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Tantalus Turns Twenty

Australian video game developer Tantalus celebrates its twentieth birthday this year, joining a select group of independent game-makers to have reached that milestone. Based in Melbourne, Tantalus was founded in 1994 and has released forty-three titles since first shipping *Stargate* on the Super Nintendo Entertainment System. The company has worked on every major platform since, delivering sixty-two SKUs in total.

CEO and owner Tom Crago is proud of the company's accomplishments. "To make games continuously for twenty years is a hell of an achievement and a credit to the two hundred or so people who have worked with us over the years. Across multiple studio spaces, three cities, in most genres, and on whatever platform made any kind of sense, we have retained our fervent desire to improve and to connect with our audience. Ten of the publishers we've worked with no longer exist, we've done development deals in six currencies across eight countries, and somewhere along the line there we even released a game on N-Gage. There's no doubt we're one of the survivors."

Asked to nominate highlights from the past two decades, Crago credits the studio's adaptability for its capacity to deliver titles as diverse as *Unreal II* (Xbox) and the million-unit-selling *Cars: Race-O-Rama* (DS, PSP). Tantalus also developed all of the handheld games in the *MX vs ATV* series, for combined unit sales in excess of two million. *Top Gear Rally* (GBA) is another title about which Crago speaks fondly. "It was published by Nintendo, which was a huge honour, and went on to win a number of accolades, including an IGN Game of the Year Award. In a lot of respects it was the game that set us up for such a great run in the handheld space." Tantalus has developed a slew of original titles over the years, including *Pony Friends* (DS), sales of which topped one million units, and *Funky Barn* (3DS, Wii U).

In 2010 the company launched its Straight Right label, immediately releasing *Need for Speed: Shift 2 Unleashed* (iOS). With a focus on core games, Straight Right has subsequently shipped *Mass Effect 3: Special Edition* and *Deus Ex: Human Revolution Director's Cut* both on Wii U, ensconcing the company at the top of the Metacritic charts on that platform.

Current Tantalus titles include *Pony Trails* on iOS with more than 3,500,000 unique users. The company is presently working on games for release on PlayStation4, Xbox One, Wii U, PC, iOS and Android.

Contact Information:

For more information about Tantalus, visit www.tantalus.com.au and for Straight Right visit www.straightright.net

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