

Epson packs features into new Android HMD

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(PhysOrg.com) -- A new head-mounted display from Epson will let you watch your favorite media content while inside the mall and view your car being towed outside the mall window at the same time. Its new Moverio BT-100 HMD is billed as standout of its kind. The Moverio BT-100 has transparent lenses for see-through viewing. That means the owner of a Moverio headset can view media but keep aware of physical surroundings, unlike displays that seal you off from real-world views.

The company thinks that this carries special benefits for travelers, in particular.

The headset is essentially a pair of glasses packed with features that make the transparent viewing possible. You wear a wraparound band of [computer display](#) over your eyes. The special nature of the device is that

you are able to see the [real world](#) as well as the display. For those who wear prescription glasses, the vendors say that the device fits easily over glasses too.

Moverio comes with earbuds, a control unit, detachable [headphones](#), 4GB [SD card](#) and 1GB storage. Moverio's Android 2.2 platform has web browsing capabilities. Battery life is six hours.

Epson in announcing the device is making much of its expertise in imaging technologies and how well the expertise has translated into Moverio.

[House of Japan](#) explains how it works: Two LCD panels are attached to the right and left parts of the frame of the glasses. Images displayed on the LCD panels are magnified by lenses and projected to light guide plates placed in the lens parts of the glasses.

When the shade attached to the front side of the HMD is removed, the transmittance of the parts that display video is about 80 percent. With the shade, the transmittance is lowered to about 10 percent.

“The Moverio BT-100 delivers a perceived image equivalent to that of a 320-inch display viewed from 20 meters away,” according to the company press release. The [display](#) resolution, says the company, ensures that the experience is similar to watching a big-screen projection, even when the user is in confined environments such as planes and trains.

Epson targets the traveler who wants a virtual experience but would prefer not to be impervious to the real world at the same time. The Epson promotional announcement shows a man sitting pensively looking out the airplane window while wearing the device, suggesting the world is not completely cut off when he watches a movie. The device allows

him to see through the projected image so that he is always aware of his surroundings.

Epson's product line ranges from printers and projectors to sensors and other microdevices, and is led by Japan-based Seiko [Epson](#). In Japan, the HMD will be released later this month. Reports on pricing vary, but most expect the price to range from about \$643 to \$650.

More information: [Press release](#)

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