About 3D perception

3D perception designs and supplies seamless immersive visual display systems and technologies for simulation applications.

Serving civilian and defense customers around the world since 1997, 3D perception has a proven track record of ensuring performance and quality from design to installation and throughout the life cycle.

With offices in the United States, Europe, and China, we work with major defense and high-tech prime contractors as well as with aerospace industry customers and users around the world.

With over 10,000 visual channels fielded, 3D perception is the world’s preeminent supplier of immersive, curved screen, projected simulator visual display systems.

Innovation & Experience Powered by People

3D perception’s people make the difference. We employ industry professionals in visual system engineering, program management, field service installation and support, account management, and product development.

Our staff’s combined experience, vision, and passion result in innovative and exemplary products and services.

3D perception Provides

- Innovative product development
- Projector and Image Generator independent solutions
- Industry-proven expertise in engineering and integration
- Precision auto alignment and calibration technologies
- FAA and EASA certified turn-key systems
- Global service and support

Customers choose 3D perception because we have a track record of excellence in providing the entire solution; before, during, and after delivery. We enable simulation companies to focus on what they do best, and to not be concerned with developing custom visual display systems for every new project.
3D perception provides display solution design and integration services at any point in the procurement process. 3D perception is well positioned to contribute innovative concepts and proven methods to any project.

Dependable Results with nDesigner

3D perception’s solution for developing visual display system designs to meet complex requirements is our nDesigner™ toolset.

This sophisticated software allows 3D perception to design, analyze, and previsualize any type of projection display system, while adhering to performance requirements, and incorporating room layout, cockpits, and other obstructions.

nDesigner accounts for a multitude of variables such as projector model, lens selection and settings, eyepoints, and screen size, shape, and surface gain.

nDesigner provides detailed data plots for luminance, resolution, observability range, and outputs Aitoff coverage diagrams showing channel locations, cabin windows, shadows, and other obstructions, and can predict performance from any eyepoint.

Developed and consistently updated to meet the changing needs of the market and our customer base, this tool is well-proven to facilitate the implementation of valid, optimal designs from concept through to completion.

Features

- Detailed performance modeling
- Screen analysis
- Projection analysis
- Shadow analysis
- Heat map plots and diagrams provided in proposals
Northstar™ is 3D perception’s integrated simulation display solution. Northstar provides industry-leading, precision automatic image alignment and calibration, with the ease of centralized push-button operation.

The solution is content-independent, requiring no software integration with—or processing power from—the user’s Image Generator (IG). Northstar is completely compatible with all IGs.

Northstar is projector-independent, allowing for use with an ever-evolving catalog of projection technologies and a clear and open upgrade path.

Northstar
Key Components

- nBox: Multichannel Display Processor and Manager
- Aurora: Auto-Aligning Instrumented Screens
- Certified Projectors
  - Professional Grade
  - Simulation Projectors

Features
- Centralized system control via unified interface
- Precision auto warp and blend in seconds
- Push-button color and luminance calibration
- Image Generator-independent
- Projector-independent
- Future-proofed upgrade path
nBox
Multichannel Display Processor & Manager

At the heart of 3D perception’s Northstar solution is nBox™, an all-in-one display processor that warps, blends, and color corrects raw IG content. nBox outputs to multiple projectors and seamlessly displays imagery across screens of any shape.

This next-generation display processor calibrates color, gamma, contrast and compensates for hot spots, creating a truly consistent image.

nBox treats the multi-projector theater as one continuous display—not as an array of individually controlled projectors.

nBox allows for a projector upgrade path while maintaining overall display architecture.

Features
- Up to 6 channels per unit
- Stackable for any number of display channels
- Powered by 3DP’s patented Digital Geometry Processor
- Intelligent EDID
- Resolutions up to 4K

Northstar System Interface

nControl™ is an intuitive, user-friendly graphical interface for control and maintenance of Northstar displays and enables users to approach it as an integrated system, not as separate components.

nControl is installed on the user’s maintenance PC or IG host which is networked to nBox. nControl is responsible for maintaining a consistently optimized image in concert with all Northstar components, managing geometry adjustment, edge blending, color balancing, and gamma correction. With the push of a button, it automates maintenance procedures and readjusts the image in seconds.

Features
- One-click power up/down and maintenance
- Save/load multiple training profiles — changes eyepoints, accounts for different obstructions
- Control Dynamic Optical Blenders for time-of-day optimization and NVG training
- Automate procedures which could otherwise take hours

nControl can be directly operated or interfaced with the user’s IG/host for automatic display optimization for time of day and lighting condition changes.
Aurora
Auto-Aligning Instrumented Screens

3D perception’s Aurora™ screens have embedded WarpSync™ and ChromaSync™ sensors which detect the alignment and quality of projector images. Via network connection to the nBox display processor, Aurora enables automatic and precise adjustments to geometry, edge blending, color, and intensity.

Screen Options
Aurora screens are available for any size and shape requirements, and custom screens can be produced as needed. Screens can be configured at any horizontal and vertical field of view, up to complete dome display systems.

Features
- Enables Northstar’s automatic warping, blending, and color calibration
- No separate instruments are required for alignment and calibration
- Available in any size and shape—spherical, cylindrical, conical, flat
3D perception products are projector-independent. This allows our customers to retain the benefits of a rapidly advancing feature set available in the professional projector marketplace. Not every commercially available projector should be used in a real-time, long service life, deterministic environment. This is why we have developed the Northstar Simulation Certified Projector program — to indicate to our customers the specific projectors that pass our qualification of fit for use in professional simulation environments and are fully interoperable and seamlessly managed within 3D perception’s Northstar solution.

Simulator systems have an array of differing projection requirements. Considerations like resolution, light output, NVG suitability, latency, contrast, weight, size, ruggedness, and cost are all important factors. It’s key to have a range of models from which to select that can meet specific use-cases.

3D perception provides and integrates a variety of professional projectors from several manufacturers.

We offer options for one- or three-chip DLP and LCoS technologies, UHP, LED, and laser phosphor illumination, along with a wide range of high quality lenses, modules, mounts, and accessories. We design display systems based on application requirements – not around a specific projector make or model.
StarScan
Automatic Image Alignment Scanner

For Northstar systems where Aurora’s screen-based sensors are impractical, including soft-screens, rear-projection, collimated screens, or for system upgrades, StarScan™ is the ideal solution for precision automatic image alignment.

A true 3D solution for a 3D problem, StarScan provides detailed measurements of display system geometry using high precision gimbal pointing, and laser rangefinding. StarScan measures both the exact 3D screen geometry and the projected image geometry, resulting in the industry’s most accurate warp and blend down to 1 arc minute.

The device can be mounted virtually anywhere in the display system and can automatically align itself using reference points on the screen, enabling repeatable, high accuracy performance, even from off-center locations.

Using high precision gimbal pointing, StarScan operates up to a 360° azimuth and 135° elevation range, with options for eye-limiting resolution accuracy.

StarScan requires no special software to be loaded onto the user’s IG, nor does it require the 1.5-2 ms of IG render time required by software and camera-based solutions.

3D Screen Mapping & Alignment

StarScan creates a detailed 3D screen surface map using the gimbal-mounted laser rangefinder. This map is used in geometric projection software to calculate the location for every alignment point on the real display surface. This surface map can also be used for display system acceptance testing to ensure compliance with design specifications.

Screen Integration Support

The integrated rangefinder can be used to accurately locate a screen to specified coordinates to ensure proper setup.

Features

- Precision 3D screen mapping and image autocalibration
- Up to 360° H x 135° V operation area
- Absolute geometric accuracy 1 – 5 arc min
- Off axis alignment head positioning
- Screen installation support
- Display channel setup support
- Easy and cost-effective retrofit of auto-alignment to existing installations
Dynamic Optical Blenders
Day to Night and Everything in Between

In a multi-projection display system, all projected images will have one or more sides overlapping with another image. In these overlap zones, the image will be doubly bright. 3D perception’s Northstar™ system automatically applies electronic edge blending via the nBox™ display processor. During daytime scenarios, the electronic blend is all that is needed used to achieve a seamless, uniform image.

However, during darker scenarios, the overlap zones cannot be completely electronically erased because all digital projectors output some level of light even with completely black content. The result is a grey stripe in the overlap, and the only way to remove this is with optical blending.

The Solution
3D perception’s Dynamic Optical Blenders™ remove the visible edges and render the image seamless across the entire display. The blenders optimize the image without sacrificing contrast in favor of black level uniformity.

During transition periods like dusk or dawn, content becomes more difficult to optimize while completely eliminating the overlap zones. This unique challenge is addressed via hybrid blending—a combination of transitional optical blending AND electronic blending. The servo-controlled optical blenders and electronic blends are gradually applied during transitional periods.

Blenders automatically make adjustments to the scene upon receiving time-of-day signals from the simulator. The Northstar system allows for smooth interpolation between scenarios, enabling a seamless and dynamic transition from day to night without interruption.

Features
- Eliminates extraneous light in overlap areas
- Optimizes image for day, dawn, dusk, and night without sacrificing contrast
- Gradual transitions, or immediate change on new scenario load
- Available with hard-edged or progressive blend blades with precision-cut gradient edges for the most demanding requirements
- Content-Awareness feature provides real-time signal analysis and blender adjustment
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