



Autodesk Maya Software Serves as Animation Platform for New Star Wars: The Clone Wars Animated Feature Film and TV Series

August 26, 2008

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Aug. 26 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Lucasfilm Ltd. and Lucasfilm Animation are using Autodesk, Inc.'s (Nasdaq: ADSK) Autodesk Maya software to create the upcoming television series Star Wars: The Clone Wars, just as they did to create the feature-length animated film that is now in theaters.

These are the first animated Star Wars projects from Lucasfilm. The projects benefited from a global production environment, with Maya as the hub for creating highly detailed worlds, characters and creatures, including Anakin Skywalker, R2-D2, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Jabba the Hutt.

Lucasfilm Chief Technology Officer Richard Kerris said, "Star Wars: The Clone Wars brings an entirely new look and feel to Star Wars by moving it into animation. We wanted to use technology that would live up to the high standards of Lucasfilm, and selected Autodesk Maya as our animation platform for both the film and TV series. We chose Maya for its creative tools, extensibility and large user base. Maya is the backbone of our global production environment, enabling us to seamlessly share work between our United States-based creative team and our production studios in Asia."

Digital artists in California, at Lucasfilm Animation Singapore and at partner studio CGCG in Taipei, have created more than 30 episodes of the TV series. The California-based creative team at Lucasfilm Animation establishes the storyline and key scenes, while animators at the studios in Asia produce the animation. This around-the-clock production chain generates an average of eight finished minutes of animation each week -- an unprecedented productivity level for film and TV production.

Kerris added, "Maya has become the animation platform of choice for the film industry. It greatly reduces the complexity of working globally. At Lucasfilm, we're constantly developing new tools, and we fit them into Maya. In essence, Maya is the concrete foundation that lets us explore new concepts and maximize productivity and creativity -- without disrupting our global production pipeline."

"Ultimately, Star Wars: The Clone Wars is about great storytelling," said Danny Keller, animation supervisor at Lucasfilm. "From a technological standpoint, we need to be flexible in order to take the creative vision wherever George Lucas and supervising director Dave Filoni dream of taking it. Autodesk Maya allows us to do that."

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc. is the world leader in 2D and 3D design software for the manufacturing, building and construction, and media and entertainment markets. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk has developed the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art digital prototyping solutions to help customers experience their ideas before they are real. Fortune 1000 companies rely on Autodesk for the tools to visualize, simulate and analyze real-world performance early in the design process to save time and money, enhance quality and foster innovation. For additional information about Autodesk, visit <http://www.autodesk.com>.

Autodesk, AutoCAD and Maya are registered trademarks or trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates in the USA and/or other countries. All other brand names, product names or trademarks belong to their respective holders. Autodesk reserves the right to alter product offerings and specifications at any time without notice, and is not responsible for typographical or graphical errors that may appear in this document.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080826/AQTU509>)

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20050415/SFF034LOGO>)

(C) 2008 Autodesk, Inc. All rights reserved.

SOURCE Autodesk, Inc.

CONTACT: Roohi Saeed of Autodesk, Inc., +1-514-954-7296, roohi.saeed@autodesk.com; or Karen Raz, +1-310-450-1482, karen@razpr.com, for Autodesk, Inc.

Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080826/AQTU509>

<http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20050415/SFF034LOGO>

AP Archive: <http://photoarchive.ap.org>

PRN Photo Desk, photodesk@prnewswire.com

Web site: <http://www.autodesk.com>

<http://www.prnewswire.com>