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Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU) and EON announce the first Austrian VR Research and Development Center (VRD)

IRVINE, Calif. - (July 22, 2003) - As part of the EON's establishment of the European VR Research and Development Center (VRD) network, EON Reality Inc. today announced an intended partnership with the Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU). EON Reality fosters today relations with over 75 leading universities and research institutes worldwide. The VRD network provides access to competent resources for VR research as well as development and training (**read more**). The JKU center is expected to have full access to the latest high-end networked VR systems, the ability to demonstrate, interactively practice and evaluate new innovative VR solutions. The Austrian VRD Center is also planning to establish collaborative partnerships with other Universities in Central Europe.



JKU selected EON's ICATCHER™ immersive system and EON's software in the initial Center installation for its vivid sharp stereo capability, ease of use to create immersive applications.



JKU has an extensive experience of developing VR applications for a variety of scientific and engineering areas and developed SAVE, a system for Virtual Reality based safety training system for dangerous and hazardous facilities in Heavy Industry.

The initial focus is to develop scalable VR solutions in the traditional areas of strength of JKU such as of safety virtual environments. The problem can be summarized as follows: Heavy industry companies often face the problem that worker training is hazardous and expensive. Big installations must be shut down or old ones have to be used to provide a playground for the trainer and trainees. Different installations for different training scenarios must be used. This is not always possible in most cases since it would stall production. Building models of these installations would be an alternative, but it's not cost effective. JKU is developing a multi purpose virtual reality solution that is mainly intended for employee training. Examples of deployment areas are steel industry, refinery, oil platform, construction, hospital personnel and car industry.

The JKU VRD initiative overall goals are to:

- Facilitate knowledge transfer and awareness creation of Scalable & Useful VR and Visualization solutions
- Support VR education, development and distribution of world class VR curriculum
- Assist in securing funding for the Center's Research and Development resources and infrastructure
- Address the local industry's needs for integrated, off-the-shelf, scalable and networked VR and Visualization solutions
- Create Industrial partnerships by linking Academic Institutions with Commercial companies and Government
- Identify transfer opportunities of R&D and assist in commercialization of generated Intellectual Property, generating additional royalty revenue

JKU selected the portable ICATCHER™ (**read more**) systems for the initial installation for several reasons: the vivid sharp stereo capability, EON Immersive's software ease of use to create immersive applications, the collaborative communication and scalable publishing to the internet and EON's commercial experience with over 4,000 license users and 75 University partners.

In addition it plans to install the world's largest demo library of high-end immersive applications consisting of over 1,600 applications and models that can be used as building blocks when creating new applications. Finally, the ICATCHER is seamlessly integrated with EON's other display systems including ICUBE (**read more**), EON Road Warrior™, the most mobile interactive display System ever (**read more**) or Head mounted VR - Immersive Reality™ System (**read more**)

"The VRD Center strengthens our capability to collaborate with local companies, national and EU projects and Universities. In addition EON's scalable VR solution provides us with a valuable medium for operation of training systems. Combining EON with our VR expertise a teacher can easily control and observe scenarios which are too dangerous, difficult, or expensive to play in real life. This approach simplifies simulations of accidents and 'what-if' experiments cheaply and without risk," said Prof. Dr. Jens Volkert at the Department for Graphics and Parallel Processing (GUP) at Johannes Kepler University Linz.

"The new Austrian VRD Center brings together JKU experience in VR training applications and research with EON expertise in VR tools and integrated systems. The VRD Centers will be an important component to locally support companies VR implementation and assist them in researching and developing company specific applications," said Mats Johansson, President at EON Reality, Inc

The initial investment was made possible through grants and support furnished by EON Reality.

The Johannes Kepler University Linz is one of the younger institutions in Austrian higher education and constitutes a new type of university. From the beginning, the university's aims have been based on a close interdisciplinary connection between Economics and Business, Social Sciences, Law, Sciences and Engineering and on the fulfillment of the current demands of business and society. As the largest research and teaching institution in Upper Austria, and thus as a center of knowledge transfer, the university contributes to the maintenance and the development of the region. It participates in centers of competence and develops spin-off programs supporting business start-ups. JKU has also close links with business and industry and an international network of partner and cooperations. Unlike many other universities, where the individual faculties are spread out throughout the town, all faculties of the JKU are situated on a single campus covering some 350,000 m2.

EON Reality, Inc. is the world's leading interactive visual content management software provider. EON's powerful software solutions are helping companies increase sales, communicate product functionality more effectively and decrease the cost of service, training and technical support. EON's products have a high level of interactivity, simulation realism, rendering quality and integrated data exchange capability optimized for high performance on today's standard PCs and Internet. Several large corporations such as Office Depot, Suzuki, Lexmark, Canon, Hon, Samsung, Shimano, Audi, Nokia and Bank of America are using EON's software solutions. For more information about EON Reality, Inc., please visit **www.eonreality.com** or contact us via e-mail at **marketing@EONreality.com** or call 949 460 2000.

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