Farshad “Shadi” Sharokhi is a visionary when it comes to integrating motion technology and architecture. With the unique ability to blend robust, industrial capability and aesthetic design, Trak-kit is a modern approach to entertainment and telepresence with the SmartMotor™ at the heart of the movement...literally.

**Applications** for Trak-kit range from residential to commercial, and in any industry utilizing flat panel displays. The robotic, automated Trak-kit is getting particularly popular in conference rooms that hold in-person meetings, virtual conference meetings, and a combination of both. Using programs written into the SmartMotor, paintings with flat panel monitors mounted on the back can move along the track in a board room and rotate, positioned over a chair, so that the digital display faces the conference table...or any direction desired. One multinational pharmaceutical client wanted a state-of-the-art telepresence system for their 17ft long board of director’s conference table, requesting that panels of the wall weighing over 600 lbs. move to reveal two 65” Panasonic Pro monitors that came forward and rotated 180 degrees along a 42 in track. The panels then moved back into their original position flush with the rest of the wall with only 3/8” clearance between the mobile wall panels and solid wall. When faced with high-end automation demands, Trak-kit trusts the SmartMotor.

“With these applications, we couldn’t afford to play around with something unreliable. We also needed a servo motor that simply sent DC voltage with minimal cabling, because too many cables lead to artifacts in the video signal,” said Shadi. “The idea that all those components sit inside...
the SmartMotor was also a key factor in the buying decision. All the code stored in the motor’s internal memory meant that if there was a power loss, all of our programming wasn’t lost with it."

Trak-kit has been able to accomplish almost any custom track and movement required, including the ability to move around corners, zig-zag through rooms and stop at optimal viewing positions for each location. They even have apps that allow the iPhone or iPad to function as a remote control for the whole system. All two-way communications happen within the SmartMotor, allowing the apps to send simple ASCII code to operate. Trak-kit looked at other integrated motors for their design, but ultimately chose SmartMotor for its capabilities and simplicity. “We could have bought other motors and saved a little money at the very beginning, but the amount of time we saved integrating and programming the SmartMotor to work with our custom tracks was well worth it. In the end, the cheaper motor doesn’t really pay off when you factor in the time.”

Just because Trak-kit has mastered the mobile flat screen doesn’t mean they’ve stopped innovating. As video calling gets increasingly popular for the masses (thanks to programs like Skype or the iPhone’s FaceTime), bandwidth and compression get better and high def video calls will become the norm. Why not video chat using a monitor that makes your pal life size, one that can alternate between portrait and landscape, and has a built-in camera controlled by the call-ee? Best of all, you can continue your call as you move from living room to kitchen, no longer glued to a desk or power outlet. This is the future of telepresence, envisioned by Trak-kit.

Currently, Trak-kit is also looking at the electric signage industry (such as digital billboards) to combine mobility, aesthetics and technology. Things that move get more attention and with the flexibility of digital display advertising, Trak-kit envisions using SmartMotors, autopilot programs and motion/heat sensors for maximum exposure of digital advertising. With the help of the SmartMotor, Trak-kit is helping the industry move forward, in the truest sense of the words.

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