

SELECT A CITY ▾

INTERACTIVE MAP
Dayton Project Watch >

LIMITED TIME OFFER
Subscribe Now

YOUR ACCOUNT
Sign In ▾

INDUSTRIES & TOPICS

🏠 NEWS LISTS & LEADS PEOPLE & COMPANIES EVENTS LEADERSHIP TRUST MORE... 🔍

Please Sign In and use this article's on page print button to print this article.

Education

Kettering tech firm partners with Dayton university to enhance VR training

2 OF 3 ARTICLES REMAINING | To continue [Create a FREE account](#) or Sign in



A global tech firm that oversees its U.S. operations from a Dayton suburb has entered a partnership with one of the region's largest universities.

MICHAEL E. BOYD



By Jacob Fisher – Staff Reporter, Dayton Business Journal
2 hours ago

TRENDING

EDUCATION

These are Greater Dayton's best elementary schools: SLIDESHOW



HEALTH CARE

Exclusive: Ongoing \$60M hospital project could impact local economy



EMPLOYER SHOWCASE

Russell Total Wealth and Wellness – Always Getting Better



SPONSORED LISTING

COMPANIES IN THIS ARTICLE

Virtalis Inc.
Dayton, OH

[See full profile >](#)

Mechdyne Corporation
Marshalltown, IA

[See full profile >](#)

Wright-Patterson Air Force ...
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH
Military

\$4.5B **30,000**
Revenue Employees

[See full profile >](#)

A global tech firm that oversees its U.S. operations from a Dayton suburb has entered a partnership with one of the region's largest universities. The project will further enhance workforce training for the Miami Valley.

Virtalis, a U.K.-based software provider that operates locally in Kettering, has partnered with Wright State University to provide the school with a next-generation virtual reality (VR) system that will enable the university to expand its high-tech workforce training initiatives.

The system – a full-scale, walkable display enclosure – combines two Virtalis products: ActiveCube and Visionary Render VR software. ActiveCube is a multi-sided VR cave with enabled floor projection, which will allow students to visualize complex assemblies that would not be possible in alternative virtual environments.



Dr. Thomas Wischgoll and WSU students stand in a fully-immersive VR display at the university's visual laboratory. The system adapts to the viewer's perspective relative to their physical position, giving the illusion of being inside whatever environment is displayed at a given time.

PROVIDED BY DR. THOMAS WISCHGOLL

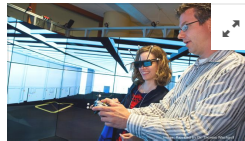
"This technology is the best-priced performance solution available," said [Paul Ewing](#), vice president of North American operations for [Virtalis](#). "In addition, our Visionary Render VR software will be used to support job training and drive future technologies at Wright State."

The system will be housed in the university's Appenzeller Visualization Laboratory, which is operated and supported by the Advanced Visual Data Analysts (AViDA) group at Joshi Research Center.

Launched in 2007, the \$2 million lab enables businesses to outsource VR work without having to buy the technology themselves. Historically, the lab has partnered with several local companies – including [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#) and Tipp City-based [Sloan Gear International, Inc.](#) – to provide design work and display it in a VR environment.

The new equipment should be installed by early 2020 and will be available for student and faculty use. Dr. [Thomas Wischgoll](#), professor of computer science and engineering and director of the AViDA group, said the university is aiming for a January installation date.

The system will replace an older setup supplied by [Barco NV](#), a publicly traded Belgian tech company. Comparatively, [Virtalis's](#) equipment offers advanced tracking capabilities, more screen space and higher-resolution acrylic displays, Wischgoll said.



Dr. Thomas Wischgoll and a WSU student man the controls for a three-walled CAVE-type VR system. The new system will have three walls plus floor projection.

PROVIDED BY DR. THOMAS WISCHGOLL

Wright State purchased the system with grant support from the Ohio Department of Higher Education which covered the investment in full. That funding, a workforce development award totaling nearly \$540,000, is part of the department's Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS) program and was given to Wright State in September 2018.

The university launched a bidding process to select a third-party provider for the new equipment. Virtualis was one of several companies – including Iowa-based MechDyne Corp., among others – that submitted bids for the project.

The new equipment will be important in training students for post-graduation jobs, university officials said, as several local companies rely heavily on VR solutions.

"Essentially, the idea is to use it for more hands-on training," Wischgoll said. "It opes up a lot of opportunities from that perspective."



Dr. Thomas Wischgoll, professor of computer science and engineering at Wright State University and director of the AVIDA group.

PROVIDED BY DR. THOMAS WISCHGOLL

Virtual environments also offer a major training advantage, Wischgoll said: they avoid unsafe exposure to potentially harmful scenarios and present a markedly lower risk of breaking critical equipment.

"The advantage of VR is it's a safe environment," he said. "You can expose people to pretty much anything without putting them at risk."

Students and faculty from the departments of psychology, engineering and nursing are among those who use the existing Barco system, Wischgoll said. Those departments plan to work with the Virtualis system as well.

Based in Manchester, Virtualis is an advanced solutions provider that provides immersive visualizations using VR software and technology. The company oversees its North American operations from its offices in Kettering, a suburb of Dayton.

Wright State University is the third-largest higher education institution in the Dayton region by total enrollment, according to DBJ research. The college serves more than 13,000 students and employs more than 3,000 workers.

T H E L I S T


Largest Dayton-Area Colleges and Universities

Ranked by total enrollment

Rank	Institution	Total Enrollment
1	Sinclair Community College	29,598
2	Miami University	24,054
3	Wright State University	13,742

[View This List](#)


RELATED CONTENT

Dayton tech firm wins \$48M defense contract 



Dayton-area medical tech firm receives \$15M investment



WSU president on her new role: 'It pushes me out of my comfort zone' 



See how cost increases at Ohio's public colleges compare



2 OF 3 ARTICLES REMAINING

To continue

[Create a FREE account](#)

or [Sign in](#)

MORE IN EDUCATION

More >



Edison State's enrollment growing under leader Doreen Larson

BY HANNAH POTURALSKI



Which Dayton-area colleges have the highest default rates? (Slideshow)

BY JACOB FISHER



See how cost increases at Ohio's public colleges compare

BY HAYLEIGH COLOMBO



Local private schools roll out new programming, expansions

BY ELIZABETH KYLE



Sinclair College launches new apprenticeship program

BY JACOB FISHER

THE LIST 21 COMPANIES Dayton-Area Charter Schools Data from the Ohio Department of Education. Information current as ... MORE LISTS 21 COMPANIES



Shares in students: Nifty finance or indentured servitude?

FINANCIAL TIMES



Dayton-area university partners with national federation of unions

BY ELIZABETH KYLE



Kettering Fairmont expansion adding more services for students

Coming events

More >

DEC. 5 2019 December BizMix at The Miami Valley School Join us for a professional approach to business after hours! Make strong connections with business leaders i...

FEB. 24 2020 Bizwomen Mentoring Monday This event will bring women together in a casual, fast-paced coaching atmosphere, offering them the opport...

Back to Top

DAYTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

- Home News Lists & Leads People Companies Events Jobs Store

SUBSCRIBERS

- Start a Subscription Subscriber-Only Content Digital Edition



ABOUT & CONTACT

- About Us About The Business Journals Advertise

APPS & SYNDICATION

- Mobile Apps Syndication/RSS

FOLLOW US



ACBJ

- American City Business Journals AmericanInno Bizwomen

2 OF 3 ARTICLES REMAINING To continue Create a FREE account or Sign in

Book of Lists -
Unlimited

Contact Us

Inside Lacrosse

Manage your Account

Call Center Directory

Sports Business
Journal

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your California Privacy Rights](#) | [Ad Choices](#)

© 2019 American City Business Journals. All rights reserved. Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement (updated 5/24/18) and Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement (updated 5/24/18). The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of American City Business Journals.

2 OF 3 ARTICLES REMAINING

To continue

[Create a FREE account](#)

or [Sign in](#)