**Animal Logic Advances Open Source Learning   
with Release of USD ALab**

**Sydney, Australia, 6 August** - Animal Logic's Group Chief Technology Officer, Darin Grant, today announced the open source release of *USD ALab,* a fully realised USD Scene that aims to encourage further collaboration and exploration by the wider community.

As an early adopter of Pixar’s Universal Scene Description (USD), Animal Logic began transitioning their Sydney and Vancouver studios to an end-to-end USD based pipeline during production on *Peter Rabbit* in 2017 and completing with *Peter Rabbit 2* in March of 2020.

As was evidenced with their 2017 open source project [AL\_USDMaya](https://animallogic.com/animal-logic/news/usdmaya-plugin-open-source/), Animal Logic continues to be motivated to promote broader USD adoption through the release of *USD ALab* to serve as a reference for many [USD Concepts.](https://graphics.pixar.com/usd/docs/USD-Glossary.html) “We believe USD to be a foundational technology for our industry and broader communities, and we encourage the release of open source assets to educate and inspire others to conduct their own exploration,” said Grant.

While open source data sets currently exist, *USD ALab* is the first real-world implementation of a complete USD production scene. It is a full scene description from global assets through to shot outputs, including referencing, point instancing, assemblies, technical variants, global assets and shot based overrides.

“There are two downloads available, including guiding documents and two sets of textures,” explains Supervising Assets TD, Jens Jebens. “The first download contains the *ALab* scene assets themselves, derived from our production assets and conformed for compatibility to allow them to load in any tool which supports USD. The second download is an optional extra, a “production rendering Texture Pack,” which delivers 4K OpenEXR textures with udims for production style rendering.”

“In addition to the USD assets, we’ve included documentation that showcases some new ideas and concepts from our experience using USD, including the idea of render procedural definitions, an extremely useful concept that we have not seen in USD to date.” explains Grant. “We hope that this combination provides the starting point for future contributors to showcase their own ideas for discussion, promotion, and hopeful adoption.”

“The *ALab* concept was born from Animal Logic’s Art Department,” notes Head of Production Technology, Aidan Sarsfield. “The brief was for something “Uniquely Animal” and the team came up with a great story that revolves around a secret backyard shed, inhabited by a mad scientist of sorts. The resulting asset suite draws on the unique aesthetic that you’ll find in our studios, and there’s also some fun easter eggs in there that link back to 30 years of Animal Logic’s branding.”

*USD ALab* is also the first asset set to adopt the [Academy Software Foundation’s asset license.](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/AcademySoftwareFoundation/foundation/master/digital_assets/aswf_digital_assets_license_v1.0.txt)  Animal Logic wanted to allow for the broadest use of these assets to promote education, training, and demonstration by students, studios, and vendors. “Initially motivated by our own desire to create unencumbered assets for demonstration and presentation purposes, we realised that the industry at-large could use something similar and pushed to release them,” explains Sarsfield. “I’m excited to see how *ALab* develops in the community, particularly as we will be extending the data set over time.”

The *USD ALab* data set is hosted on Animal Logic’s website courtesy of Amazon Web Services and is now available to access via <http://animallogic.com/usd-alab>.

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**For media enquiries, please contact**Tessa Crozier, Communications and Publicity Supervisor  
tessa.crozier@al.com.au

Animal Logic is recognised as one of the world’s leading independent creative digital studios, producing award winning design, visual effects and animation for 30 years. With creative studios in Sydney and Vancouver and offices for the company’s development arm, Animal Logic Entertainment, in Sydney and Los Angeles, Animal Logic continues to forge new partnerships and collaborations with leading studios and filmmakers to develop and produce stories that resonate with a global audience.