seeingmachines

media release

4th November 2004
Canberra, Australia

SEEING MACHINES WINS $250,000 BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FUND GRANT TO DEVELOP GLAUCOMA DIAGNOSTIC DEVICE

Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane today announced that Seeing Machines, a world-leader in computer vision technology, has been offered a $250,000 Biotechnology Innovation Fund grant to help develop a new device that will enable earlier and more accurate detection of glaucoma.

The project will combine a specialised extension of Seeing Machines' unique vision-sensing technology with the latest glaucoma research conducted at the Centre for Visual Research at the Australian National University's Research School of Biological Sciences. The resulting product will passively measure involuntary responses of the pupil to specialised visual stimuli, dramatically improving measurement of a person's field of vision and the quality and reliability of diagnosis.

Glaucoma, which gradually narrows a person's field of vision, is a leading cause of blindness in the developed world, and is estimated to affect 1 in 11 Australians. Approximately 50% of glaucoma cases still go undetected until it is too late, causing permanent eye damage. Earlier detection and treatment of the disease is critical to eliminating the devastating effects of the disease and reducing health costs.

The new, non-invasive device which Seeing Machines and the ANU are developing aims to objectively measure the field of vision, eliminating errors and inconsistencies inherent in existing subjective tests. The device will allow for more acute measurements by detecting very small changes in the field of vision. The time it takes to test the eyes will also be faster, enabling productivity improvements for ophthalmologists worldwide who rely heavily on visual field testing equipment. The device will also have potential for use in other areas, including detection and management of other eye diseases, neurological testing and motor vehicle license eye sight testing.

For further information contact:

Tony Kinnear,
Chief Executive Officer,
tony.kinnear@seeingmachines.com
+61 2 6125 6501

About Seeing Machines

Seeing Machines delivers advanced computer vision solutions for researchers and developers in human factors, transportation safety, computer human interaction, robotics, medical research and psychology. Seeing Machines flagship product is faceLAB™, an award winning face, automated and contact-free gaze and head tracking technology. faceLAB™ solves the problems of observing human behaviour naturalistically, non-intrusively and with a high degree of accuracy and usability.

(continued over...)

faceLAB™ is used across the automotive industry by clients such as Bosch, Delphi, Volvo, Motorola, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Daimler Chrysler, PSA, Honda, Hyundai, Renault and Toyota, as well as many of the leading academic research groups and transportation authorities worldwide. Seeing Machines is participating in the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 'Save-IT' program to develop viable systems to prevent crashes caused by driver distraction. This participation is being arranged through membership of a consortium that includes Delphi, General Motors, Ford as well as the University of Iowa and the University of Michigan Transport Research Institute.

Further information can be found at: http://www.seeingmachines.com/

Seeing Machines Pty Ltd GPO Box 782 Canberra ACT 2601
Level 3, Innovations Building, Corner Eggleston & Garran Roads, Acton ACT 2600 Australia
tel +61 2 6125 6501 fax +61 2 6125 6504 www.seeingmachines.com
ACN 093 877 331 ABN 34 093 877 331