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**LTO PROGRAM RECORDS SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT
AS FIRST ULTRIUM™ FORMAT TAPE DRIVES ARE READIED FOR MARKET**

HP, IBM and Seagate Pass Rigorous Compliance Verification Testing

SILICON VALLEY, CALIF. — (September 6, 2000) — Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM Corporation and Seagate Technology, Inc., technology provider companies (TPCs) for Linear Tape-Open technology (referred to as LTO technology), today announced that they have successfully completed the independent Ultrium™ compliance verification testing process for their respective tape mechanisms. The three companies are the first mechanism licensees to earn the right to use the Ultrium format compliance trademark on their tape drives. This announcement follows the recent news that Fuji Photo Film and Maxell's Ultrium format media also have passed the testing process.

"The compliance verification testing process, which requires stringent data interchange testing, was put into place to promote consumer confidence in the assured data integrity and interchangeability provided by Ultrium format trademarked products from various manufacturers," said Jack Trautman, general manager of HP's Data Protection Organization. "Participating in the LTO program shows the TPCs commitment to providing end-users with greater choice and flexibility."

The LTO program format verification process is the industry's first test process of this kind for tape storage devices. A major benefit of the testing process is that licensees will only be allowed to use Ultrium format trademarks after initial and subsequent annual compliance verification tests. Buyers seeking true Ultrium format-compliant products should look for the Ultrium format compliance verification marks on both drives and cartridges manufactured by Ultrium format licensees. Products that carry these marks have been compliance verified.

"This accomplishment represents a new phase of the LTO program that will include the market introduction of Ultrium format-compliant drives from multiple manufacturers — including HP, IBM and Seagate," said David Walling, director, LTO Business Line, Storage Technology Division, IBM. "Passage of compliance verification testing ensures that these products will adhere to the Ultrium format specifications, leading to a truly competitive tape market where proprietary formats aren't the only choice for end-users. By validating adherence to the Ultrium format specification, the highest level of data interchange is enabled."

Unique to the LTO program, the compliance verification process shows the commitment to promoting verified cartridge interchange between drives and media manufactured by various LTO technology licensees.

“Ultimately, it will be end-users who benefit the most from the testing process and the LTO program’s open-format approach,” said Larry McMannon, general manager of Seagate Removable Storage Solutions. “They will have more latitude in choosing the product that fits their exact needs as opposed to the best available offering – lowering the overall risk of adoption among the user base.”

“The capacity, performance, and reliability demands from emerging applications such as e-commerce and digital video are producing a sea of change in the tape market,” said Bob Abraham, president of Freeman Reports. “The confluence of high-capacity/performance/reliability tape drives such as LTO, tape automation, and storage area networks will enable the tape industry to meet those demands.”

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 is 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. Licensing information is available by contacting the Law Offices of Ladas & Parry at (323) 934-2300 or by e-mail at LTO_INFO@ladasparry.com. More information on LTO technology is available on the LTO Web site at 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.