

MEDIA RELEASE

HYDAC Australia launches virtual reality training solution for hydraulics

Melbourne, Wednesday 16 March 2022: Leading hydraulics and automation control solutions company HYDAC Australia has successfully concluded a 12-month research project with the launch of a cutting-edge virtual reality training environment.

The technology, developed in collaboration with Deakin University and with the support of the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC), teaches maintenance staff and trainees how to safely service and maintain important hydraulics systems and components.

Mark Keen, Managing Director at HYDAC Australia, said the project had supported significant research advances into HYDAC's mixed reality technology.

"Working closely with IMCRC and Deakin's Motion Lab, we've developed a virtual environment that overcomes access issues and safety risks posed by in-person training, while supporting real-time instruction, feedback and verification of skills," he said.

"We started this project believing the technology would be for internal use only. But our research collaboration has been so successful that we are now looking to include this training solution as part of HYDAC's commercial offering moving forward."

Stefan Greuter, Director of Deakin's Motion Lab, said the IMCRC collaboration had harnessed Australia's cutting-edge research into virtual reality to pioneer a world-first hydraulics training solution.

"By embracing HYDAC Australia's objective of creating a unique user experience – bringing people from across Australia together virtually to collaborate in real-time – we have delivered an interactive technology that sets a new benchmark for hydraulics training in the advanced manufacturing industry in Australia," he said.

Dr Matthew Young, Manufacturing Innovation Manager at IMCRC, commended HYDAC Australia and Deakin on the successful completion of their research collaboration.

"The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for virtual reality training environments. HYDAC Australia and Deakin have developed a revolutionary technology that meets this need, with commercial applications across many sectors including education and manufacturing," he said.

"IMCRC is proud to have facilitated and accelerated the commercialisation of this project, which has laid foundations for future advances into virtual reality environments and strengthened Australia's research and development capabilities."

HYDAC Australia will showcase its virtual reality technology at Geelong Design Week, with the display open to the public from Friday 18 March. Interested people can register to attend via [this link](#).

ENDS

About IMCRC

IMCRC is an independent and for-impact cooperative research centre with a successful, proven and scalable model for catalysing research and business partnerships that drives transformative commercial outcomes for participating Australian manufacturers. To date, IMCRC has successfully co-invested in more than 70 R&D projects, catalysing more than \$230 million in transformative manufacturing research. More information is available at www.imcrc.org.

IMCRC's activate program was introduced in 2020 to support shorter-term, industry-led research projects that help Australian manufacturers take action and gain a competitive edge in the post-COVID-19 world. www.imcrc.org

About HYDAC Australia

HYDAC Australia, a global company in the hydraulics and automation control sector, offers an extensive product range to cover all areas of fluid power. The company also provides an on-site reliability audit program, cleanliness solutions for oil and fuel, calibration services, engineering advice, bespoke design and drawings, hydraulic services, technical training and predictive maintenance / Industry 4.0 solutions. www.hydac.com.au

About Deakin University

Deakin is one of Australia's leading tertiary education providers, offering a personalised experience enhanced by world-class programs and innovative digital engagement. Deakin takes a connected approach to solving global challenges, translating high-quality research into powerful solutions, policies and capabilities. www.deakin.edu.au

For more information, please contact:

Jana Kuthe, Communications, Marketing and Events Manager, IMCRC
+61 416 735 666
jana.kuthe@imcrc.org