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Ford Taps Quantum3D to Build Virtual Engineering, Safety Leadership

Quantum3D's Independence IDX 4000 Image Generator With Mantis Software Leverages COTS Technology to Provide Ford's Industry-Exclusive Driving Simulator With Enhanced Image Quality and Special Effects

SAN JOSE—July 28, 2008—[Quantum3D, Inc.](http://www.quantum3d.com), a leading provider of Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) real-time visual computing solutions, today announced that it is helping [Ford Motor Company](http://www.ford.com) build on its virtual engineering and safety leadership. Quantum3D has upgraded Ford's [VIRtual Test Track EXperiment \(VIRTTEX\) Driving Simulator](#) with the latest, most powerful computing and simulation technologies to help improve vehicle safety. Ford is testing new, active crash-avoidance technologies, the new frontier in safety, to build on its leadership in crash protection, which includes the most five-star safety-rated vehicles of any automaker in history.

Ford Motor Company has upgraded the image generator (IG) in its VIRTTEX Simulator to Quantum3D's highest-end solution, Independence IDX 4000. Located at Ford's Research and Innovation Center in Dearborn, Michigan, VIRTTEX is the auto industry's only full-motion driving simulator in North America. VIRTTEX has been operational since 2001 and continues to be a critical tool in Ford's ongoing effort to better understand the complexities of driver distraction.

Ford selected Independence as part of a comprehensive visual system upgrade for the VIRTTEX Simulator, which is used by Ford engineers to assist in automobile design, safety analysis, performance analysis and human-factors research. The Independence features NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 Graphics Subsystems configured in a unique system-level, parallel-rendering architecture. This configuration enables Ford to take advantage of the system's advanced features, including anisotropic filtering for more realistic road surfaces, shader-based rendering for enhanced lighting effects and Boston Dynamics DI-Guy for realistic human simulation.



Ford Motor's VIRTTEX Simulator is a 24-foot diameter dome with six hydraulic actuators and six degrees of freedom, enabling the driver to experience a realistic driving simulation.
(Photos Courtesy of Ford Motor Company)

Additionally, the technology insertion provides Ford with the use of open standards, such as the Common IG Interface [CIGI] standard for host interfaces and gigabit Ethernet. The CIGI standard made the upgrade seamless to other components of simulator architecture, obviating the need for programming to enable communication between the image generator and the VIRTTEX Simulator.

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As with Ford's deployment of Independence IDX 2500, Ford will leverage Quantum3D's Mantis software, which will give Ford industry-leading performance and features with image quality sustained at a 60-Hz frame rate.

"VIRTTEX leads the way in the study of the interaction between car and driver, and it's a great example of how real-time visual simulation can save lives," said Brian Overy, VP of Sales at Quantum3D. "Upgrading to Independence IDX 4000 will allow Ford to conduct more detailed and precise virtual-environment experiments that will benefit the driving public while saving the expense and danger of test-track experimentation."

About Quantum3D

Quantum3D, Inc. is the leading developer and manufacturer of Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS), open-architecture, real-time visual computing solutions. Quantum3D combines the most advanced hardware and software systems for graphics simulation in a variety of markets and implementations—tactical computing for avionics, vehicle, and man-wearable applications; synthetic environments; graphics subsystems; and other COTS solutions. Quantum3D is a privately held company headquartered in San Jose, California. For more information about Quantum3D real-time visual computing solutions, please visit www.quantum3d.com.

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