



Student harnesses ATI FireGL graphics with award-winning results

Just add your imagination

IMAGE COURTESY YOUNGWOONG JANG (WWW.MIRAGE2006.COM).

In the award-winning animated film *Mirage* by Youngwoong Jang, a bio-mechanical character is consumed with finding water with which to fill his glass chest in order to survive. Whereas his character is on an endless search for what he needs, Jang possessed everything necessary to bring his imaginative, artistic vision to life, including a tool set replete with powerful hardware and software.

"It has always been my obsession in life to strive for more," Jang admits. "With *Mirage*, I was able to create dramatic visual communication using the best tools the 3D industry has to offer."

Jang relied on ATI FireGL workstation graphics from AMD, in both an HP mobile workstation and a Dell Precision workstation, to produce *Mirage*, his master's thesis project while a student of New York's School of Visual Effects. The eight-minute student film boasts awe-inspiring visuals, created using Avid Softimage|XSI software for 3D work and Next Limit RealFlow for water simulation.

"The ATI FireGL card allowed me to work flawlessly in Softimage|XSI and RealFlow, enabling me to increase the level of creativity with this project," admits Jang. "The graphics processors have been certified to support most of the 3D industry's leading applications, ensuring

hardware and software compatibility."

Jang selected a Hewlett-Packard mobile workstation powered by an ATI Mobility FireGL graphics processor from AMD as his principal modeling and animating tool. He then opted to render the breathtaking imagery on a Dell Precision powered by an ATI FireGL workstation graphics accelerator.

"The pairing of the small HP laptop and powerful ATI Mobility FireGL gave me great flexibility and offered me a comfortable and affordable working environment," Jang explains. "Managing the incredibly large datasets for the highly complex modeling, texturing, and geometry of *Mirage*, I had to totally trust that the ATI FireGL could handle the task seamlessly. I can't risk any downtime and software/card incompatibility when working on my project. The ATI FireGL card works perfectly with XSI's real-time OpenGL view port. The ATI FireGL cards surpassed my expectations in both 3D and 2D applications."

AMD's line of ATI FireGL workstation accelerators supports the latest OpenGL and Microsoft DirectX 10 programming interfaces; offers hardware-accelerated rendering with OpenGL Shading Language and DirectX 10 HLSL; is compatible with Microsoft Windows Vista; and delivers dual monitor support.

"ATI FireGL is hands down the better product at any price," says Jang. "In the

past, other more expensive cards have cost me valuable time and money because of compatibility problems, causing broken shading and other mishaps."

Student and digital artist Jang tapped the power and high performance of AMD's ATI FireGL professional graphics accelerators to make the imagined real. The result, an animated masterpiece called *Mirage*, continues to gain attention, accolades, and awards, not the least of which is the Gold Medal in animation at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 34th Annual Student Academy Awards.

Mirage's robo-child continually endeavors to find water and yet, in a surprise twist, is surrounded by water; what he needs is all around him. Jang, like the protagonist in his masterpiece, had everything he needed to bring his vision to life: ample talent, a great story to tell, and an arsenal of software and hardware tools that included ATI FireGL graphics accelerators.

The award-winning student film *Mirage* is a singular, shining example of what can be achieved when a student and burgeoning digital artist harnesses the power of ATI FireGL accelerators.

Today, Jang can be found working on creative projects at Blue Sky Studios. Jang continues to rely on AMD technology, and recently upgraded his personal workstation with AMD's award-winning, high-end ATI FireGL V7600 graphics accelerator.

"I am very happy that AMD continues to offer innovative and high-performance workstation graphics accelerators. The new ATI FirePro series will surely empower digital artists like me to fully apply their imaginations—just like what the ATI FireGL series has been doing," foresees Jang.

For additional information about AMD's ATI family of graphics accelerators, visit www.ati.amd.com/workstation.

Where to find ATI FireGL graphics:

Just as Academy Award-winning digital artist and director Youngwoong Jang harnessed the power of ATI FireGL accelerators from AMD, you too can access ATI FireGL technology on the latest HP and Dell workstations. Visit <http://ati.amd.com/firegl/dell> and <http://ati.amd.com/firegl/hp> for a list of workstations with ATI FireGL graphics accelerators inside.

