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194 million pixel spherical HDR panoramas in under 5 minutes with the new Roundshot VR Drive Metric

Lustdorf / Switzerland – 12 September 2014. Swiss company Seitz Phototechnik AG presents its new Roundshot VR Drive Metric, an automated panorama solution that automatically captures the images for a high resolution 180x360° sphere and stitches the images to a 194 million pixel HDR file in less than 5 minutes.

Today, virtual reality (VR) photographers face the challenges of limited dynamic range of their camera equipment, time constraints on location, time-consuming post-production on the computer and limited quality of the final output image.

The new Roundshot VR Drive Metric responds to these challenges in a variety of ways. First of all, the VR Drive Metric camera positions and releases a high quality DSLR camera – the Canon EOS 6D equipped with a 20mm lens – in 29 positions in the sphere. The digital camera is connected to the VR Drive software by USB, enabling error-free release and access to the camera software for unlimited image bracketing.

For a normal panorama, the time from taking the images to the stitched panorama is 3 minutes and for an HDR panorama just 5 minutes. This fast stitching speed is possible because the FOVEX PanoMaker stitching software uses the benefits of GPU processing. Place the device and press start - the entire process is completely automated and does not require any interaction.

The resulting 9,856 x 19,712 pixel panoramas are very sharp and crystal-clear. This is due to two reasons: optical qualities of the camera-lens combination (wide-angle lens instead of a fisheye) and system calibration. For the first time in VR photography an automated panorama head uses photogrammetry software to calibrate the system to its environment, thereby eliminating positioning errors and stitching distortions.

VR professionals use these 194 million pixel spherical panoramas for a variety of different applications. The image material is used as high resolution content for virtual tours, as the source of lighting and reflections for computer-generated imaging (CGI) software, as complete documentation of a crime scene in forensic projects as well as for accurate 3D measurements in FOVEX 3D measurement software.

The new product is delivered as a full bundle consisting of the VR Drive Metric with touch screen and integrated control software, a Canon EOS 6D camera with 20mm lens, 2 integrated long-life batteries with charger, integrated light meter, remote wireless connectivity for mobile devices or computers and a waterproof explorer case. The FOVEX PanoMaker software is included in the bundle and consists of an image grouping utility and the fully automated stitching and rendering software for standard RGB or 32-bit HDR output.

Presented for the first time at photokina on 16 September 2014 in Cologne/Germany, the Roundshot VR Drive Metric will be available starting end of September 2014 at a price of 11,800 Swiss Francs or 9,833 Euros.

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For more information and product images visit the product website of the new Roundshot VR Drive Metric:

http://www.roundshot.com/xml_1/internet/en/application/d77/d1120/f1121.cfm

High resolution product images are available for download at:

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http://www.roundshot.com/xml_1/internet/en/application/d137/d238/f1140.cfm