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Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) Brings Technological Advances to OTC

LAFAYETTE, LA (May 22, 2008) – The Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) and Global Industries partnered earlier this month to share LITE visualization technology and high-performance computing capabilities with oil and gas industry leaders at the 2008 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) held May 5-8 at Reliant Park in Houston. Founded in 1969, OTC is the world's largest offshore technology event. It focuses on the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production and environmental protection.



"Our hosts for OTC, Global Industries, gave us the opportunity to share our exciting visualization technologies with leaders in the oil and gas industry. Through onsite simulations we developed especially for the conference, our demonstration included an underwater remote vehicle assessing an overturned and submerged rig due to storm action and a virtual fly through of a pre-construction vessel," said Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira, LITE's Executive Director and Chief Scientist and a virtual reality pioneer.

"Oil and gas companies come to LITE to manipulate multi-gigabyte data sets to plan, minimize risk, reduce cost, increase safety and visualize geoscience uncertainties. Our technologies are applicable for land, near shore or the new frontiers of deep water drilling and are used in reservoir management, quality control, simulations, forecasting, repairs and maintenance, optimizing recovery rates and more," said Marty Altman, LITE's Technical Director. "Using visualization technologies, company leadership can make decisions that reduce risks and save costs while still in the early stages of a project. New uses for this technology are emerging all the time. Using 3-D visualization for real-time control of underwater remote vehicles is a good example."

Jeff Miller, manger of public relations and marketing services at Global Industries says the partnership with LITE for OTC was an unqualified success. "Working with the professionals from LITE was a pleasure, and the end result was a long waiting line to get into the main attraction of our booth, which was the *3-D Subsea Experience* that LITE created. We sent them some very rough files on our new vessels, as well as some subsea work on a collapsed rig, and they made the final product something that managed to be a big home run. When you're doing a show with over 70,000 attendees, you need something huge to stand out from the crowd. LITE made it happen," he said.



"While some larger companies have visualization venues, many companies of all sizes are looking for an affordable way to access the advantages visualization and high-performance computing capabilities offer," Dr. Cruz-Neira went on to say. "LITE offers access and more. We are the only facility of our kind in North America available to private companies. Our advanced visualization technologies and venues, and our high-performance computing capabilities are leading edge. As a not-for-profit, we offer a very attractive rate to our clients."

OTC ranks among the largest 200 trade shows held annually in the United States and is among the 10 largest meetings in terms of attendance. Attendance at the 2008 OTC reached 75,092, a 26-year high, as energy professionals from 110 countries met to learn about the latest technology to find and produce offshore oil and natural gas resources. With more than one-half million square feet of exhibition area, the show included 2,500 companies from more than 35 countries in an area the size of 13 football fields.

About LITE: LITE, the only facility of its kind in North America open to government, research and private industry, is a not-for-profit cooperative effort between the State of Louisiana, Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) and University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette). A state-of-the-art advanced supercomputing and data visualization facility, LITE uses 3-D and total immersive data visualization technologies powered by high-performance supercomputing capabilities and transmit via high-speed fiber optics. LITE technologies are available for government and academic research and private sector innovation, offering essential decision-making tools for collaborative research applications; product development, testing and validation; and training.

About Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira: Dr. Cruz-Neira, Executive Director and Chief Scientist of LITE, is known as a worldwide pioneer in the field of virtual reality. Her work includes collaboration on the design of the CAVE[®], the first virtual reality projection cube ever built.

LITE, Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government and Lafayette Regional Airport are partners in a concerted technology-centered economic development effort in the Acadiana region of South Louisiana. The Lafayette area has a growing economy with a workforce, incentives and infrastructure designed to attract new businesses and business expansions specializing in technological advancements. For further information, please visit www.lite3d.com, www.lftairport.com and www.lafayettela.gov.

Photo Cutline: Global Industries and the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) collaborated to create 3-D models that Global Industries could show potential clients at the recent OTC trade show in Houston.