

Digi-Connect and the Naledi3d Factory sign MoA

November 2010



We are proud to announce that the Naledi3d Factory and Digi-Connect have signed a *Memorandum of Agreement* to collaborate on both the development as well as the implementation of interactive 3D visualisations and *interactive3d learning objects* in a broad range of application areas that will benefit community and skills development across South Africa.

Over the next five years, Digi-Connect and the Naledi3d Factory will combine their complimentary strengths in ways that will contribute positively to community development in South Africa and to raise national and local awareness of the potential of innovative approaches such as this.

The Naledi3d Factory (Pty Ltd) is based at the Innovation Hub in Pretoria and specialises in the creation of VR-based simulations as an interactive, 3D communication tool. The company has, over ten years, innovated the use of VR simulations in community development and also pioneered the concept of "*interactive3d learning objects*" (*i3dlo's*).

i3dlo's can be used in the education and training fields and can be used to build technical skills and support life-long learning in areas as diverse as health, water, sanitation, agriculture, renewable and sustainable energy technologies; infrastructure, artisan and other skills development as well as industrial safety, through to school-based science and related subjects (STEM).

Digi-Connect is a non-profit organisation whose strength lies in actualising community development. Digi-Connect, established in 2009 is working towards creating a national footprint to further the ideals of using Information and Communication Technologies – and to support the conversion of these ideals into practical and sustainable community application. Digi-Connect is currently based in KwaZulu Natal and managing an ICT4Community Development Programme in Pietermaritzburg (establishing ICT Information Centres, setting up a Computer Refurbishment Hub, running Digital Literacy camps, an ICT Skills Development Initiative, as well as improving Internet connectivity and the development of SME's).

For the Naledi3d Factory, this is a very exciting development "*we have sought a partner in South Africa like Digi-Connect for several years, as there is little point in developing new interactive 3D content if the material isn't being taken out there so that people can benefit...'*

Clearly, bringing the strengths of these two organisations together can and will make a significant impact on rural and urban social development in South Africa. While several opportunities are being explored, it is likely that our collaboration will begin by working with the Department of Communication and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on a Ministerial project that aims to develop local capacity in the *Msinga* District of KwaZulu Natal.

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