

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Linear Tape-Open Program Launches Storage Industry's
First Independently Administered Format Verification Process**

*Law Firm of Ladas and Parry to Manage Process,
Measurement Analysis Corporation Selected as Test Entity*

NETWORLD+INTEROP, LAS VEGAS, May 11, 1999 — The Linear Tape-Open (LTO)

program reached a major milestone today with the launch of its compliance verification process announced by LTO technology provider companies, Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM and Seagate. The LTO format verification process is believed to be the industry's first independently administered and executed process. It is designed to test LTO-based products so that data can be read on similar tape formats from different manufacturers.

“At the core of the LTO program initiative is the recognition that a unique level of cross-vendor interchange across similar-format drives and cartridges is required to create a competitive open market,” said Jim Browning, Ultrium research and development manager, Hewlett-Packard Company.

“The process allows customers to select LTO technology products based on price, product features and vendor relationships, with the knowledge that these leading-edge products have been tested for compliance with format specifications,” said Barry Rudolph, business line manager, Removable Media Storage Systems, IBM Storage Systems Division.

-more-

Measurement Analysis Corp. (MAC) of Torrance, Calif. will perform all the technical testing and analysis. MAC was selected after a thorough search. It is richly qualified for this role through its long and in-depth experience in tape testing.

“The objective of the compliance tests is to verify that the technical parameters of the LTO program formats are met. Rigid adherence to the LTO program format specifications, by both cartridge and drive manufacturers, is the most critical factor in establishing tape format interchangeability,” said Michael Lamers, president, Measurement Analysis Corp.

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

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

To remain consistent with the spirit of the LTO program initiative, compliance verification is based on a process that is equitable to all licensees, and protects the private intellectual property of all LTO program licensees. By administering and executing this process through independent agencies, the LTO program is designed such that compliance verification testing results flow back only to the licensee requesting the testing.

Contact information: http://www.lto.org/newsroom/tool_directory.html