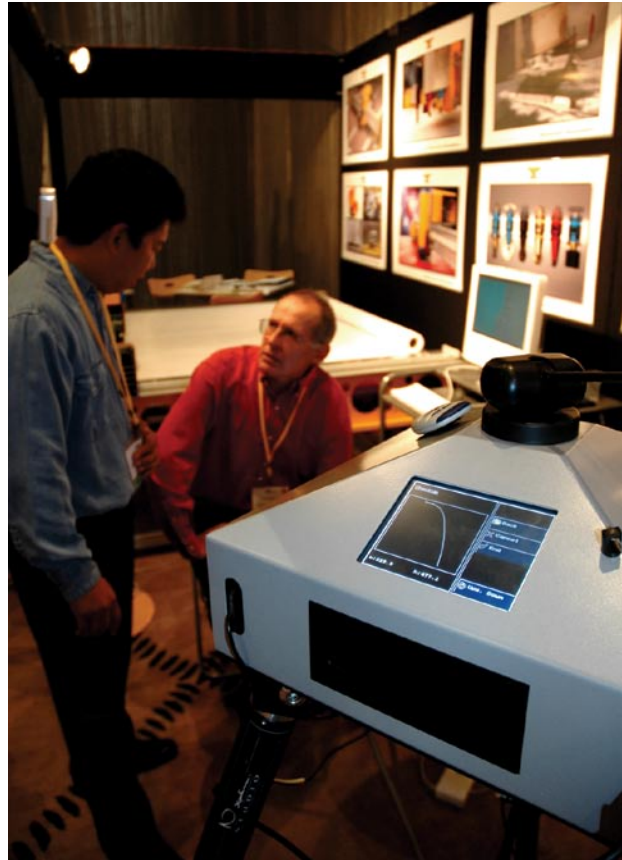John Clark demonstrates the Prodim Proliner on the Aeronaut Automation stand at this year's ACASPA Expo.



An innovative new measuring device, described by one industry expert as "a clever stick on a string", may have finally done away with the need for a tape measure when sizing up jobs.

# KILLING OFF THE TAPE MEASURE

The 'Prodim Proliner', as the device is known, was unveiled to delegates at this year's ACASPA Expo by John Clark from Aeronaut Automation.

John had stumbled across the device while exhibiting at a trade show in Europe.

"The Prodim Proliner digitises real patterns, not point clouds," John said.

"It can digitise a complete 3D model, is easy to learn and quick to use, and only takes one person to operate."

"The system is not affected by wind like a tape measure, is accurate to around 1mm and works with standard CAD."

The 'clever stick', as John describes it, is attached to a wire and, when a button is pushed, a space vector reading is taken. The readings can be taken in a point by point manner, or as a series of continuous curves.

The system also corrects any offsets of internal shapes.

"You can go from a relatively 3D object to a flat shape in about 20 seconds," John said.

"The only limitation being the length of the string – about five metres."

"But, it doesn't matter as long as two points on the first measurement and the second measurement are the same.

John said that the device overcame deficiencies experienced by other modern measurement techniques.

"Digital Cameras are very effective for existing patterns, but not 3D shapes and they are not good for clear shapes," he said.

"Laser theodolites can't be used very well for a hole in the ground or a moving object like a boat."

"And with 2D measuring systems like laser pointers and laser tape measures, you end up with a bunch of numbers at the end."

John said that Aeronaut has developed a plug in tool to flatten the 3D objects.

"We all understand fabrics, we know about seam allowance," he said.

The cost for the device is said to be around $25,000, plus a few thousand for the associated software.