



CADwalk brings 'holodeck' reality to walk through design process

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Control Room Solutions has released a new virtual reality-based workspace design system, CADwalk, implemented at parent company, Jumbo Vision International Pty Ltd's Centre for Advanced Virtual Environments in Adelaide.

CADwalk integrates 2D and 3D visualisation and control room design skills to allow project stakeholders – including operators, architects, builders and engineers – to walk through a full-sized representation of a control room. Stakeholders can modify the room layout as they proceed by adjusting the placement of passive tracking devices called "trees" assigned to each object.

The CADwalk system employs 2D and 3D image projection and 3D Motion Capture cameras to create a full-scale concept layout of a workspace that closely mirrors the room's actual physical characteristics – not unlike the famous "Holodeck" of Star Trek.

CADwalk™ has already been utilised in a live setting with promising results by first user, New Zealand's national electricity power provider Transpower, which recently completed a major control room design upgrade for their Wellington and Hamilton National Coordination Centre with the aid of the system.

Conducted as a two-day workshop with operators who flew out from New Zealand, the first hand visualisation of their desired design and workflow cut about three months from the project design cycle, saving Transpower NZ "hundreds of emails and costly meetings".

"While high value control rooms are our current area of focus, we are looking ahead to selling CADwalk as a service to other industries," says JVI General Manager, Lena Kimenkowski. "These include interior home design, hospitals, and quite possibly even bigger projects such as LNG plants, oil rigs, shipbuilding and general construction."

CADwalk was partly funded by a Federal Government grant through Commercialisation Australia to further develop and commercialise the original idea, as well as some software development funding from the UniSA commercialisation arm, ITEK Ventures Pty Ltd. JVI also worked in close partnership with the University of South Australia to develop some of the system's software. Jumbo Vision has patented the CADwalk™ invention and is looking for projects to further validate CADwalk™

The South Australian CADwalk™ screen area is around 200 square metres and uses 12 tracking cameras running at 250 frames per second, operated by a Windows Surface tablet. The Perth CADwalk™ system has a 60 sqm screen surface area.

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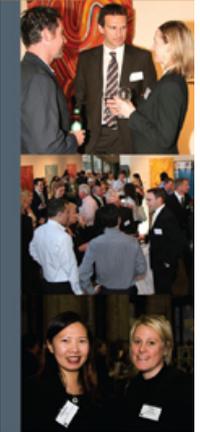
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