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Virtual reality: CEA and CLARTE strengthen their collaboration

CEA LIST and CLARTE are signing a protocol to strengthen their collaboration on virtual reality and augmented reality technologies and the associated communications network technologies. On this occasion, the two partners invite you to a demonstration of industrial virtual reality on Tuesday 28 June 2011 at INGENIERIUM (53), followed by a press briefing.

A LONG HISTORY, SHARED OBJECTIVES

Virtual reality and augmented reality technologies and the associated communications network technologies are at the heart of a new cooperation between CLARTE and CEA.

Partners for over ten years on numerous research projects, the CEA LIST institute and CLARTE have agreed to intensify their exchanges by officially recognising this closer relationship.

Both focused on applications dedicated to businesses, the two organisations have chosen to pool their skills and expertise to meet the high expectations of industry.

The automotive, aerospace and marine transport sectors, construction and agrifood sectors, and also the training and design sectors are currently undergoing significant changes. Virtual technologies, and therefore the technologies of the 'digital factory', are at the heart of this socio-economic change in which CLARTE and CEA LIST have decided to be fully involved.

A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP

Within the Technological Research Division of CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission), the CEA LIST institute's research is focused on smart digital systems, and in particular interactive systems based on simulation, virtual reality, robotics and embedded software.

It is with this institute that CLARTE has chosen to sign a cooperation protocol. Besides the wish to share information and to work together, CLARTE and CEA LIST both look forward to a new collaboration based on a complementary relationship and a shared vision.

- With a wealth of expertise at the highest level in the transfer to industry of virtual reality technologies among companies in western France, together with collaborations in the Paris region, CLARTE will share the benefits of these partnerships with CEA LIST; in turn this cooperation will open up new prospects for CLARTE both nationally and internationally.
- The partnership will also benefit industry, which will have the support of both organisations in the research/industry value chain. CLARTE's expertise and resources will enhance the industrialisation phases of CEA LIST's R&D work while, through CEA LIST, CLARTE's projects can gain technological innovation perspectives that are particularly well suited to the needs of industry.

A LOCAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR VIRTUAL REALITY

The Pays de la Loire Region, the Conseil Général of Mayenne and Laval Agglomération are working together to accelerate the appropriation of virtual reality technologies by industry. These techniques can keep costs down, cut time-to-market and enable product ranges to be renewed more quickly. Virtual reality therefore prefigures the factory of the future and is a powerful lever for competitiveness and the capacity for innovation of our industrial fabric.

CLARTE is the facility to achieve this ambition. The local and regional authorities have welcomed the cooperation protocol with CEA, which places CLARTE firmly at the forefront of virtual reality expertise in western France.

The CLARTE - Laval Virtual Reality regional platform is part of a well-developed technological environment in Mayenne. Around ten companies established at the Laval 'Technopole' are working on applications ranging from the 3D design of interactive content to the manufacture of haptic interfaces for virtual reality and the use of augmented reality. These companies currently employ more than 40 people. At the INGENIERIUM site, the Arts et Métiers Paris Tech laboratory employs more than 20 researchers and trains more than 25 students in the first and second year of master's degrees in Laval each year. The Ecole Supérieure de Création Interactive et Numérique (ESCIN) has 60 students studying 3D computer graphics. ESIEA has a virtual reality laboratory and a virtual reality specialisation option in the fifth year.

In 2014, the Laval Cité de la Réalité, built on the current site of the 42nd Signals Regiment, will accommodate all those working on virtual reality in a single place. The Cité will also secure the future of the Laval Virtual trade fair, a meeting forum for everyone working on virtual reality in Europe. It will also serve as a showroom for virtual reality innovation for the general public.

About CEA LIST

The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) is a public research body. Renowned for its excellence in fundamental research, it covers four major fields: low-carbon energy sources, global defence and security, information technology and healthcare technology. It plays a major

part in European research and is known worldwide as an expert in its fields of competence. CEA participates in setting up joint projects with numerous partners around the globe.
Within the Technological Research Division of CEA, the CEA LIST institute conducts research into smart digital systems. By developing cutting-edge technology in ambient intelligence, embedded systems, sensors and signal processing, CEA LIST contributes to the industrial competitiveness of its partners through innovation and technology transfer.

About CLARTE
CLARTE has set the standard in France as a centre for research, development and technology transfer in virtual reality.
The CLARTE team offers highly developed skills in virtual reality, and relies on knowledge and expertise in the most advanced technological resources and processes, and on its vast capacity for successfully assimilating and making the most of industrial requirements.

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