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CONTROL YOUR TV SIMPLY BY WAVING YOUR ARM

Visit Toshiba's stand at IFA (hall 21, stand no. 101) to see world leading technologies

Consumers will soon be able to control their TV screens or home entertainment systems simply by waving their hand, thanks to technology developed by Toshiba Research Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory.

The new gesture-based interface for flat panel displays will be on show at this year's IFA exhibition in Germany (hall 21, stand no. 101) where Toshiba will also show the results of its latest research projects relating to the 3D digital world and intuitive interfaces. These include 3D photocopying, accurate digital modelling of moving objects in 3D and speech recognition and text-to-speech interfaces for in-car Bluetooth kit.

Visitors to Toshiba's stand will be able to interact with the display system simply by gesturing with their hand. Once the visitor is in front of the display screen, the system will 'see' them and invite them to take control of the display simply by raising their hand. As the system can robustly track their hand even under different lighting conditions, the visitor can enjoy controlling the on-screen cursor to find out more about the other technologies being launched.

"The gesture-control research is extremely exciting and is opening an array of possibilities for consumers, such as new interfaces for TVs and interactive displays in shop windows and information kiosks," explains Professor Roberto Cipolla, Managing Director at Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory.

“The gesture interface may not replace a remote controller, but can provide an alternative way to interact with a PC or display. Imagine never having to search for the remote controller to turn the TV volume down when receiving a phone call.”

“Having developed the system, we are now working on expanding its capabilities to ensure an easy-to-use and reliable system for the consumer which will work in real word scenarios, such as shops or peoples’ living rooms.”

Another vision-based interface will also be on show at Toshiba’s stand. Visitors will be able to switch the display’s language simply by showing it either German or English pictures. Identification interfaces like this offer the user the ability to personalise either the interface or the contents.

The system uses a single camera mounted on the top of the display and is started by the user raising their hand to initiate the interaction. The software then tracks the person’s hand reliably and robustly even under rapid motion or changing light conditions by using multiple cues including colour, motion and appearance.

The team’s current research focuses on how to deal with multiple users (in a living room setting for example), how to track with finer control and how to deal with difficult lighting systems.

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About Toshiba’s Cambridge Research Laboratory

The Cambridge Research Laboratory (CRL) was Toshiba’s first overseas corporate level R&D

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laboratory. Originally the Toshiba Cambridge Research Centre, it was established in 1991 to undertake scientific studies which may lead to the semiconductor technology of the 21st century.

For nearly 20 years the group has been producing ground breaking research and developing technologies which have the power to revolutionise the future of electronics. CRL currently consists of three research teams: Quantum Information, Speech Technology and Computer Vision.

Visit <http://www.toshiba-europe.com/research/crl/> for more information.

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