Catapult Updates Market on Soft Launch of Vector Platform

Catapult Group International (ASX:CAT, “Catapult” or the “Company”) is pleased to provide a progress update on the limited “soft launch” of its next-generation wearable technology, Vector.

The Vector soft launch commenced in May 2019 to a small number of Australian teams. Pleasingly, positive feedback from these initial clients has encouraged Catapult to now expand the soft launch to the first UK and US installations.

With five years of research and development, Vector is Catapult’s most significant wearable product release to date. Vector is the company’s first wearable device that, using Catapult’s proprietary ClearSky technology, moves seamlessly between indoors and outdoors to combine data obtained from both Global Positioning System (GPS) and Local Positioning System (LPS) technology in one single session.

NRL team Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles were amongst those selected to participate in the soft launch. Head Coach Des Hasler said:

“Vector allows the greatest degree of versatility yet seen in a device. By combining LPS and GPS into one, the user can interchange between stadium systems, traditional satellite connections, GPS turbo or even run a session via bluetooth directly on their mobile phone. This allows flexibility never before seen in training. The tech offers a greater degree of accelerometer accuracy for short sharp high intensity efforts via LPS technology and enhanced live data feeds for GPS turbo systems.

“The associated OpenField software delivers a more advanced level of analytics, with specialised live feeds and reporting formats not previously available. Its improved functionality even allows the user to develop their own key metrics (via combinations of other metrics) tailored specifically to team requirements.

“In short Catapult’s new Vector unit is a game changer.”

NRL team Canberra Raiders also participated in the soft launch and Tom Christian, Sports Scientist at the Raiders, said:

“Vector combines the technology of both GPS and LPS onboard the unit, allowing us to quantify athlete data in all environments with greater confidence than ever before. Vector has revolutionised the way data can be trusted and acted on in a high-performance sports club.”

Vector is significant for outdoor sports that periodically play under closed roofs or in challenging stadium environments, including Australian rules football and rugby. It also benefits American football teams that spend significant amounts of time in both their indoor and outdoor facilities. Once installed in a stadium, leagues and media outlets can also deliver live fan engagement applications using the same platform.

The device is 20% smaller than the Company’s existing OptimEye device, with five-times the processing power, and is fully compliant with all FIFA and World Rugby standards.

Commenting on the soft launch, Catapult Executive Chairman Dr. Adir Shiffman said:

“We are very pleased with the response from our soft launch teams. Our new smartphone and Apple Watch apps have been particularly well received, eliminating the need for a live receiver and laptop to make data more accessible than ever before.”

In addition to the team benefits, Vector’s mobile apps are proving popular with individual athletes seeking to view their own data, in real time and on their smartphones, during a rehabilitation session or within a small group.
James McBrien, Sports Science Analyst from the Newcastle Knights (NRL), another soft launch client, said that the new mobile insights will become an essential must-have when managing injured athletes.

"Catapult Vector has dramatically improved the live experience of tracking athletes. The new Bluetooth mobile application and wireless connectivity to multiple coach apps has enabled quicker and more effective reporting to players whilst training."

Vector will add to Catapult’s existing wearable technology solutions by introducing a new, ultra-premium level of performance monitoring for teams seeking more advanced analysis capabilities.

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