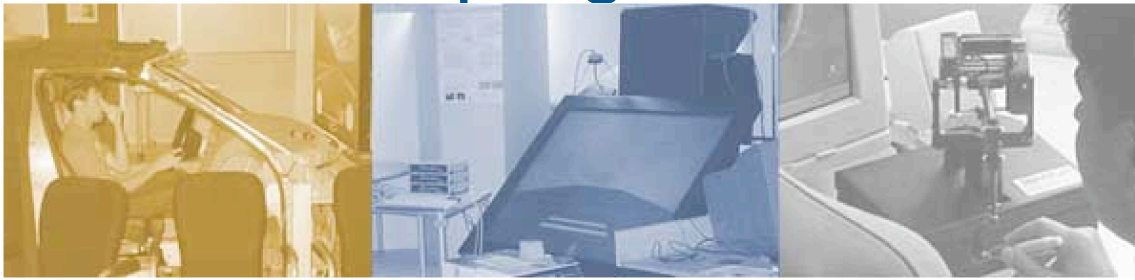


NewsLetter Spring 2008



onsdag 21 maj 2008



RE-FLEX *flexible reality centre*

The RE-FLEX Newsletter for Spring 2008

What a busy month of May – lots of things to be done before the summer. In any case here comes at last RE-FLEX Newsletter, please enjoy this letter as well as the spring in Lund...

Many activities have happened in the center during the spring; HUMLAB arranged a successful eye-tracking Workshop, CMS - Center for Medical Simulation - set a seminar with Region Skåne, and last but not least, the VR Cube at the Virtual Reality Lab is in full operation.

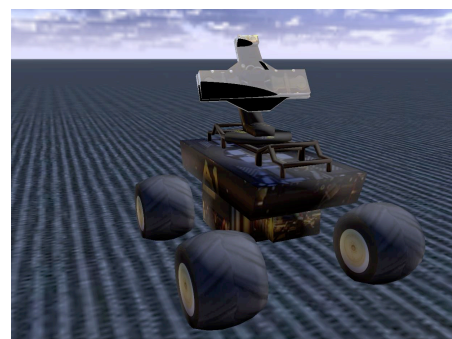
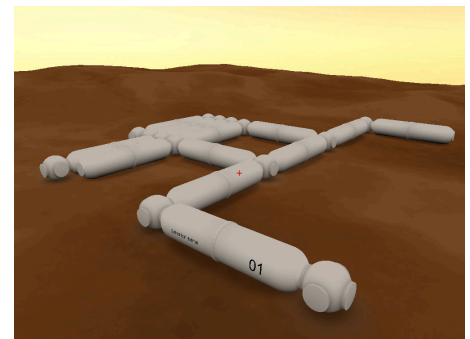
RE-FLEX at Mars

Nevertheless, this Newsletter will be fully devoted towards one particular project, the MVRS: mars Virtual Research Station project, that is very timely now due to the scheduled landing of the Phoenix Mars Polar Mission: Monday, 26 May 2008, 1:00 CET.

To plan the exploration of Mars NASA leads many related research projects together with European and even Swedish partners, such as building habitats and testing crews and equipment in the Canadian arctic and the Utah desert. In these 'habs', teams of future Martian astronauts work and play in closed simulations that develop and test mission operations.

REFLEX has during the Spring of 2008 started a collaboration with the Mars Society, the Mars Foundation and NASA in developing Mars visualizations related to the design of early Mars bases and settlements in different regions. Several 'design narratives' are fabricated and tested in VR as crew psychology game experiments weaving fantasy with fact.

A major driver in this project is the NorCal mars Rover Project, funded by Google. Here the goal is to develop and test two physical robotic rovers using a simulator, one of which will be deployed in the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. Part of this work will also be used for educational outreach events and programs with K-12 science and engineering teachers and their students.



Prototype of Mars settlement simulation (top) and rover simulator (bottom).

Please read more at: www.lth.se/reflex/mars

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