For Immediate Release
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LINEAR TAPE-OPEN PROGRAM ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF THE FIRST 'UNIVERSAL' DRIVE CLEANING CARTRIDGE FOR THE ULTRIUM FORMAT
Manufacturers and End Users Reap Benefits of Increased Efficiencies and Cost Savings

SILICON VALLEY, CALIF. — (February 25, 2002) — Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM Corporation and Seagate Removable Storage Solutions LLC, technology provider companies for Linear Tape-Open (LTO) technology, today announced the availability of the first cleaning cartridge that is able to work with Ultrium format tape drives available from compliance-verified Ultrium tape drive manufacturers.

The Ultrium universal cleaning cartridge enables end users to purchase and use only a single cleaning cartridge for all their tape drives, regardless of the manufacturer, rather than spending the additional time and money involved in supporting several different cleaning cartridges.

The universal cleaning cartridges are intended for use in all Generation 1 Ultrium format tape drives. The LTO Program will provide a support channel to the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) so end users who have previously purchased Ultrium tape drives can upgrade the firmware easily to accommodate the universal cleaning cartridge. End users will have the option of downloading the upgrade from the Internet or having the Ultrium upgrade tape shipped directly to them.

"HP, IBM and Seagate have shared their strategies and formulas to create a highly efficient, advanced and cost-effective cleaning cartridge," said Neville Pawsey, general manager of HP Networked Storage Solutions in Bristol, England. "The creation of the Ultrium universal cleaning cartridge is another milestone of the LTO Program's dedication to an open standard in tape technology and providing multiple sources for the end user."

All manufacturers of the Ultrium universal cleaning cartridge will be required to meet specific compliance verification standards set forth by the LTO Program.

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 LTO Ultrium format storage solution is a single-reel, high-performance tape cartridge ideal for backing up, restoring, and archiving applications. As the next market-leading tape technology for ultra-high capacity storage, the LTO Ultrium format is the only tape storage technology with a well-defined four-generation roadmap for growth and scalability, and it offers significant data integrity improvements over current tape storage formats.

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 Ultrium cartridges. Independent compliance verification is vital to meet the free-interchange objectives that are at the core of the LTO program.

Ultrium tape mechanism and tape cartridge interchange specifications are available on a licensee basis. For additional information on LTO Ultrium technology, visit the Ultrium Web site at
http://www.ultrium.com.

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