

VRcontext Introduces Walkinside 3.0 for SGI

Walkinside Combines a High-Performance 3D Visualization and Simulation Software with the Power of the SGI-64bit Environment

Brussels, 19 December 2002 – VRcontext, a world leader in real-time interactive 3D visualization and simulation software, launches Walkinside 3.0 for SGI. This cutting-edge 3D software enables the user to easily and rapidly visualize the most complex projects (e.g. nuclear power plants, offshore drilling/production platforms, process facilities) into interactive, virtual worlds. The application is designed to run on the SGI IRIX 64 bit operating system and offers special features including automatic support of stereoscopic mode in a multi-channel environment, very fast loading time and high quality imagery.

Walkinside 3.0 for SGI provides a more expanded use of the virtual model by offering an interactive link to the world's most popular database applications for active assets management, pro-active maintenance plans, security, safety training and certification programs.

Thanks to its Internet, Intranet and LAN network capabilities, it delivers a world of benefits to companies and users wherever they are. Walkinside is not only fast but also creates unprecedented levels of realism, immersing users into a real-time model simulation.

"This new version of Walkinside fully supports the very high level of interactivity of the current visualization systems of SGI." said Jean Gillet, VP Sales & Marketing of VRcontext. "It combines the experience of VRcontext in virtual reality with the world leadership of SGI in high performance computing and in Reality Centers®".

About Walkinside (www.walkinside.com)

Walkinside™ is the unique 3D CAD visualization and simulation software able to instantly render very large, complex, computer generated models (containing up to 120 million polygons) both in Windows and Irix-64 bit environments. Walkinside's patented Real-Time Collision Detection and Gravity Simulation technology allows the users to immediately and effortlessly explore the virtual reality generated model through the eyes of a virtual human character that emulates real life experiences (obstacle awareness, obstruction interaction, ground and gravity restrictions, maneuvering realistically within the model, etc.) in contrast to other visualization applications that only offer a complicated, pre-programmed walkthrough. Walkinside™ is useful for project reviews, multimedia presentations, facility maintenance program, safety and security training exercises; all this being delivered in real-time, multi-users, LAN, Intranet and Internet environments.

About VRcontext (www.vrcontext.com)

A spin-off from Tractebel Energy Engineering (Groupe Suez), VRcontext was created with the goal of developing and commercializing virtual reality software. Twenty years of hands-on, R&D and production experience has enabled the founders to build a substantial and solid foundation in 3D modeling and visualization.

VRcontext is committed to providing their customers with the most technologically advanced, cost-effective software products for visiting and interacting with massive 3D models. The company is privately held and based in Brussels, Belgium.

About SGI (www.sgi.com)

Celebrating its 20th year, SGI, also known as Silicon Graphics, is the world's leader in high-performance computing, visualization and management of complex data. SGI products, services and solutions enable its technical and creative customers to gain strategic and competitive advantages in their core businesses. Whether being used to design and build safer cars or airplanes, discover new medications or oil reserves, predict the weather, entertain us with thrilling movie special effects, or provide mission-critical defense support for national governments, SGI systems and expertise are empowering a world of innovation and discovery. The company, located on the Web at www.sgi.com, is headquartered in Mountain View, Calif., and has offices worldwide.