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Digital Domain job fair draws thousands to Port St. Lucie

Story and photo by Eric Hasert

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PORT ST. LUCIE — Thousands of job seekers from across the state descended upon Port St. Lucie on Saturday for the chance at breaking into the digital media industry with a major player, Digital Domain Holdings Corp.

Digital Domain, along with Workforce Solutions, brought their staffs together for a Tech Job Fair, looking to find applicants from artists to web designers for their upcoming 130,000-square-foot production studio planned for Port St. Lucie by December 2011.

“It’s nice. It’s an opportunity that I just had to jump to. This doesn’t come around every day, especially Port St. Lucie,” Bryan Coles said.

Coles, a 21-year-old sketch artist from Port St. Lucie joined the continuous line of applicants stretched across the parking lot in a ‘U,’ waiting hours for an interview during the four-hour fair at Digital Domain Park.

Workforce Solutions officials estimated more 2,200 people armed with resumes, portfolios, laptop computers and a hunger for work were seen and interviewed for such positions as production management, production support, digital artists, technology support, system engineering and software engineering.

Staff members at Digital Domain Park were out handing out free water bottles for the applicants as the morning progressed.

“We thought it was a huge success,” said Tom McNicholas, event coordinator and spokesman for Digital Domain Holdings. “We got to see a lot of local talent, people who are into visual arts and special effects. We’re extremely happy.”

While technically skills help, applicants didn’t need to have a college degree or related experience, just talent, he said.

“Everyone went away with something today,” McNicholas added.

While many of the applicants will not currently qualify for a position with Digital Domain, every person who was seen during the Tech Job Fair will be contacted by Workforce Solutions for possible opportunities in other companies.

“It’s humbling, as happy as I am about the jobs we’re giving, I’m gravely concerned about the jobs we can’t give, said John Textor, chairman and CEO of Digital Domain Holdings. “There are a lot of people here that need work. We need a lot more companies doing this.”



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