FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Linear Tape-Open Completes Major Milestone for Ultrium Product Testing

SILICON VALLEY, August 2, 1999 — Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM and Seagate, technology provider companies for Linear Tape-Open, or LTO technology, today announced the availability of a secondary standard reference tape (SSRT) for the Ultrium format. This most recent milestone is a major event towards the readiness to begin compliance verification testing of the first tape products using LTO technology, a powerful, open-tape architecture.

The SSRT provides a physical benchmark against which product compliance to LTO program format specifications can be measured. It will be used by Measurement Analysis Corp. (MAC), Torrance, Calif., the LTO program's independent compliance verification entity, to provide for technical testing and analysis on submitted licensee products. SSRTs for the Ultrium format are available to Ultrium format licensees for use in internal product development and testing by contacting the Law Offices of Ladas & Parry.

The LTO program format verification process seeks 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.

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"The availability of the SSRTs represents a major step in preparation by the program to test Ultrium format products," said Michael Lamers, president, Measurement Analysis Corp. "It also represents a significant deliverable by the LTO program, providing evidence of the steady progress they are making in developing the infrastructure needed to support their growing licensee program."

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

MAC will be able to accept Ultrium tape cartridge products for testing beginning in early Fall. At that time, licensees with products ready for testing will be able to initiate the compliance verification process.

LTO technology, a powerful, open tape architecture, is setting the stage for a new generation of tape storage products that are 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.

Ultrium is one of two formats based on LTO technology. It uses a single-reel media with capacities of up to 200GB (100GB native) and data-transfer rates of up to 40MB/s (20MB/s native), assuming a 2:1 compression ratio.

The other format, Accelis, 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. For licensing information, contact the Law Offices of Ladas & Parry at (323) 934-2300 or by e-mail at LTO_INFO@ladasparry.com.

For additional information on LTO technology, visit the LTO Web site at http:\\www.lto-technology.com.

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