



MIVTech Signs as a New Member of the INIGraphicsNet in Darmstadt, Germany

Since June 29th, 2007, the INIGraphicsNet counts Multimedia Interaction and Visualization Technologies (MIVTech) officially as its most recent member. Based at the »City of Knowledge« Technology Park in Panama City, Panama, this joint venture of Vallarino Holding and the INIGraphicsNet Foundation will engage in technology transfer and project development in the fields of simulators, interactive TV, telemedicine and museum technologies in Latin America.

During his visit to Darmstadt, Germany, Mr. Ivan Vallarino, head of Vallarino Holding, underlined the importance of improving and developing research and development capabilities in interactive computer graphics within Latin America in order to take advantage of the wide range of upcoming business opportunities, such as the Panama Canal expansion project.

The most globalized country in Latin America, Panama stands out in terms of economic growth, political stability, an excellent telecommunication infrastructure, a robust air transportation hub, low inflation, a dollarized economy and a strong banking sector, making it a strategic and safe place to do business. These conditions have also brought the headquarters of dozens of international NGOs and UN offices that offer humanitarian aid to Latin America.

Having the highest regional investment per capita in education, where forty universities serve a population of 3 million inhabitants, and an abundant biodiversity, the Republic of Panama has attracted major research institutions, like the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and NASA's Central American environmental monitoring program, and is taking firm steps towards attracting highly ranked foreign university programs. Furthermore, the availability of bilingual personnel is seen as an opportunity for 25 call centers serving the Americas and Europe.

MIVTech has its offices in the »City of Knowledge« Technology Park, located on a former U.S. military base beside the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal and surrounded by tropical rainforest, but only ten minutes away from downtown. Two thirds of the 60 high tech companies

in the park belong to the ICT sector, which makes it one of the most dynamic knowledge regions.

The Technology Park also has a third generation business incubator, creating a fertile ground for technology-related startups.

Following an ambitious expansion plan, the company will immediately start applying the know-how of INIGraphicsNet, while gradually building up competence and capacity with the aim of making its technical possibilities available to customers in industry, trade, government and education users in collaboration with the local universities.

20 Years of Fraunhofer IGD – Visualizing the Invisible

Whether you think of the Internet, computer tomography, or CAD – without computer graphics many of our everyday applications were not possible. Computer graphics is so ingrained in our everyday life that we often are no longer aware of it. Twenty years ago, this was quite different: Computer graphics was rather a niche subject, disregarded by a great part of the world. At Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD, founded in Darmstadt in 1987, history of science has been made. In the early stages, primarily two-dimensional representations had to be generated interactively and integrated into documents, but, later on, three-dimensional data models increasingly gained in importance. Rendering techniques, 3D interaction, multimedia systems, and the distribution and collaborative work in networks were central steps in the following years. Developments like 3D ultrasound, providing in the nineties the first three-dimensional pictures of babies in the womb, have become standard in many medical practices today. And, gradually, also our everyday life has been penetrated by the applications of Fraunhofer IGD. Professor José L. Encarnaç o, founder of Fraunhofer IGD, explains: »In the mid-eighties computer graphics was still in its infancy. To speed up the development, the foundation of a Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research was a logical



The INIGraphicsNet Foundation held a private signing ceremony with (from left) Dr. Joachim Rix, Ivan Vallarino, Professor José L. Encarnaç o, and Wolfgang Kniejski.