GigaPan systems LLC

Founders: Henry Hillman, Andy Sargent and Ithah Nourbakhsh

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Address: 2210 N. Spier St., Portland, OR 97203

Staff: 25 in Portland and Pittsburg

Product: A client-server system that allows users to create and store panoramic photographs using a robotically mounted system and stitching software.

Startup costs: Exact amount undisclosed. The company contributed $50,000.

Revenue: The company’s three founders are not disclosing revenue figures.

Clients: National Geographic, NASA, Nike, IBM, Sony, and Sports Illustrated.

Funding: The company is using Leann Francis to raise other investments.

Revenue forecast for 2015: The company expects to reach profitability in late 2015.

Mike Frace, a hardware sales manager for GigaPan, operates one of the company’s robotic camera mounts. GigaPan makes the product known as Ralph.

Frace says the company’s technology is perfect for all kinds of applications.

Intricate photos and easy-to-use systems like the one produced by GigaPan.

For Hillman, 61. GigaPan is just the latest venture in a long, winding career that has spanned from Pittsburgh to Portland, and from the worlds of art to robotics. GigaPan is one of dozens he’s been involved with over the past few decades. The fact that he wanted to step down as chief executive wasn’t simmer down critics who say Hillman has used a barrage of money from a wealthy family, or an entire fund. Consider him a Renaissance man.

"I'm not good at doing things, but I'm not the guy to take things to the next level," Hillman says.

Hillman and GigaPan’s principals say they expect to hire a new CEO within the first half of the year.

Hillman remains the company’s majority owner. Nourbakhsh and Sargent own a 10 percent stake in GigaPan, while Carnegie Mellon owns 2 percent. The company has about 30 other investors and advertisers.

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