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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3D LASER SCANNER REVAMPED FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM

MENSI Announces the Latest Version of its 3D Laser Scanner

MICAD, Paris, France March 28, 2000. MENSI, the world's first developer and supplier of 3D laser scanners and 3D modeling software for as-built and real world data capture and modeling, announced new improvements for its 3D laser scanner. This new version introduces a daylight tolerant feature and routing box option. The millennium series will include the 24VDC-power supply capability and many improvements concerning the send and receive optics.

The improved daylight tolerant feature will allow for scans during daytime hours. Up to this point, it was only possible to scan in low-light environments, which in turn limited the work time that was necessary to produce a quality scan. The routing box option permits the operator to use any laptop, configured with Windows NT and an Ethernet connection, to control the laser scanner. This option is more cost efficient than using the standard controller previously supplied with the system. It is intuitive and includes many new improvements.

Created to provide greater levels of precision, the scanner uses a low power laser source. The scanner uses automatic real-time focus adjustment of the laser beam and automatic real-time adjustment of laser emission (according to returning light). The scanner permits 3D optical scanning of large-sized objects and structures as well as scenic data capture. The scanning technology is based upon the plane triangulation principle. Some of the many uses include maintenance, revamping, retrofit, animation, designing, entertainment, games development, stereolithography, virtual reality, forensics and accident reconstruction.

According to a Bechtel project engineer assigned to the Exxon cogeneration plant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, "This technology will change how Bechtel conducts business on existing facilities in the near future." Another production engineer, from DuPont's Chattanooga chemical plant states, "With regard to cost, cost control, convenience, speed, and the specific application to the laser, your process comes out way ahead of digital photogrammetry. The laser was much less disruptive to the area being scanned and resulted in reduced downtime and waste product."

MENSI produces both hardware and software products. Its 3D scanning sensor uses laser technology to capture physical objects such as structures or scenes and converts them into digital point cloud data for follow-on processing. The software program processes point cloud data into 3D models. The user can then manipulate this model, extract its geometry or create surface models and output them to various 3rd party modeling, simulation, CAD or AEC software products such as AutoCAD, Micrsostation, PDMS, PDS, Alias/Wavefront, Paraform, Raindrop Geomagic, and 3D Studio Max. Unique capabilities of the MENSI software include automatic image and texture mapping onto scanned surfaces, and automatic registration of multiple scanned points of view. The software is ideal for companies that need to capture existing geometry and physical relationships when the use of conventional methods, such as traditional drawings, are inadequate, unavailable or impractical to use.

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