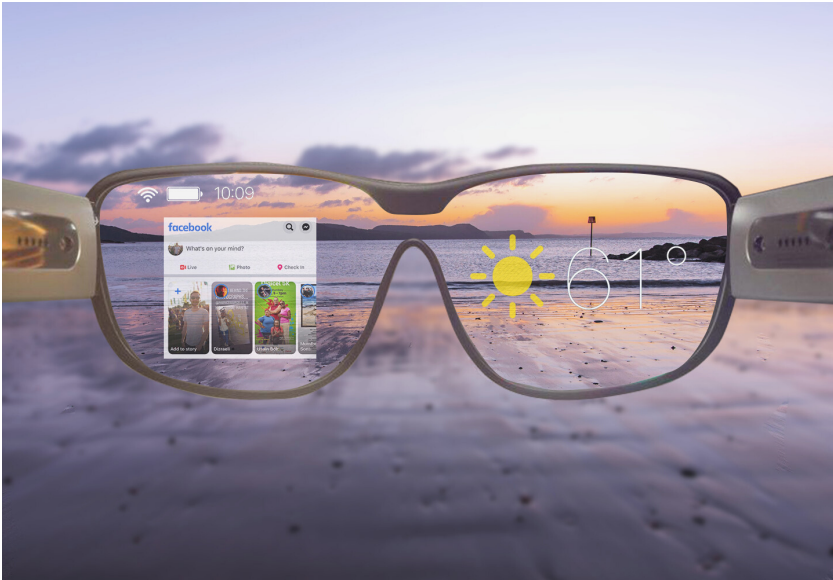


THE TECHNO GRIND

A Monthly Publication by QUEPPELIN



NEWS, IDEAS, AND INSIGHTS

- 1 Niantic is working on AR glasses.
- 2 Facebook working on AR Glasses.
- 3 Mira announces additional \$10million funding.

POKÉMON GO CREATOR NIANTIC IS WORKING ON AR GLASSES WITH QUALCOMM

It's building on the new XR2 platform for VR / AR

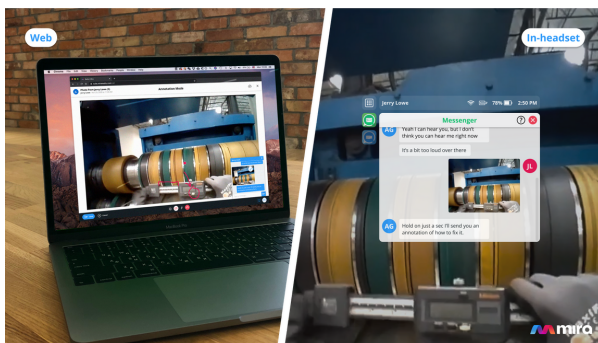
Qualcomm just announced a new virtual and augmented reality platform, and it's working with Niantic – the company behind games like Ingress and Pokémon Go – on a smart glasses reference design. The Qualcomm Snapdragon XR2 platform is a follow-up to the earlier XR1 platform, and, like its predecessor, it's specifically designed for AR and VR hardware. But it now supports 5G connectivity as well as voice-based interaction, eye tracking, and passthrough camera capabilities, among other features.



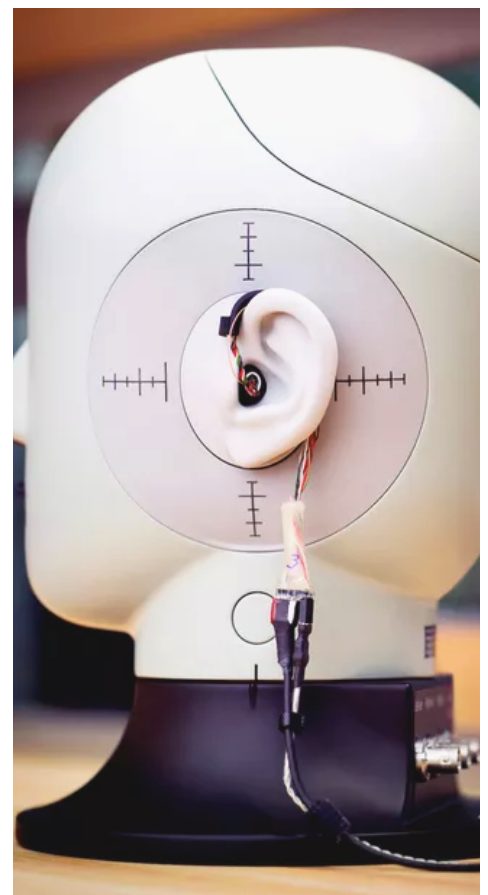
FACEBOOK WANTS ITS AR GLASSES TO GIVE WEARERS SUPERHEARING

It could improve VR headset audio, too

A new Facebook experiment shows how sound could play a major role in augmented reality. Chief scientist Michael Abrash and his team at FRL Research (formerly Facebook Reality Labs) released details today about what the team calls “perceptual superpowers” – AR systems that figure out what you’re trying to hear, then amplify it and dampen background noise. Combined with spatial audio features, the device creates the aural equivalent of a hologram overlay in a pair of glasses. Facebook has pursued high-quality virtual sound for years, largely through its Oculus virtual reality headsets. FRL Research’s latest work focuses on AR applications. To give one example, “imagine being able to hold a conversation in a crowded restaurant or bar without having to raise your voice to be heard or straining to understand what others are saying,” the company explains.



Augmented reality startup
Mira announces \$10M
more in funding from
Sequoia and others



Mira now tells TechCrunch that they’ve raised about \$10 million worth of funding over a few top-ups, which the team is collectively deeming as a seed extension round. Sequoia and SF-based Happiness Ventures led these financings, of which the startup did not break out the specific terms. The team has now raised just under \$13 million to date. Mira has used this cash to refocus its business and refine its hardware. By late-2018, the founders had decided to move their focus solely toward industrial rollouts of their headset. “As we looked across the consumer landscape, as we looked across the industrial landscape, as we looked across government, it became very clear that where that value-driven use case is ripe today is much more in the industrial landscape,” Mira co-founder and COO Matt Stern told TechCrunch in an interview.