Moverio BT-100 users in Japan

Education and learning — July 2012

Epson, Kobe University’s Tsukamoto Laboratory (a research center that focuses primarily on wearable computing), and software developer Nanoconnect, Inc. conducted a pair of joint experiments at Kobe University on July 21.

The experiments, carried out with the help of students, were conducted to test a system that combines Epson’s Moverio see-through mobile viewer with Nanoconnect’s CEDP (Cloud Education Platform) – a management platform for creating and distributing educational content with groupware functions that enables effective, efficient learning using a variety of functions anytime and anywhere on devices such as smartphones and tablet PCs.

Experiment 1: Studying during gaps between classes

The Moverio allows users to watch and listen to content anytime, anywhere. For students this could mean an opportunity to study during gaps between classes. In this experiment students were outfitted with a Moverio and asked to take an e-learning course. Not only were they able to maintain concentration, they also suggested other uses, such as watching the news.

Experiment 2: Learning technical skills though hands-on practice

The Moverio offers users the opportunity to work with augmented reality; projecting images onto the real world seen through the viewer. This ability has some interesting practical applications. For example, you could refer to a projected manual while performing real-world tasks with your hands. In this experiment students wearing a Moverio were asked to create a paper doll while watching a demonstration of the steps on the screen.

Students took full advantage of the see-through viewer by producing a paper figure while viewing on-screen instructions. Even though they were wearing this head-mounted display, they had no trouble skillfully using scissors, cutting, bending, and gluing paper, and assembling the figure.

The students who participated in the experiment offered a variety of innovative and valuable ideas, opinions, and suggestions on topics such as the usability and feel of the Moverio and software with which it could be used. Epson plans to feed their input back into the development process to develop products, applications, and systems that help shape innovative new ways to teach and learn in the future.
Support for the hearing impaired — August 2012

Epson worked with Shizuoka University of Welfare and others on developing a system to provide guidance for the hard of hearing in times of disaster. Using the Moverio, hearing-impaired people were provided with the latest disaster information and were guided along escape routes.

AR images used in stage performance — August 2013

Epson’s Moverio see-through mobile viewer is to be used in performances by Tokyo Performance Doll, a Japanese idol group. Towards the end of the show, some audience members will be given the opportunity to wear the Moverio and enjoy its ability to project AR (augmented reality) images. Thanks to Moverio’s see-through capability, it will seem as though images are appearing alongside the performers. The show is scheduled to run from August 2013 to June 2014.

Warehouse logistics experiment — September 2013

Epson worked with Toyo Kanetsu Solutions K.K. on an experiment about warehouse logistics and management using the BT-100.