

Press release

Uniview powers GeoScience cluster at Planetarium Hamburg

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STOCKHOLM, Sweden – October 24, 2008

Planetarium Hamburg introduces a brand new GeoScience cluster using the Uniview platform from SCISS Sweden, a major technology upgrade initiated and implemented within the framework of the Hamburg city climate protection project.

The government of the German city state Hamburg approved in 2007 the concept of implementing a "center for information on climate change" at Planetarium Hamburg. Using the planetarium's unique interactive digital real-time tools for group immersive presentations, causes and consequences of climate change shall be explained and responsible actions of every citizen be guided in this concept. In collaboration with SCISS, universities in Hamburg and Sweden - including Hamburg's world-class Center for Marine and Atmospheric Science with both its Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology and the Center for Climate Computation - new software tools and visualizations of climate data will be developed as part of this strategy.

Based on Uniview and focusing on the new Geoscope capabilities of Earth-based visualization, the new GeoScience cluster opens up many new areas of storytelling for Planetarium Hamburg, enabling them to widen the scope of an already versatile and exciting combination of astronomy, science, music, art and entertainment.

This is the first Uniview full-dome cluster installed in parallel with an existing digital full-dome planetarium system where SCISS has also provided the edge blending and geometry correction – an addition of the Uniview platform to a previously integrated system.

"The visualization abilities of Uniview Geoscope allow us to tell stories about our home planet, its climate and the human impact in ways not possible before. As a complement to our existing planetarium systems, Uniview provides unique features that give us an inspiring and creative toolkit, merging the worlds of online geo-browsing and the immersive dome environment. The Planetarium now combines the possibilities of a virtual telescope with a window on our own planet - a geoscope. And with the unique power of Uniview I already foresee the next step: our dome becoming a virtual immersive microscope – and hence a combined 'Real-time Powers-of-Ten-Theater'. Well equipped with these exciting new perspectives on the cosmos, based on Uniview, we see a bright future and look forward to many new and repeat visitors to our institution", says astronomer and director Thomas Kraupe.

"Uniview is what we like to call Planetarium 2.0 in a changing multimedia environment – media and the receptions of media have changed rapidly over the last decade. We need a variable, reliable, open-platform software framework to ensure a new general visualization tool", says Tim Florian Horn, head of show production at Planetarium Hamburg.



Planetarium Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

About Planetarium Hamburg

The planetarium is one of Europe's most renowned as well as one of the most forward thinking. Situated in the middle of a green park in Hamburg, Germany, the planetarium is an entity of its own, not a part of a institution but rather a cultural and educational institution in itself.

The building, an old water tower, has a history reaching back to 1912 and has been host to a planetarium for almost as long. Today the planetarium is one of the main attractions of Hamburg and welcomed over 350,000 visitors per year. The 21 meter dome inside the building has a 7 channel projection system and online networking capabilities.

Please visit the Planetarium Hamburg website at www.planetarium-hamburg.de.

About Uniview

Uniview is a visualization and simulation software application aimed at presenting and teaching astronomy, astrophysics and Earth-based sciences such as geography, geology, biodiversity and climatology.

Through the unique Uniview ScaleGraph™ technology Uniview provides a seamless visualization of the entire known universe, from human scales all the way to the cosmic horizon. While being completely interactive, Uniview is powered by the Uniview Flight Assist™ algorithms to make sure motion is always smooth and intuitive.

About SCISS AB

SCISS AB is a software development company founded in 2004 with its headquarters in Norrköping, Sweden. SCISS AB's mission is to deliver high quality visualization software designed for flexibility and ease of use to planetariums, science centers and other large-scale visualization facilities globally.

Please visit the official Uniview website at www.scalingtheuniverse.com or contact SCISS AB at info@sciss.se.