



For Immediate Release

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MegaTree Auctions Unreleased 'Manic Miner' Game for Charity Fundraising

Original development disks of the 1980's most famous "lost game" to be sold in 20th anniversary year

London, United Kingdom — 31 March 2004 — MegaTree Limited announces that it will auction the original development disks of 1984's unreleased and incomplete 'Mega-tree' game to coincide with the launch of it's new massively multi-player mobile phone game 'Gangsta'. The auction proceeds will be donated to Cancer Research UK.

Popularly known as 'Miner Willy Meets The Taxman' in the games press at the time, the production title of the product was going to be 'Mega-tree'; it was the third in a trilogy of games following 'Manic Miner' and 'Jet Set Willy'. These were extremely successful and popular games by Matthew Smith, and published by the now defunct Software Projects Ltd.

Matthew Smith refers to 'Mega-tree' as "Sequelia Abortis"; Software Project's management cancelled the project after three months of development. 'Mega-tree' was a departure from the first two games; it was a team effort where Stuart Fotheringham and Marc Dawson joined Matthew Smith as the game's development team.

Furthermore, 'Mega-tree' was developed on Commodore 64 format and was planned to be converted to Sinclair Spectrum, the native format of the first two titles, by a third-party developer. Stuart Fotheringham comments "The strategy was to take Matthew Smith's commercially successful games to a wider audience, specifically American."

Stuart Fotheringham has recently uncovered backups of some of the development floppy disks, 5.25 inch and in Commodore 64 format. These floppy disks have the game logo on their labels plus descriptions like 'drawings', 'sprites' and 'game routines'. Photos of the discs and their descriptive labels, and some comments about the disks contents are available on the MegaTree Limited website.

<http://www.megatree.com/>

Stuart Fotheringham commented: "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for retro gaming fans to purchase a piece of gaming history. I have no idea what is on these discs, or even if they work after twenty years in storage, so it's a bit of a lottery; but a good way to raise some money for charity nonetheless."

The 'Mega-tree' development 5.25 inch disks will be auctioned on eBay.co.uk, auction start date of 12pm Monday 19 April 2004 under name "Mega-tree development disks" in the "Home > All Categories > PC & Video Gaming > Vintage Platforms" section.

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About 'Gangsta' – www.gangstagame.com

'Gangsta' is a multi-player game played via SMS (text messaging). 'Gangsta' is played by sending simple English language commands to the short-code 60033 and receiving written replies explaining the results of the actions. The game is started by sending the word **game** to **60033**. *Note to Editors:* 'Gangsta' can be played for free for review purposes, use contact details below.

About MegaTree Ltd – www.megatree.com

MegaTree Limited was formed in 2003 to develop games and provide marketing solutions focused on mobile telephony. Dedicated to providing high quality gaming content and original marketing concepts, MegaTree seeks to maximise the fun potential of mobile phones.

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