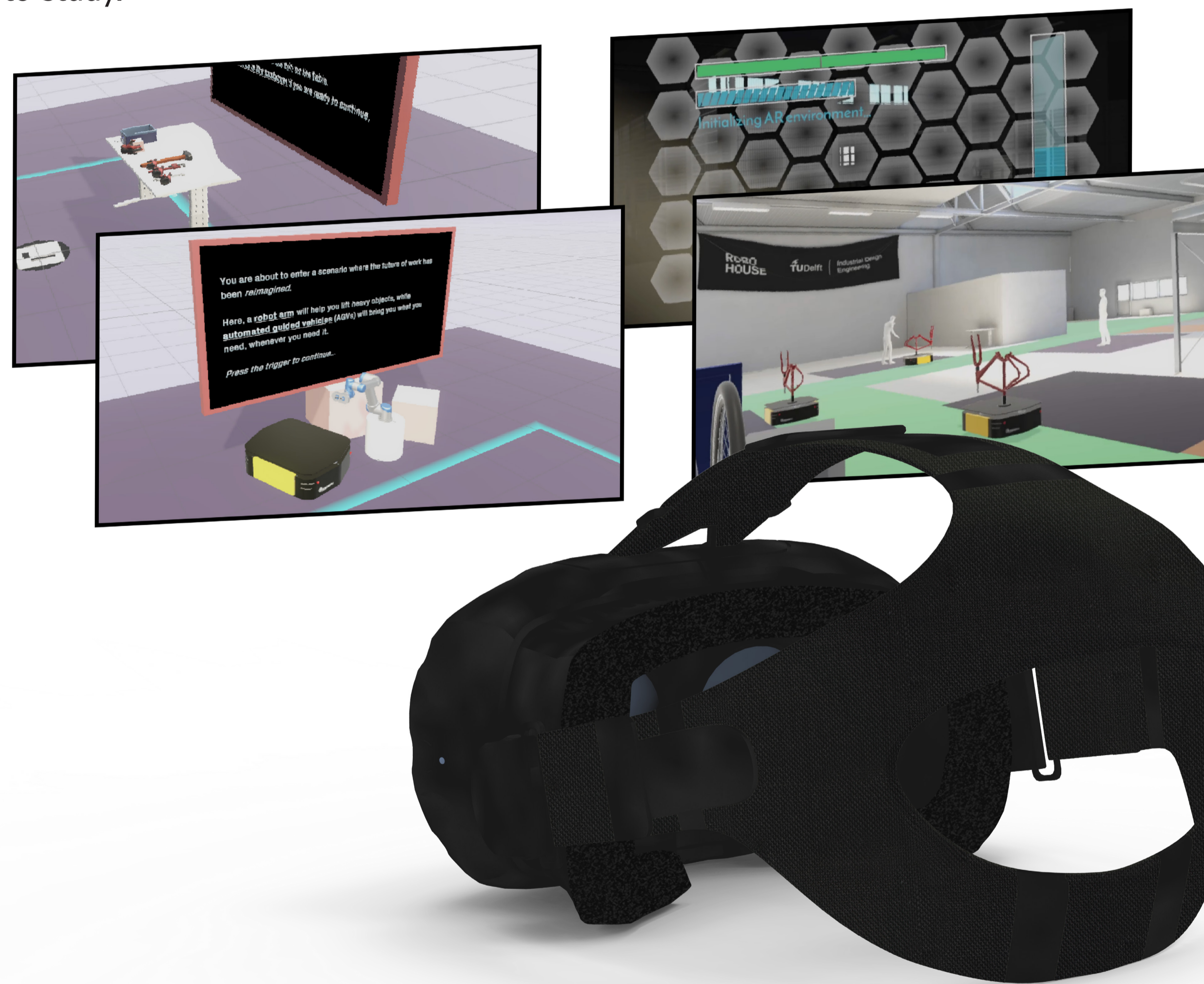


# The power of a human-centered VR experience of the future of work

Futures is a topic that is inherently fuzzy, as not only is the topic abstract and broad, everything beyond this moment can potentially happen also. The uncertainty that is related to futures makes it not only difficult to imagine and convey, but also challenging to study.

This research design project was focused on improving usability and validating the experience as a tool for foresight. For this, a tutorial has been (re)developed; refined and reiterated through iterations, in order to ease players into virtual reality more comfortably. In the (re)developed tutorial, basic interaction controls are explained interactively and in detail. Furthermore, the context of play is set so the scenario storyline can be conveyed more effectively.



## Foresight

Studies have indicated that usability is the bottleneck for immersion to take place. By setting the context and explaining the basic user controls in the tutorial, the VR experience was able to convey the future of work scenario satisfyingly. Futures are hard to imagine and often difficult to study and convey cohesively and consistently. The immersive potential of VR is able to bridge these difficulties while also adding a subjective component to what otherwise would've been more objective (experiencing the future as opposed to viewing the future).

## Futures

As the VR experience is able to immerse the players into the future, it becomes more feasible to be used in other kinds of (futures) studies well. For instance, through virtual prototyping, a significant number of resources used (related to physical prototyping, like materials), can be reduced. Furthermore, virtual representations can help support researchers in exploring potential risky situations and (human-robot) interactions. Additionally, ergonomic considerations, like vulnerabilities or fittings, can be uncovered and taken into account more easily.

Virtual reality's immersive potential proves to be a valuable addition for (futures) studies, making it a powerful tool in order to **design for our future.**