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3D PHOTOCOPYING TO BECOME A REALITY WITH TOSHIBA

Toshiba narrows the divide between the digital world and real life

3D photocopying could become a reality according to a research team at Toshiba Research Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory. The technology currently under development is so simple and easy to use that consumers will be able to make their own 3-D photocopies, to copy and promote items for sale at an internet auction for example.

The technology from the current research project can be viewed via a video demonstration at IFA at Toshiba's stand (hall 21, stand no. 101).

The highly accurate technique has opened up a variety of applications across many sectors. For example, museums will be able to create detailed digital copies of artifacts for posterity and online retailers will be able to display products more effectively online.

"This is a revolutionary new technology," commented Professor Roberto Cipolla, Managing Director at Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory (CRL). "Using this technology, consumers will soon be able to create a 3D photocopy in their own home, something which a few years ago was the stuff of fantasy. At CRL, our research is cutting-edge but it is also vital that the research can be translated into real-life applications."

The 3D photocopier doesn't require any special equipment or procedures. The system creates a highly accurate 3D model from a few simple photographic images taken by an off-the-shelf digital

camera. The user will simply need to place the object on a highly patterned background surface such as a newspaper, take a few images from different angles and upload them to a PC.

The 3D photocopier software installed on the PC can automatically calibrate the camera position of each image and render the photocopy accurately in 3D. Once the 3D photocopy is created, the consumer can spin the object around and look at it from different angles.

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About Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory

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