



Paris, France, April 15, 2013

Herrenknecht uses ESI's collaborative Virtual Reality solution IC.IDO to make engineering decisions

Speeding up product development processes while reducing costs

ESI is the pioneer and world-leading solution provider in virtual prototyping.

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Paris, France –April 15, 2013 – [ESI Group](#), pioneer and world-leading solution provider in [virtual prototyping](#) for manufacturing industries, launches a cooperation with [Herrenknecht AG](#). World market leader for tunnel boring machines, Herrenknecht is adopting ESI's [IC.IDO Virtual Reality](#) solution as a basis for collaborative decision-making. The main objective of [Herrenknecht](#) is to enable the many stakeholders in a development project to visualize their product from the earliest stages of its development, life-size and in real-time, so that machine designs can be validated faster.

By adopting [IC.IDO](#), [Herrenknecht](#) joins leading-edge manufacturers from the automotive, aeronautic and other industry sectors. John Deere, Jaguar Land Rover, BMW, Ford, Boeing, Jungheinrich, Rheinmetall, Optima Packaging and Trumpf are among the companies who now see a striking advantage in implementing [Virtual Reality](#) to spur innovation.

“Leveraging ESI's leading Virtual Reality technology significantly helps us optimize our development processes. IC.IDO enables us to modify processes and developments collaboratively with our customers, with the common objective to improve on performance, enhance quality and decrease development time,” says **Gebhard Lehmann**, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Management, of Herrenknecht AG.

[Herrenknecht](#) uses [Virtual Reality](#) to perform ergonomics studies and complete security assessments, visibility and reachability studies, real-time simulations of wires and hoses, and assembly/disassembly analyses.

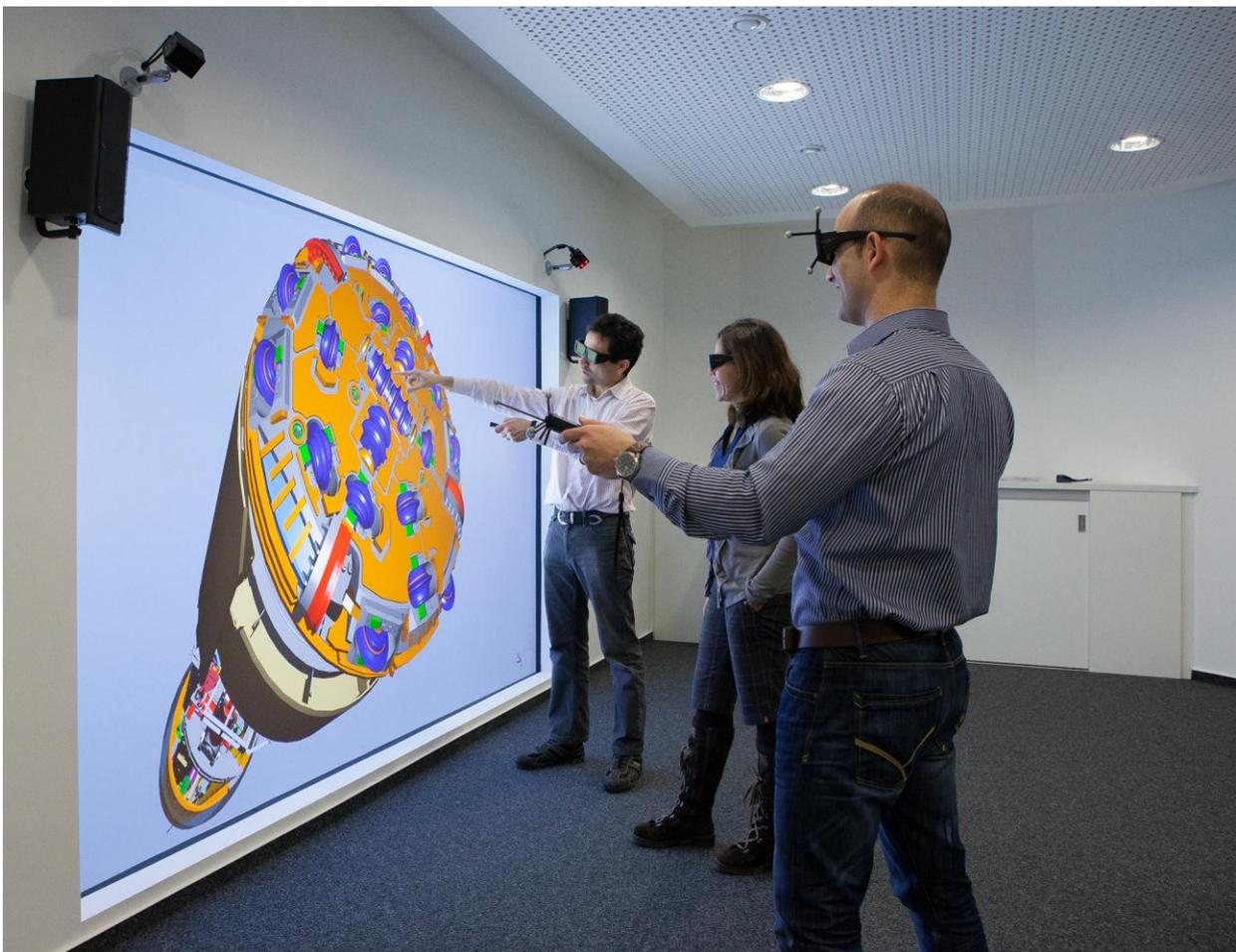
Using [IC.IDO's](#) ergonomic and intuitive software environment, sales, marketing and technical staff from [Herrenknecht](#) can share models with their clients' decision makers and influencers – communicating naturally with executives, engineers and operators; assuring a common understanding of current and future products and avoiding the misunderstandings and misinterpretations often encountered when relying on drawings and scale



models. Thanks to [IC.IDO](#), the distributed players in a project are able to use a shared 3D model as a platform for real-time reviews, enabling constant communication and faster iterations from the earliest stages in the product development process.

Massive amounts of 3D data from different sources (including Herrenknecht, their clients and subcontractors) can be loaded rapidly into one environment, facilitating regular updates and assuring that teams are always current with the latest design progressions. By making the right decisions at the right time, [Herrenknecht](#) reduces lead times and product development costs.

Further encouraging the adoption of Virtual Reality, [Herrenknecht](#) should benefit from the existence of a readily available pool of young experts from the neighboring [Offenburg College](#), where a similar [IC.IDO Virtual Reality](#) set-up has been installed. Local engineering students are indeed taught to master Virtual Reality technology with the objective that they can contribute to its adoption in diverse applications in the future.



Herrenknecht engineers performing a design review using IC.IDO



About Herrenknecht

As the only company worldwide, [Herrenknecht AG](#) delivers tunnel boring machines for all ground conditions and in all diameters – ranging from 0.10 to 19 meters. The Herrenknecht product range includes tailor-made machines for transport tunnels, supply and disposal tunnels and additional equipment and service packages. Furthermore, Herrenknecht manufactures drilling rigs for vertical and inclined shafts as well as deep drilling rigs. In the year 2011, the Herrenknecht Group achieved a total operating performance of 1,104 million euros. Since the formation of the company in 1977, [Herrenknecht](#) machines have excavated a total of around 2,300 kilometers of tunnel in the large diameter range of more than 4.20 meters. Around 850 Herrenknecht Utility Tunneling Machines are in operation around the world constructing or installing water and sewage systems, gas and oil pipelines, as well as conduits for electricity, the Internet and telephone lines. The [Herrenknecht Group](#) employs around 5,000 members of staff worldwide, among them 200 trainees. With 77 subsidiaries and associated companies working in related fields in Germany and abroad, [Herrenknecht](#) provides a comprehensive range of services close to the respective project and customer.

About ESI Group

[ESI](#) is a pioneer and world-leading provider in Virtual Prototyping that takes into account the physics of materials. [ESI](#) boasts a unique know-how in Virtual Product Engineering, based on an integrated suite of coherent, industry-oriented applications. Addressing manufacturing industries, Virtual Product Engineering aims to replace physical prototypes by realistically simulating a product's behavior during testing, to fine-tune fabrication and assembly processes in accordance with desired product performance, and to evaluate the impact on product use under normal or accidental conditions. [ESI](#)'s solutions fit into a single collaborative and open environment for End-to-End Virtual Prototyping. These solutions are delivered using the latest technologies, including immersive Virtual Reality, to bring products to life in 3D; helping customers make the right decisions throughout product development. The company employs about 950 high-level specialists worldwide covering more than 30 countries. [ESI Group](#) is listed in compartment C of NYSE Euronext Paris.

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