

European R&D project to develop the next generation of immersive media and tools

Immersify - Innovative technologies for Virtual Reality

(January 18, 2018) Virtual Reality (VR) has what it takes to be the next big game-changer in the media sector. In stark contrast to video, TV and the movies, VR applications promise experiences that are not only more intense but, above all, interactive and individual too. Be that as it may, a considerable amount of R&D work still needs to be done to haul VR out of the niches it's been confined to and launch it on its way to a huge consumer market share. That's precisely the mission of Immersify, a European R&D consortium made up of the following partners: PSNC - Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (Poland), Spin Digital Video Technologies GmbH (Germany), Ars Electronica Futurelab (Austria), Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes (France) and Visualization Center C (Sweden). Immersify was set up in October 2017 and runs until March 2020. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 7620799.

Immersify Focuses on Four Points

Immersify is concentrating on four challenges. First of all, what's needed is a new technology for the video compression of data, which is virtually exploding due to higher resolutions, frame rates and constantly improving image formats. Second, media players and formats should be able to support as many different technical environments and devices as possible. Third, creative individuals working with high-quality videos, CGI in 2D and 3D, as well as interactive elements ought to have the option of combining them with each other so that users are in a position to enjoy totally customized experiences. Fourth, Immersify is definitely not to be developed behind closed doors; rather, the intention is to present the ongoing progress of R&D in the form of demos at the Ars Electronica Festival and the Marché du Film in Cannes, where specially developed content and innovative market-oriented products will showcase Immersify's creative and technical capabilities.

R&D Partners in Five European Countries

Five renowned institutions based in five European countries are collaborating on the Immersify R&D project:

PSNC - Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (Poland) is affiliated to the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBCH PAS) and is an active research and development center specialized in new generation networking, high resolution and immersive media, scientific applications and visualization, clouds, digital libraries and cyber security, as well as technologies, applications and services for Information Society.

Spin Digital Video Technologies GmbH (Germany) develops high-performance video codecs for the next generation of high-quality video applications. Spin Digital codecs enable ultra-

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high quality video applications such as 4K and 8K UHD, immersive video projection and video walls, and next generation virtual reality and 360° video.

The Ars Electronica Futurelab (Linz, Austria) is a transdisciplinary media art lab that enjoys an international reputation as one of the leading non-university R&D facilities in the areas of media art, information aesthetics, interaction design, persuasive technologies, robotics and virtual environments. One of its many reference projects is the worldwide unique Deep Space 8K, which is to be further developed as part of Immersify.

The Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes (France) is the film industry's most important event, an annual gathering of more than 12,000 producers, buyers, distributors and representatives of film festivals. Marché du Film is held annually during the Festival de Cannes since 1959. At NEXT, its innovation hub in the heart of the Marché, VR exhibitors and creators coming from the world over showcase their latest VR.

Visualization Center C (Sweden) is a research and science center in Norrköping, conducting a unique mix of leading visualization research and public outreach activities. The center hosts a digital science center for public visits and events including media labs, interactive exhibitions and an immersive 3D fulldome theatre. The center's production department creates public experiences based on real scientific data.

PSNC - Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center: <http://www.man.poznan.pl/online/en/>

Spin Digital Video Technologies GmbH: <http://spin-digital.com/>

Ars Electronica Futurelab: <https://www.aec.at/futurelab/en/>

Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes: <http://www.marchedufilm.com/en/>

Visualization Center C: <http://visualiseringscenter.se/en/>

Horizon 2020 Programme: <https://www.ffg.at/en/content/horizon-2020-eu-programme-research-and-innovation>

Immersify: <https://immersify.eu/>

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