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Rimon Technologies

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Short portrait of Rimon Technologies

Rimon Technologies was founded in August 2020 as an ETH spin-off from a research project. The young company has developed a platform on which work processes can be visualised in a simple manner in augmented reality (AR) and displayed on corresponding end devices. This is done in a few steps and with the help of already existing media and does not require any prior technical knowledge.

The platform's main target group consists of companies from the mechanical engineering, manufacturing and electrical infrastructure industries that have a large, decentralised workforce and install or maintain machines on end customer's site. Practical use case examples are step-by-step work instructions, onboarding or training of work processes as well as quality management.

Explanation of Augmented Reality as distinct from Virtual Reality

Augmented Reality should not be confused with Virtual Reality (VR). Those who use VR applications are completely immersed in a virtual world. In augmented reality, on the other hand, reality is extended or overlaid with digital objects and offers the end user the added value of receiving further information. This can include interactive text fields, videos or visualisations of the target object. In combination with sensors such as object identification or recording capabilities built into the end-user devices, the technology can further contribute to automation.

Team members

Today, a seven-member team is working to further develop the AR platform and thus, make the technology more accessible. The team today consists of the following team members:

- Kordian Caplazi – Founder / Product Lead
- Lukas Roder – Business Development Executive
- Minh Tien Nguyen – Strategy and Business Development Lead
- Daniel Schütz – Senior MR Developer
- Camillo de Nardis – Customer Success Manager
- Alexey Lebedenko – Junior Developer
- Romina Schöni – Experience Lead

The platform and use case examples

Rimon's AR platform is a no-code platform and thus, enables all companies to easily access the mapping of work processes in AR - even for end users without technical background knowledge.

The customer is guided through the creation process in just a few steps. In a first step, the workflow to be depicted is created and designed in a simple template. Then, all media necessary for user guidance, such as images, videos, audio and 3D models of the machines (CAD format) or construction information of the plants (BIM format) are uploaded.

The platform independently generates an app from these input factors, which can be loaded onto mobile phones, tablets or the HoloLens and used at any time. In principle, the Rimon platform can be used for any process in which work has to be carried out according to specifications, checklists or plans. The focus of Rimon is on the following use case examples:

- Instruction

Step-by-step instructions can be used to create interactive work instructions, especially for inspections, commissioning or maintenance of machines. The end user is guided through his work process and receives all the necessary information at the right time and in the right place. For complex cases, a specialist can be called in at any time via video call ("remote support").

- Onboarding and training

In order to reduce the onboarding time for new employees and to increase the effectiveness of introductory training, the actual work process can be practised in advance in a practically realistic way in AR. Furthermore, this also has the advantage that onboarding can take place decentrally and at any time, reducing the need for centralised 'classroom' sessions. This means that new employees can be deployed in the field more quickly, as less knowledge needs to be acquired at the beginning. In addition, when changes are made to the work content, such as the introduction of new machines, there is also the possibility of being able to train them directly on the work process.

- Quality management

Ensuring the quality of a work process used to involve increased and manual effort. This means that the end user had to document and prove his work either additionally on a paper document or as a follow-up task to the work process. The AR Rimon platform can remedy this in several ways:

First, it can clearly pre-define which quality checkpoints must be worked through and also cannot be bypassed. Secondly, the logging of the work process can be automated, as the necessary documentation takes place in the background and is filled in the target format required by the customer. Last but not least, a knowledge base can be built up that consists of both explicit and implicit knowledge. The latter is relevant because it often only exists in the heads of the employees and is lost as soon as the employees leave the company. With the systematic collection of data and the subsequent analysis, the company can gain important insights for future, continuous improvements.

Customers

The start-up's customer base is broad, but mainly comes from the mechanical engineering, manufacturing and electrical infrastructure industries, where there is a great need for the application possibilities. One example is Swissgrid, the national grid company responsible for the safe operation and monitoring of the Swiss transmission grid. It uses instruction and quality management to further advance the standardisation of inspection and to achieve an increase in quality.

Another example is Komax, which is active in the field of automation with a focus on wire processing or cable harnesses. It uses Rimon's solution to make training for wiring machines (commissioning, operation and maintenance) more efficient and modern with the help of AR. This enables decentralised training opportunities without supervision, but which can be added at any time if required.



For more information

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