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LTO TECHNOLOGY MARKS ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE AS THE PROGRAM'S COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION ENTITY OPENS FOR INTERCHANGE TESTING

SILICON VALLEY, CALIF. — (February 7, 2000) — Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM Corporation and Seagate Technology, Inc., technology provider companies for Linear Tape-Open technology (referred to as LTO technology), today announced that the program's compliance verification entity (CVE) is ready to begin testing Ultrium tape cartridge products. This latest milestone signals that the Ultrium format continues its development towards the introduction of compliance verified products in the marketplace.

The LTO program format verification process is believed to be the industry's first independently administered and executed process for tape storage devices. It is designed to verify that Ultrium-based drives and cartridges from different vendors conform to common specifications to maximize the likelihood of interchangeability. All tests will be performed by Measurement Analysis Corp. (MAC), Torrance, Calif. The company was named as the LTO program's independent testing facility in May 1999.

"LTO customers will store, protect and restore their valuable data using Ultrium format data cartridges, and it is vital that cartridge interchange on drives made by various LTO licensees works consistently," said Kevin Perry, executive director of marketing and business development for Seagate Removable Storage Solutions. "This is why we have selected an independent, third-party testing lab to verify that cartridge interchange specifications are met on all products prior to bearing the compliance verification trademarks. This verification process is unique to the LTO program. The verification trademarks will promote consumer confidence that LTO-marked products from various manufacturers have been tested for cartridge interchange."

A major benefit of the testing process is that licensees will be allowed to use LTO program trademarks after initial and subsequent annual passing of compliance verification tests. Products that do not carry these marks may not have been compliance verified, and as a result, may carry significant interchange risks. Buyers seeking true LTO program format-compliant products should look for the Accelis or Ultrium compliance verification marks on drives and cartridges.

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About Linear Tape-Open (LTO) Technology

LTO technology, a powerful, open tape architecture, is setting the stage for a new generation of tape storage products that are expected to surpass current tape capacity and performance benchmarks, while maintaining the highest data integrity. It combines the advantages of linear multi-channel, bi-directional formats with enhancements in servo technology, data compression, track layout and error correction code to maximize capacity, performance and reliability.

The Ultrium format is one of two formats based on LTO technology. It uses a single-reel media with capacities of up to 100GB native and data-transfer rates of up to 20MB/s native and 40MB/s compressed (assuming a 2:1 compression ratio).

The Accelis format is a fast-access, dual-reel implementation that is designed to offer data retrieval in less than 10 seconds. Both formats have an identified four-generation roadmap for future capacity and performance enhancements.

While the LTO program gives licensees wide latitude in implementing mechanical and electrical designs, strict adherence is required to format specifications impacting the ability to read and write Accelis or Ultrium cartridges. Independent compliance verification is vital to meet the free-interchange objectives that are at the core of the LTO program.

Ultrium and Accelis tape mechanism and tape cartridge interchange specifications are available on a licensee basis. For licensing information, contact the Law Offices of Ladas & Parry at (323) 934-2300 or by e-mail at mailto:LTO_INFO@ladasparry.com. For additional information on LTO technology, visit the LTO Web site at <http://www.lto-technology.com/>.

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Note: Linear Tape-Open, LTO, Accelis and Ultrium are U.S. trademarks of HP, IBM and Seagate.