

5DT <Fifth Dimension Technologies>

MEDIA RELEASE

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5DT Announces their Integrated Virtual Mine (IVM) Initiative

5DT <Fifth Dimension Technologies>, a world pioneer in Virtual Reality [VR] peripherals and training systems, today announced their ambitious ***Integrated Virtual Mine [IVM] Initiative***.

This initiative includes the ***development and interconnection*** of a range of ***network-ready*** training simulators for **Surface Mining** and **Underground Mining** vehicles and systems. The simulators will be used for individual training, but it will also be possible to connect each of these simulators to the computer network, so that all the simulators may share the same virtual mine. The operators of the different simulators will therefore be able to interact with each other in the same way that they would have interacted in a real mine. An example in a surface mine would be where a Shovel operator and a Haul Truck driver interact with each other during the loading process. The equivalent underground mining example would have a Continuous Miner operator cooperating with Roof Bolter and Shuttle Car operators.

“Joint-Force Training is a well established concept in the military. This concept is now going virtual, where aircraft and land vehicle simulators are being networked. With the Integrated Virtual Mine (IVM) the mining industry will reap the same training benefits as the military. The IVM will lead to better teamwork and big picture thinking amongst operators. It adds another level of realism to the training experience. Better teamwork will inevitably also lead to increased mine safety. The IVM is an ideal visualization tool, and is extremely useful for mine managers and administrative staff alike.” Said Paul Olckers, CEO of 5DT.

The following Surface Mining Training Simulators are already up and running at 5DT, and are currently being fine-tuned:

- a. Haul Truck Training Simulator.
- b. Electric (Rope) Shovel Training Simulator.
- c. Hydraulic Shovel Training Simulator.
- d. Dragline Training Simulator.

Simulators for tracked and wheeled dozers and drilling rigs will follow soon.

Regarding Underground Mining Training Simulators, 5DT has already developed a Continuous Miner Training Simulator for the coal and potash mining industry and plans to link

this simulator with Roof Bolter and Shuttle Car simulators in the future. The present Continuous Miner Training Simulator features a computer controlled shuttle car. Work has also started on a Wheeled Loader training simulator for Underground and Surface Mining applications.

“Our objective is to make our simulators as realistic as possible. Our graphics is approaching photo-realism and our sound is already 3-D. We use real cab controls and real controllers. The next logical step is to implement full interaction between different simulator participants. We decided to use networking technology that we developed for the military and apply it to our mining simulators”. Said Jared Baer, COO of 5DT Inc. in Silicon Valley, California.

5DT plans to have their Integrated Virtual Mine (IVM) project completed by the end of 2002. It will be possible to construct mines that closely resemble real mines, e.g. a virtual surface mine that looks exactly like a specific real mine may be constructed. Such a virtual mine will be extremely useful for visualization purposes, and it could also be used for planning and teaching purposes.

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Virtual Reality is a technology that needs to be experienced. We would therefore like to invite you to our booth to experience this exciting technology yourself.

Please remember to ask for your free 5DT Media CD-ROM.