Intel Buys Machine Vision Specialist Movidius

Written by Marco Attard
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Intel invests in improving the way computers see the world as it acquires Movidius, a machine vision specialist whose technology is found in products from the likes of DJI, Lenovo and Google.

The financial details of the deal are not available.

One might recall Chipzilla already has an interest in machine vision, having developed the RealSense depth-sensing camera system. As such, Movidius technology will surely be integrated with the Intel offering, not to mention other recent Chipzilla acquisitions in the field such as machine-learning startup Nervana systems.

"The ability to track, navigate, map and recognise both scenes and objects using Movidius' low power and high performance (chips) opens up opportunities in areas where heat, battery life and form factors are key," Intel says. "Specifically, we will look to deploy the technology across our efforts in augmented, virtual and merged reality, drones, robotics, digital security cameras and beyond."

Founded 8 years ago, Movidius develops the "Visual Processing Unit" (VPU), a low-power, high-performance chip acting as the "visual cortex" in machines with a need to track, navigate and recognise the world. The system is supported by other technologies, including machine intelligence algorithms and an associated software development kit.

The latest Movidius VPU, the Myriad 2, can simultaneously process multiple video streams, and is found inside the DJI Phantom 4 drone and a next generation Lenovo virtual reality products.

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