

5DT <Fifth Dimension Technologies>

MEDIA RELEASE

Siggraph 2004, Los Angeles, California, USA

Release Date: August 10, 2004

5DT Releases New 'ULTRA' Data Glove Series

5DT <Fifth Dimension Technologies>, a world pioneer in Virtual Reality (VR) peripherals and training systems, today released a new advanced data glove optimized for use in Motion Capture ('*Mocap*') and Puppetteering applications.

The motion capture process involves recording the body movement of a real actor by means of a motion capture suit (worn by the actor) that outputs the position and of the actor's limbs. This motion recording is then used to control an animated character to move exactly like the real actor. The use of motion capture speeds up the animation process significantly. A mocap actor can record an animated sequence in a fraction of the time that it would have taken with manual techniques.

More and more motion capture studios are not satisfied with only large-scale movements any more. They now also want to record finer movements like finger flexure (bending) to properly map the movement of an animated character's hand. The ideal capturing tool for such fine movements is a data glove. A data glove is an instrumented glove that records the finger flexure of the user's fingers and transmits these values to a computer.

Data gloves are also used extensively for puppetteering. Puppetteering involves the use of a data glove to control the movement of an animated character. By moving specific fingers, a puppeteer wearing a data glove is able to manipulate the facial expressions of an animated character, e.g. open and close the eyes of the character. In the case of a very complex animated character, a team of puppetteers with data gloves could control the motion and expressions of the character.

'We visited several motion capture studios that are already using our data gloves. We took their requests and inputs to heart and decided to develop a data glove optimized for the motion capture industry.' Said Jared Baer, COO of 5DT Inc., based in Irvine, California.

'The motion capture industry required across-the-board improvements to our current data glove design. We had to take a new look at functionality and also had to face and overcome

several technical difficulties.' Said Mario Schehle, Virtual Reality Hardware Division Manager of the 5DT Group.

The 5DT Data Glove ULTRA Series features a lightweight, comfortable design and it communicates with the host computer via a wireless radio link. Since there are now more active actors on motion capture and puppeteering sets than before, the new wireless design allows for up to 8 gloves to operate at the same time. This is achieved by utilizing the latest Bluetooth spread-spectrum technology.

Motion capture actors need to be able to move about freely, with the minimum of weight restrictions and bulky battery packs. The general electronics and transmitter electronics of the 5DT Data Glove Ultra have been optimized to save space. The battery life of the glove has also been increased, allowing a full day of operation on a single charged battery pack. The number of cables and connectors has been minimized. The new features of the 5DT Data Glove Ultra Series provide for a simple, yet powerful motion capture and puppeteering solution.

For more information please contact:

	<i>United States and Americas</i>	<i>Rest of World</i>
Name:	Jared Baer	Mario Schehle
Address:	5DT Inc. 15375 Barranca Pkwy, G-103 Irvine, CA 92618 United States of America	5DT 25 De Havilland Crescent, P.O. Box 5 Perseuor Technopark, 0020 South Africa
Tel:	+1 949 450 9044	+27 12 349 2690
Fax:	+1 949 450 9045	+27 12 349 1404
e-mail:	jared.baer@5dt.com	mario.schehle@5dt.com
Web:	www.5dt.com	www.5dt.com

Electronic Resources:

This Media Release:

<http://www.5dt.com/pressrelease/pdfdocs/MediaReleaseSiggraph2004DataGlove.pdf>

<http://www.5dt.com/pressrelease/pdfdocs/MediaReleaseSiggraph2004DataGlove.doc>

Data Sheet:

<http://www.5dt.com/downloads/dataglove/ultra/5DTDataGloveUltraDatasheet.pdf>

Images: www.5dt.com/DataGloveImages.html

Virtual Reality Technology Primer:

www.5dt.com/virtualinfo.html

Virtual Reality is a technology that needs to be experienced. We would therefore like to invite you to Booth # 1062 to experience this exciting technology yourself.