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WorldViz Team Expands with New Senior Recruit

WorldViz, an industry leader in interactive virtual reality solutions, has expanded with the addition of a senior member to its development team. Dr. Wayne Piekarski joins the team as Development Manager. After working in academia for a number of years, Piekarski joins WorldViz as an internationally recognized leader in the areas of augmented reality, virtual reality, wearable computers, and 3D user interfaces.

With 9 years in the industry, Piekarski comes to WorldViz from the University of South Australia where he was a senior lecturer in Virtual Reality and Wearable Computers, and co-director of the Wearable Computer Lab. During that time he was also the Director of Research for A-Rage Pty Ltd, working to commercialize WCL/UniSA technology with ITEK. His post graduate research and work at UniSA included his PhD thesis, "Interactive 3D Modeling in Outdoor Augmented Reality Worlds". He also taught a number of undergraduate classes for the university in Australia, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. His extensive background also includes working as a visiting researcher at the Department of Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to that he was the Manager of Research and Development at SE Network Access Pty Ltd.

Piekarski has made a number of contributions in the field of virtual reality, receiving numerous grants and awards to support his research, and publishing widely at international conferences and journals. He is a leader in the field, has served on numerous international program committees, and was the co-chair for the International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality in 2006.

Piekarski's role at WorldViz will encompass overseeing development projects, optimizing and developing new versions of the WorldViz optical tracking system, as well as handling technical sales.

"My main research area has been in the development of the Tinmith mobile outdoor AR system, and we constructed a number of successful research prototypes that were used to demonstrate new groundbreaking applications. I look forward to bringing my wide range of interests and skills to WorldViz and integrating them into the development scope of the company", explains Piekarski.

"Wayne's broad background of research and development experience within the VR, AR, 3D and hardware/software development arenas will bring a wealth of knowledge to the table here at WorldViz as we focus on emerging virtual reality solutions for our customers", comments Andy Beall, CEO of WorldViz.