



Press Information

29th March 2016

rFpro's support for FORUM8's VR-Design Studio is now live

This week specialist Driver-in-the-loop (DIL) simulation specialist rFpro released their latest software version (rFpro 2016a) to all their customers. The documentation for this release describes the ability to load locations and environments from VR-Design Studio (*formerly known as UC-win/Road*).

FORUM8 development engineers have been assisting the rFpro team to develop a software interface for VR-Design Studio which will enable rFpro users to benefit from the interactive 3D simulation & environment development features of this award winning Japanese software.

rFpro is the world's leading DIL software system. It is being used for driver-in-the-loop simulation by OEMs and T1s in North America, Asia and Europe as well as in motorsport by most of the F1 teams and a number of LMP and NASCAR manufacturers.

As Chris Hoyle the Technical Director of rFpro commented "*In the last couple of years we have seen a large increase in the testing of control systems, e.g. drivetrain / ADAS / Autonomous, but which has brought with it a requirement for live, intelligent, traffic on our test routes.*

We were pushed, by client requests, to enable them to integrate with a product that would enable them to run intelligent Traffic. The solution came when two of our Japanese partners asked us to consider integrating to Forum8, as this offered similar functionality and would be far more acceptable in their marketplace.

When we first spoke to Forum8 we were interested in two particular areas:

1) We create hundreds of kilometres of digital road models, of real test routes, from LiDAR surveys, upon which we need customers to be able to run intelligent traffic that obeys the rules of the road and interacts appropriately with the human test driver's car. We wrap-around SIMPACK, Dymola, CarMaker, CarSim, dSpace ASM, AVL VSM or DYNAware for the human driver's car. We need to be able to send this car's position and details to Forum8 and we need Forum8 to stream to us the positions and details of potentially hundreds of other vehicles to create the impression of realistic traffic.

2) We need the client to be able to create, with an editor, reasonably easily, new test routes that can be instantly usable in Forum8 and easily exported to rFpro so that the graphics may be run on the customer's rFpro simulator systems.

I'm pleased to say that with the help of Forum8's development manager Yoann Pencreach and through using their SDK this work has now been completed and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Forum8 both from the London office and worldwide.

More information: brendan@forum8.com & chris.hoyle@rfpro.com

EDITOR's notes:

FORUM8 produces state-of-the-art Real-time Interactive 3D VR Simulation & Modeling software.

Established in 1987 this award winning Japanese company has offices and partners on every continent and is a member of the ITE and an associate of the TRB visualization group.

VR-Design Studio is the company's premier 3D product leading the way in interactive high resolution 3D transport, urban and emergency simulation markets, worldwide.

FORUM8 has two design goals. The first is to enable VR-Design Studio users to accurately replicate the real world within the 3D virtual space of a computer. The second is to provide added value to other industry standard 3rd party software products through the production of software interfaces.

VR-Design Studio enables users to not only build, but also dynamically manipulate 3D space in real-time. They can import and edit CAD data, automatically build roads, tunnels & bridges, view multiple design alternatives in real-time, control the weather / environment, as well as being able to simulate, visualize and edit intelligent traffic in ways previously not possible & much more...

Through the use of the software's SDK **VR-Design Studio** has a number of software plug-ins available which enable users to add value to data generated by 3rd party software products. These include plug-ins for design and engineering products along with driving simulation systems.

See: www.forum8.com

rFpro focuses on simulators for engineering development of vehicle dynamics and the control systems and active safety systems that affect vehicle dynamics. This specialised area of driver-in-the-loop simulation is all about closing the loop through the driver and the vehicle model as quickly as possible while delivering a high quality and immersive environment.

rFpro is adapted to the specific requirements of vehicle dynamics engineering through its low latency and high bandwidth technology supported by: the fastest video & audio pipelines; a high-resolution real-time road surface model and an optically correct off-platform vision system optimised for motion profiles suited to ride and handling development.

Our core focus is on providing high quality driving simulator solutions to enable human test drivers to be re-introduced into the model based engineering process. rFpro targets the testing of passive and active vehicle dynamics, in particular ADAS, ESP, Autonomous or other systems that interact with a human driver during emergency manoeuvres, or limit-performance handling behaviour.

See: www.rFpro.com