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EMTEC, IMATION, AND VERBATIM LICENSE LINEAR TAPE - OPEN TECHNOLOGY

Inaugural Meeting of LTO Licensees Demonstrates Growing Momentum of Industry Endorsement

Silicon Valley, Calif., August 3, 1998 -- Hewlett-Packard, IBM, and Seagate, the technology providers of Linear Tape-Open (LTO), today announced that three of the industry's largest media manufacturers -- Imation, Verbatim Corporation, and EMTEC -- have purchased licenses enabling them to produce tape cartridges for the LTO-based, Ultrium high-capacity format.

LTO Technology is a powerful, open tape architecture for next generation tape storage products that are expected to surpass current tape capacity and performance benchmarks while maintaining the highest data integrity. With Ultrium, one of two formats based on LTO technology, single-reel media with capacities of up to 200GB can be produced, assuming a 2:1 compression ratio (100GB native).

The announcement follows the inaugural LTO Manufacturers' Group meeting which was recently held near Los Angeles. During the meeting, attendees received an update on the status of the tape specifications as well as reports from companies engaging in product development. All companies attending the meeting have obtained either a Basic Package license or an Enhanced Package license to the Accelis or Ultrium formats.

Companies that have purchased either license include: Accutronics, EMTEC, Fujitsu, FCPA Intellistor, Hi/fn, Imation, Mountain Engineering II, NEC, Quantegy, and Verbatim, as well as HP, IBM, and Seagate.

"The signing of three major media manufacturers and the serious interest from other key storage companies indicates the growing industry endorsement of LTO," said Brian Dexheimer, vice president and general manager, Seagate Tape Operations, "It was an honor for Seagate to host the first manufacturers' group meeting and we are very excited by the strong turnout. We look forward to seeing further commitment to LTO product development."

By specifying only those features needed for the interchange of tape cartridges among Ultrium tape drives, the Ultrium format provides a substantial amount of implementation freedom with respect to performance characteristics, form factor, controllers, and interfaces.

"LTO technology will provide us with the platform and the flexibility to meet the growing demand for higher-capacity, higher-performance storage," said Randy Queen, Verbatim Vice President of Research & Development. "We look forward to leveraging Verbatim's 30 years of experience in advancing electronic data storage technology to develop a successful product line that yields tremendous value to our customers."

"We are pleased to be one of the first media suppliers to join LTO," said Michael J. Stevens, general manager, Tape and Optical Storage, Imation. "As a leading supplier of branded, removable media for data storage applications, we bring to LTO a solid heritage of development expertise and innovation in data storage technologies from the desktop to the data center. Linear tape technologies have long proven to be a superb choice for end users, in terms of proven reliability, high capacity and performance in mission-critical environments, and Imation has been a leader in the development of innovative linear tape technologies. The Ultrium and Accelis formats ensure that linear technologies continue to meet end users' capacity, performance and reliability needs well into the future."

"EMTEC has decided to manufacture the Ultrium cartridge because we are convinced that storage systems based on LTO will be an outstanding success," said Peter Faulhaber, general manager, Data Media at EMTEC. "I think customers will clearly recognize that LTO provides the benefits of excellent drive and media technology combined with an exciting migration path."

LTO technology combines the advantages of linear multi-channel, bi-directional formats with enhancements in servo technology, data compression, track layout and error correction code to optimize capacity, performance and reliability. Ultrium is one of two formats based on LTO technology. The second format, Accelis, is a fast-access, dual-reel implementation that is designed to offer data retrieval in less than 10 seconds. Both formats are expected to provide a four-generation roadmap for future capacity and performance enhancements.

Ultrium and Accelis tape mechanism and cartridge specifications are available on a licensee basis.

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More information about LTO technology is available at www.lto-technology.com