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## SONY ELECTRONICS PASSES STRINGENT LTO ULTRIUM FORMAT GENERATION 2 COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION TEST

**SILICON VALLEY, CALIF. — (Dec. 1, 2003) —** Certance, HP, and IBM, the three technology provider companies (TPCs) for the LTO (Linear Tape-Open) Program, today announced that Sony Electronics has successfully completed the LTO Ultrium format media compliance verification testing process so it can now use the Ultrium format Generation 2 trademark on its data media products.

The LTO Program requires all licensees' media to pass a series of compliance verification tests – administered by an independent lab – which call for rigorous data interchangeability testing before being granted the right to display the trusted Ultrium trademark. Compliance testing of Ultrium products must be repeated annually to confirm that all manufacturers continue to adhere to the LTO Ultrium format specifications.

“Sony Media was an early supporter of LTO technology, and the rapid industry-wide adoption of the LTO Ultrium format underscores why we continue to back it,” said Tom Evans, senior vice president of Sony Electronics’ Media and Applications Solutions Division. “Now that tape drives based on the LTO Ultrium Generation 2 format are available, we expect continued growth of the format in the midrange market segment.”

Sony Media has demonstrated its commitment to the LTO Ultrium tape format dating back to 2001, when it began supplying LTO Ultrium Generation 1 media for the storage marketplace.

“By offering LTO 2 media in addition to our current LTO 1 cartridges, we’re widening the array of choices for our customers,” added Evans.

“What really separates the LTO Ultrium format from competing formats is the large number of manufacturers supporting the technology,” said Howard Matthews, president and CEO, Certance LLC. “The cornerstone of the LTO format’s success is an open architecture that allows for multiple vendor choice, supply-chain assurance, and distinct feature sets that meet the needs of individual end-users. We’re pleased that Sony Electronics is continuing its support of LTO technology.”

In July 2003, the LTO Program announced that a combined capacity of 2,000 petabytes (more than 10 million LTO Ultrium format tape cartridges) shipped worldwide since September 2000 when products based on the format first became commercially available. The LTO Ultrium format cartridge shipments have continued growing up to 20 percent quarter over quarter since 2002.

With the LTO Ultrium format Generation 2, storage capacity increased to 400GB compressed (assuming a 2:1 compression), with data transfer speed now delivering performance of up to 70MB per second compressed. The LTO Ultrium format Generation 2 offers backward-compatible read-and-write capability with Generation 1 data cartridges, further protecting investments customers have made with LTO Ultrium-based technology.

### **How to License LTO Ultrium Technology**

The LTO Program offers several different license packages – from enhanced packages that provide the specifications to manufacture Ultrium Generation 2 products, to basic license packages, providing Ultrium format specifications and guidelines for interchangeability.

Buyers seeking true Ultrium format-compliant products should look for the Ultrium format compliance verification marks on both tape drives and data cartridges. Storage and media manufacturers interested in licensing LTO technology may obtain information by contacting the Law Offices of Ladas & Parry at (323) 934-2300, or by e-mail at [LTO\\_INFO@ladasparry.com](mailto:LTO_INFO@ladasparry.com).

### **About Linear Tape-Open (LTO) Technology**

LTO technology is a powerful, scaleable, open tape format created by technology providers Certance, HP, IBM Corporation to meet the growing demands of data protection in the midrange to enterprise-class server environments. This new generation of tape storage products is designed to deliver outstanding performance, capacity and reliability combining the advantages of linear multi-channel, bi-directional formats with enhancements in servo technology, data compression, track layout, and error correction.

The LTO Ultrium format storage solution is based on a single-reel, high-performance tape cartridge design, suitable for backing up, restoring, and archiving applications. As a 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 – doubling speed and capacity with each new generation, and supporting 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 format tape cartridges. Independent compliance verification is vital to meet the free-interchange objectives that are at the core of the LTO Program. With numerous compliance checkpoints for each LTO technology product, data interchangeability between LTO products is supported regardless of the manufacturer.

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

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Note: Linear Tape-Open, LTO, LTO Logo, Ultrium and Ultrium Logo are trademarks of Certance, HP, and IBM in the U.S., other countries or both.