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## Triangle finances iOpener, a real-time game engine company

*European Space Agency (ESA) spin-off iOpener receives €4.1 million to start up operations.*

iOpener has developed a technology to map real-world competitions such as Formula 1 to an artificial world, allowing gamers to participate in the race virtually and in real time! Their first product is based on “rocket-science” innovations from ESA, which allow the efficient transmission of telemetric data from a plurality of moving objects and their mapping into the game’s virtual world.

“Our product enables gamers to race live against professionals – they don’t have to be a ‘Schumacher’ to enjoy it,” says Andy Lüring, CEO and co-founder of iOpener, “it is a total immersion experience.” “Though the proposition goes far beyond racing,” remarks Uli W. Fricke, founding partner of Triangle, “the virtual-world participants add an additional dimension to every real-world competition – just imagine the increase in the target audience of traditional sports events – it’s the missing link between the old and the new world.”

The iOpener team is composed of Dutch, French, English and German members providing the international spirit necessary for success in the gaming industry. iOpener, the first VC-backed ESA spin-off in satellite applications, is strategically positioned with HQ in Aachen (Germany) and Delft (The Netherlands) to leverage the expertise found at the world-class technical universities in both locations. The investment was facilitated by Triangle’s Board of Advisor’s Joerg Kreisel (JKIC, Germany), an internationally recognized space commercialization and finance expert.

ESA is Europe’s gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the developments of Europe’s space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world. ESA is an international organization with 17 member states. One objective of ESA’s Technology Transfer Programme Office (TTPO), led by Frank M. Salzgeber, is to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry. During 2007, iOpener was supported by ESA’s TTPO incubation.

Triangle focuses exclusively on university and research spin-offs and is currently the only VC to do so in Germany. This round is Triangle’s fourth investment out of its recent Fund IV.

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