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REPORT FOR PUBLICATION of the Project
ARCTIC2

The Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (KAH) presented from December 19, 1997 to April 18, 1998 the exhibition "Arktis-Antarktis". This exhibition paid detailed attention to polar science, polar history and polar actuality and put this in an overall cultural context through artistic contribution. The exhibition looked at various aspects of history and presence with witnesses from excavations up to prototypical examples of every day life. One main and future focused item of the objects consisted of a multimedia show - the "Polar Interactive Theatre", which presented in eight stories the latest findings of polar research in a most actual and elaborated multimedia display.

The Polar Interactive Theatre is the core of the projects of ARCTIC2. It is a presentation of satellite derived imagery combined with animations in the following eight polar and global stories: Ozone Depletion, Polar Topography, Sea Ice Fluctuations, Ice Ages, Pole to Pole Migration of the Arctic Tern, Magnetic Poles, Ice Shelves and Polar Seasons. The Polar Interactive Theatre was not only presented in the exhibition "Arktis-Antarktis" but also in the Pavillon of Germany at the EXPO '98 in Lisbon to a worldwide public. There more than half a million visitors and VIPs from all over the world could watch the Polar Interactive Theatre.

The Geoinformatic Conference "Visual Reality" took place in KAH, Bonn from March 16-18, 1998. The scope of the Conference was to provide a forum to promote the production and use of multimedia and virtual reality for visualisation and analysis of geographical processes. This included professionals both in the research community and in the commercial domain. There had been presented not only scientific papers but also demonstrations and discussions of innovative multimedia efforts where geographic information was the central issue. The success of the Conference was obvious to the participants. They decided to have another Geoinformatics Conference in 1999. The proceedings of the Conference "Visual Reality" are published:

Visual Reality.

Proceedings of the International Conference on Multimedia in Geoinformation in conjunction with the exhibition Arktis-Antarktis. Editor Hans Hauska
Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Bonn, Germany, March 16-18, 1998
ISBN 91630-6626-2

The Internet Service within the project ARCTIC2 provided the interested user with the possibility to learn about the exhibition "Arktis-Antarktis", to follow the life of scientists at both Arktis and Antarktis and to participate at a Service on "Questions

and Answers" which was provided by the Alfred-Wegener-Institute together with the respective staff of KAH. In both English and German it was possible to ask questions via the net on polar themes which would be answered as quickly as possible by international science specialists. It took the participants not longer than three days to give an answer to the most complicated questions.

The Internet Service during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1998, was continued to a lesser degree by the Alfred-Wegener-Institute of Polar and Maritime Research, Bremerhaven, within the International Year of the Oceans and Expo '98, Lisbon.

The Visualization Library

Computer graphic content generated for the Polar Interactive Theatre will be made available to documentary film-makers, multimedia developers and print publishers, in addition to the CD ROM resource disk. The Visualization Library is almost complete and will be presented to the interested public on the website of the Consortium partner during autumn 1999.

CD ROM Resource disk.

The CD ROM was produced finally between January 1999 and June 1999. The CD ROM is a non-commercial product and will be mainly delivered to institutions in Europe which provide teaching material to schools and universities in Europe.

Results obtained

The project ARCTIC2 consists of 7 workpackages, two of them describe development and realization of the Polar Interactive Theatre.

The components Polar Interactive Theatre, Geoinformatics Conference "Visual Reality", Internet Service in respect to Overall Information and Question and Answer Service are more than successfully completed. There has to be finally elaborated the Visualization Library, it shows already first success. The CD ROM Resource disk was finally produced as a non-profit educational CD ROM and will be distributed in Europe through institutions which provide schools and universities with teaching material. The last workpackage, dealing with further venues for the Polar Interactive Theatre came to an end with the presentation of the Polar Interactive Theatre in the German Pavillon on the Expo '98 in Lisbon.

The big project ARCTIC2 realized all workpackages with great success. Spontaneous reactions and longterm feedback to the respective products of the project show a significant higher interest in the fields of polar questions by the interested user, the media and science specialists.

The product and the name „Polar Theatre“ is often used as synonym for an excellent concentration/synopsis and presentation of scientific (polar) research material in a multimedia installation. In respect to the Internet the KAH pages on Arctica and Antarctica have been visited in May and June 380 resp. 300 times in German and 89 resp 80 times in English languages.

Towards the end of the work on ARCTIC2 it is obvious that without the support by the European Commission, DG XIII, within the INF02000 programme, the partners of the Consortium would not have been able to work in such a short time on so many aspects of the project. The products would not have created such a great international interest not only in science but also in the field of the hardware industry. As a result, announcing a sponsoring by the European Commission the recipient shows more detailed interest in the product and so motivates the Consortium to give its utmost best.

CONSORTIUM AND ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS

KAH - Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn

As coordinating partner, commissioning the exhibition "Arktis-Antarktis" as a whole, KAH cover such tasks as overall project management (economic, organizational and treaty management), coordination and organization of Polar Interactive travel (Further venue, WP7), Internet Service (WP3), Geoinformatics Conference "Visual Reality", realization of the CD ROM.

DPA - Dyring Production AB, Uppsala, Sweden

As part of the curatorial team provide science advice, project content organization, supply of texts, catalogue contents.

PVL - Planetary Visions Ltd., London, Great Britain

Acquisition and processing of data, production of visualization sequences. Provide story research, in combination with scientific experts, animation specification and key propriety datasets for use by other partners. Visualization Library.

DLR - Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany.

Acquire and process data, produce visualization sequences.

AWI - Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven

and

DKRZ - Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum GmbH, Hamburg, Germany

Provide additional research, data and visual material for certain parts of ARCTIC2, animal tracking and answering service.

BIS - Binary Interactive Solutions Ltd., London, Great Britain

Successor of Multimedia Corporation Ltd., London

Multimedia developer, Polar Interactive Theatre integration and complete CD ROM rights clearance