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Press Release

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Kinoton Installs 180-Degree Panoramic Screen at the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute



Berlin, Germany. On February 19, the Fraunhofer-Institutes HHI and IDMT opened their new "Tomorrow's Cinema" with the premiere of Germany's first 180-degree short film "Orlac reloaded". "Tomorrow's Cinema" is a showroom with high-resolution digital 180-degree panoramic projection. The core of this innovative technology is a 180-degree screen installed by Kinoton, and an IOSONO 3D sound system from the Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology IDMT.

The special screen consists of a glass fiber fabric specifically designed to support high-resolution digital projection of up to 6K. In addition, this material is characterized by a high acoustic transparency that brings the IOSONO surround sound system to bear. The installation of a 180-degree screen is always a challenge since the vertical and horizontal tension of the screen must be very carefully attuned to each other in order to achieve an immaculate semi-circular curve. Any deviation from the correct curve may disturb the image geometry after all. Given their long experience, though, the Kinoton service technicians achieved a flawless result even with this unusual and demanding screen installation.

The 180-degree images are projected by six high-resolution video projectors, each reproducing a 30-degree section of the complete picture. The images overlap in a small area, creating a seamless panoramic image.

"Orlac reloaded", an adaptation of the movie classic "Orlac hands" from 1925, is the first 180° short film produced in Germany. The panoramic shooting, utilizing a special camera rig with six HD cameras, took place within the scope of the PRIME research project in which eight leading companies and research facilities develop future technologies and viable business

models for the introduction of 3D media consumption in cinema, TV and video games. PRIME is an abbreviation of Production and Projection Techniques for Immersive Media. Apart from the Fraunhofer Institutes HHI and IIS and the Academy of Film and Television (HFF) "Konrad Wolf" in Berlin, Kinoton GmbH is among others also part of this project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology BMWi.

(Picture courtesy of Fraunhofer HHI, Berlin)

About Kinoton

Over sixty years of experience make Kinoton, based close to Munich/Germany, one of the world-wide leading designers and manufacturers of professional equipment for processing and projection of film and digital pictures. Kinoton offers complete system solutions for cinema and studio applications as well as for large format and special venue projection. The extensive product range also includes the innovative Litefast 360° LED Display systems for advertising and digital signage. The well-established system provider with a staff of 160 employees and in-house manufacturing keeps impressing professional circles with innovative technical developments. An extensive international service and support network with competent partners guarantees reliable customer proximity all over the world.

More information about Kinoton is on the Internet at www.kinoton.com and www.litefast-display.com.

Fraunhofer HHI

The Heinrich Hertz Institute pursues information technology research and development. The core competencies of HHI are in the areas of Photonic Networks and Systems, Mobile Broadband Systems, Photonic Components and Electronic Imaging. In the field of Image Processing, HHI was significantly involved in the development and standardization of the H.264/AVC video coding method and its usage for mobile services. HHI's video codecs and crypting solutions for DVB-H are in use all over the world.

Fraunhofer IDMT

Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology IDMT in Ilmenau conducts applied research in the field of digital media and works on leading projects and topics in the field of audio visual applications. Besides sound solutions for home and professional users, software technologies for analysis and characterization of multimedia content as well as audiovisual applications for medical engineering are being developed. Furthermore interactive AV applications for entertainment and knowledge management and the design of architectures for digital online distribution are in the institute's research focus.