

Allied Images cuts price of SmartLF scanners



Allied Images, UK and Ireland distributor for Colortrac's large format scanners, has reduced the prices on the Colortrac SmartLF

Ci40 and Gx+42 scanners by up to 10% and included first year on-site warranty in the purchase price. The scanners use Contact Image Sensor – ideal for technical documents – or Charge Coupled Device - best for graphics – imaging technologies. Prices start at £3,495. www.allied-images.com

Cadsoft takes on photogrammetry solutions



Cadsoft Solutions has become a reseller for the Qualup SAS Photogrammetry Solutions, including PixDim and Rhinophoto.

PixDim is a Photogrammetry plug-In for Google SketchUp Pro which allows you to use your existing DSLR camera as a 3D digitiser / measuring device, while Rhinophoto is a similar plug-In for Rhinoceros which allows you to use your existing DSLR as a 3D digitiser / scanner.

www.cadsoftsolutions.co.uk

Isle of Wight engineers look for detail in road map

Isle of Wight Council is creating what is claimed to be the UK's most detailed road network map as part of a 850 million pound investment in the Island's highways. The digital map is being created using special mapping software from Mayrise Systems called MapNow that is linked to an asset database. The map not only provides information on every highway asset such as manholes, footpaths, road signs and bollards, but also describes their type, condition and value. www.mayrise.co.uk

Autodesk to offer 0% finance on software

Autodesk is offering 0% finance and nothing to pay for five months to help firms in the UK purchase new Autodesk design software or upgrades. The offer is made in partnership with Syscap, an independent IT finance provider. www.autodesk.co.uk

Autodesk to support software on Mac hardware

Autodesk is now officially supporting AutoCAD 2010 on Mac hardware running the Windows OS via Apple Boot Camp. Also supported on Boot Camp are 3ds Max Design 2010 and Autodesk Revit Architecture, Structure, and MEP 2010, among others. www.autodesk.co.uk

Bentley takes conference online as BE Connected goes live

The impact of the ongoing recession has been felt in many negative ways throughout our industry. Many events have been cancelled or postponed due to restrictions on travel budgets. Bentley Systems' annual BE conference was one such event, however the company has instigated a comprehensive, persistent online seminar series to replace it.

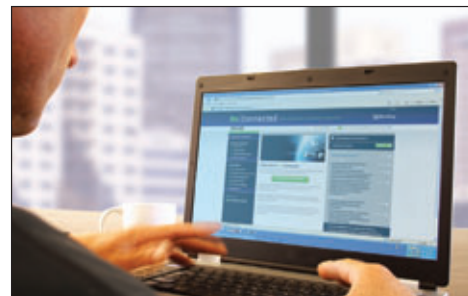
Called Be Connected (www.Bentley.com/BeConnected) the seminars are aimed at architects, engineers, builders, geospatial professionals, and owner-operators around the world. The website is a place to learn about the latest developments in Bentley's range of software solutions for information modelling.

Offering a mixture of over 150 live and on-demand programmes, the schedule covers everything from new technologies to best practice, with new content being added every week over a six month period. Understanding the pressures of time, each instalment is concise and to the point.

The Best Practices Seminars are presented by leading infrastructure professionals and bring a project perspective on best practices for the design, construction, and operation of specific types of infrastructure projects, including a series of seminars on each of the following: bridges, cadastre and land development, communications, electric and gas utilities, high performance buildings, mining and metals, oil and gas, rail and transit, roads, and water and wastewater.

The Product Seminars are given by Bentley's key product experts and designed for both current and prospective users. These sessions demonstrate the latest features and capabilities of Bentley's wide portfolio of MicroStation V8i software.

The first presentation of these hour-long seminars will include a live Q&A teleconference, giving seminar attendees



the opportunity to interact with leaders in the infrastructure professions. Each seminar will then be offered on-demand, allowing participants to attend multiple sessions at times of their choosing. In addition, customers can join discussion groups about the topics presented in the seminars on the Be Communities professional networking website, further extending the benefits and the insights gained in the seminar. Also every Be Connected participant will be provided with transcripts indicating seminars attended and Bentley Institute Learning Units earned.

Bentley has also assisted the SmartGeometry group to stream the majority of main stage presentations from the excellent SmartGeometry 2009 Conference, which took place in San Francisco on April 1st this year. The conference focused on generative design and building a vision for what the next generation of design tools will enable. Even if you don't use MicroStation, the presentations are highly inspirational, given by leading practitioners in architectural design and education, such as Hugh Whitehead (Foster and Partners), Jenny Sabin (Sabin and Jones), Mark Bury (RMIT), J Parish (ArupSport) and David Kasik (Boeing). www.Bentley.com/BeConnected

Virtual building site made for construction training



Simulation and visualisation experts at Makemedia have produced a range of immersive virtual reality environments for the ACT-UK Simulation Centre, a state-of-the-art training centre for construction managers which opens in Coventry in September.

The centre will enable construction managers to develop their skills through a combination of virtual reality computer techniques – recreating the construction process on site – and the use of actors. Trainees will work in actual construction site offices in the simulator hall and will have to deal with realistic site management situations with site personnel, colleagues, and members of the public played by actors. The 3D environments

created by Makemedia will be projected on the centre's 180° 12 metre-long panoramic screen. Trainees will use a joystick to 'fly' through the virtual building site, go inside properties under construction and inspect building work in detail.

Makemedia is producing the 3D virtual reality environments and providing the runtime software which will enable the graphics to be projected on to the simulator screen and run smoothly on the joystick. In addition, the company is supplying a web browser application which will be used as an assessment system by supervisors monitoring the trainees' performance.

The virtual reality environments recreate two actual construction developments – a housing estate in Coventry and a high-rise building in Birmingham. The company used more than 10,000 reference photographs taken during the construction of these two projects coupled with the architects' AutoCAD drawings in order that the 3D models are produced to the exact specifications of the original schemes. Many of the 3D models provide details which form a key element of those scenarios such as a badly-parked delivery lorry, wrongly installed down pipes and missing loft insulation.

www.act-uk.co.uk / www.makemedia.com