

Future of 3-D Communications

RAY TUTTLE

A Tulsa-based technology development company is making progress toward creating a full color volumetric 3-D display, said the company's founder.

"We have been communicating in a two-dimensional expression, but there is no reason we cannot have 3-D," said Martin Keating, CEO of 3DIcon Corp. "We live in a 3-D world, why not communicate that way?"

The company's vision for the technology initially includes the oil and natural gas industry, the military, airport baggage security, air traffic control and outdoor signage.

3DIcon started pursuing 3-D technologies in 2002 and is listed Over the Counter, trading under the symbol TDCP.

"My primary job is to build a company, not its stock price," Keating said. "If I do the former, the latter will take care of itself."

The transparent 3-D projection medium will be a 360-degree color display that will be realistic, said Vivek Bhaman, 3DIcon president and COO.

"Think of it as a cube of glass — or like a snow globe," he said. "The projection medium will be crystal clear."

The 3DIcon research team at the Uni-

versity of Oklahoma reached two milestones recently in the development of its CSpace technology. "CSpace" uses a clear, projection medium into which light-emitting nano-materials have been suspended, Bhaman said.

The company could have gone to several other major universities, Keating said.

"But, we went to the University of Oklahoma. Elsewhere, we'd have been the 50th project of some obscure grad student under some professor. At OU, we were No. 1," he said.

The research launched 18 months ago, created nano-sized crystals that emit green fluorescence and dispersed these nano-crystals within a clear host material.

The process is similar to the cathode tube of a television set, where an electronic "gun" fires pulses at the screen lighting up the electrons in the screen.

In airport security, the technology would allow screeners to see into luggage. With x-ray machines everything is 2-D. 3DIcon's technology would allow a 3-D image.

"It will be a more accurate process and will move traffic faster," Bhaman said.

The company is an example of life imitating art, Keating said. Eleven years ago Keating published, "The Final Jihad." In it, he wrote about Middle Eastern fanatics spreading death and destruction across the U.S.

The book led Keating to begin thinking about the next 30, 40 and 50 years into the future.

"If you look that far ahead and imagine what the world will be like — it will not be the flying cars *Popular Science* is always talking about — but you will have a revolution in the world of communications," he said.



Artist Rendering of 3D Technology Being Used in the Future

COURTESY

The technology will boost security and efficiency.

Keating began to lecture at colleges and universities across the country.

Then, he was asked to address 400 Japanese engineers in Tokyo.

"These are some really smart cookies and here I am — you can imagine the grin on my face as I address all these engineers about the future," Keating recalled.

Keating worried the Japanese would throw sushi at him if they disagreed with his theories. But, the reception was positive.

"They came up and asked for a job," he said.

The event made Keating think even harder about the future.

One reason science fiction becomes reality is that people are inspired by the writer, Keating said.

"If you can think it, it can be implemented," he said.

Today, the only impediment Keating sees is that the communications sector is married to current forms of communications.

The more Keating thinks of the coming 3-D revolution, the better he thinks of it.

And, as the battle between HDTV and Blu-Ray demonstrates, things change overnight,

"This could be as big as the oil industry in Oklahoma," he said. «