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Ocean Park's Lava Drifting Delivers World's Firsts, Redefining What a Spinning Rapids Ride Can Be!

Vancouver, Canada, June 11th, 2019 – With the opening of *Lava Drifting*, WhiteWater's newest recording-breaking installation of the Spinning Rapids Fusion water ride at Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park, and the release of two more Spinning Rapids Rides in Wanda Guangzhou and Wanda Wuxi, just around the corner, this seems to be the year of the Spinning Rapids Ride, at least in China.

3 firsts in one ride

Opened in May 2019, *Lava Drifting* stands out for not just being the longest spinning rapids ride in the world, but also the world's first spinning rapids ride with actual rapid rivers. Included from the very first park concept created by Legacy back in 2013, this water ride depicts a volcano theme while combining the spins and twists of an exhilarating river rapids journey that culminates with the oscillating movements and steep drop from the wings of a Manta.

Approximately 1 kilometre long, the ride stands out for differentiating the classic Spinning Rapids Ride experience by including conveyor lifts, actual rapid rivers, tunnels, multiple drops, and the concluding giant Manta feature. Flowing through the park and around other attractions with elevated river channels that lead into and out of the ride flume, the ride is spread across different elevation points, coming to the exciting finale with a steep drop into the Manta and oscillating exit.

A crowd-pleasing 11 minutes journey over a kilometer of immersive river rapids

Commenting on this new take on spinning rapids rides, Nathan Jones, President, Park Attractions at WhiteWater said, "It's the first water ride ever to combine elements from the spinning rapids ride, a traditional rapids ride, and new iconic water slide elements. I believe that this is not only the longest spinning rapids ride in the world, but the longest of any rapids rides yet."

Legacy Entertainment's experience designer Bob Baranick developed the preliminary layout for the ride, which remained largely unchanged in the final product. Speaking about Legacy's collaboration with WhiteWater, Taylor Jeffs, Legacy's President & Chief Creative Officer exclaimed, "I have been a huge fan of this ride system since first riding L'oxygénarium at Parc Astérix in 2002, so it is a great pleasure to collaborate with WhiteWater on the most ambitious incarnation of this type of water ride ever conceived."

"Legacy always puts a great deal of value on the integration of attractions into their environments, and as such the ride path has been carefully woven through the Rainbow Falls section of the park, including

a climax in the park's iconic volcano. This symbiotic relationship is instrumental in activating the land," added Taylor.

An engineering marvel

From an engineering perspective, the Spinning Rapids Ride in Haichang is a technical showcase. This ride needed a control system to manage the world's longest ride path with precision, safety and accuracy. Delivering on all expectations, this controls system integrates multi-zone control, advanced vehicle tracking and state of the art safety elements; and as you would expect the system works, flawlessly.

The ride's control system has been developed by Cogito Automation. The lead TÜV Functional Safety Engineer at Cogito Automation, Joseph Farnsworth exclaimed, "a world class water ride requires a world class control system".

Making of the world's longest spinning rapids ride

From conception to opening the ride to the public, the project saw collaboration between a large number of people and resources to bring this dream of a Spinning Rapids Fusion alive. Whether it was fitting the ride path into the highly detailed layout of the park, adding a Manta feature to a spinning rapids ride, deploying real river rapids or installing a radically different conveyor system (Van Stone) and rafts, this project had many elements that needed field research and testing, since they were a first-of-their-kind. But with the seamless collaboration of people across different teams within WhiteWater and outside, we were able to execute this right. The project saw a team of 40 people at WhiteWater across various functions ranging from product development, engineering, design and slide path seamlessly collaborate with the client, the Legacy Entertainment team that did the park layout, Cogito Automation who worked on the control system and Van Stone who provided the conveyor system.

Paul Chutter, Chief Business Development Officer, WhiteWater sums up how proud the team is of this epic ride. "In many ways this ride represents the best of industry collaborations to deliver on the client's ambitious visions. Working to realise Legacy's concept and bringing in additional skill sets to compliment our engineering and manufacturing, we've created a ride which delivers in every way. Guests enjoy the longest rapids journey in the world which concludes with a first ever Manta as part of a 'dry' ride and Haichang Ocean Park get a feat of engineering talents meeting WhiteWater's high safety and reliability standards.

About WhiteWater

WhiteWater was born in 1980 with one clear purpose, to create places where families unite and make joyful lasting memories.

We achieve this by standing alongside our customers from concept to completion of award-winning attractions, from slides to water rides and everything in between. We aim to inspire our clients by unleashing our creativity to realize their ambitions; we craft solutions which make each park unique. We are dedicated to making products that operators can count on, because we understand the importance of reliability and efficiency on the bottom line.

As market leaders, we put our success down to our attitude, in all our years we've never once forgotten why we're here – to help parks solve problems, create immersive experiences, and delight guests all over the world.

We're here to create places where fun can thrive.

About Legacy Entertainment

Originally launched in 2002, the Hollywood, California-based Legacy Entertainment today stands as one of the most successful, independent, entertainment design firms in the global industry today. The company has developed, designed and produced over 40 successful projects worldwide, spanning mediums that include Theme Parks, Hotels/Resorts, Casinos, and Aquariums. Their most recent opening is the \$700 million-dollar Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park in China.