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ETHEREAL TECHNOLOGIES ANNOUNCES DEPLOYMENT OF IT'S FIRST VIS^{4D}™ BETA VOLUMETRIC IMAGING SYSTEMS

(Ann Arbor, MI, 12/5/00) Ethereal Technologies, developer of the VIS^{4D}™ autostereoscopic Volumetric Display Workstation, announced today shipment of its first four Beta systems.

This patented system has the unique ability to display real-time holographic-like images, which float in mid air, without need for HMD or special viewing glasses. The core of the system is a 4' variable focal length mirror supported by a specialized optics assembly. The adjustable 'shape' of the mirror, originally designed for interferometry purposes, provides unprecedented 36" image display size and quality.

These first systems will be deployed to The United States Navy, The United States Army, DaimlerChrysler and United Technologies Corporation. Funded via a special project by the United States Department of Defense, the project will be managed by The National Center For Manufacturing Sciences. (<http://www.ncms.org/>). The project purpose is to provide cycle time and cost reductions to the DoD and a variety of industries.

"This project will provide Ethereal with the metrics feedback needed to finalize commercialization plans, not only for The VIS^{4D}™ Workstation, but aid in development of other similar products such as Virtual Telepresence. As industry and government integrate this system into their daily workflow, peripheral applications will naturally follow especially when display quality is paramount. The superior optics used in our system is unparalleled", said Bob Andrews, President of Ethereal.

One of the most unusual applications planned for the project comes from United Technologies Corporation. "This system has the potential to provide United Technologies with Virtual Telepresence between people in locations anywhere in the world. This approach will allow us to display 3D volumetric stereo video, still images and 3D CAD data in real-time for use in a multitude of industrial and educational applications", said Dave Loda of UTC.

Ethereal seeks to place several additional beta systems in the first quarter of 2001, with 3rd quarter commercialization planned.

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