First fruits from Omnitek and Pixelmetrix with Quality Auditor

OmniTek stand 8.547/Pixelmetrix stand 2.211, IBC, Amsterdam – 12th September 2003: Innovative test and measurement manufacturer, OmniTek, and award-winning preventive monitoring company Pixelmetrix, have today announced the launch of Quality Auditor, the first fruit of their ongoing strategic alliance that was announced earlier this year at NAB. Quality Auditor is a brand new, feature-rich product benefiting from the latest technologies from both companies.

Modern broadcast facilities are increasingly automated and the question of quality control is paramount. Quality Auditor allows the monitoring of digital video, embedded audio and metadata and the logging of those analyses against timecode. The combination of Pixelmetrix' picture quality analysis software with OmniTek's PC-based solution further allows users to identify potential compression problems while the signal is still in the SDI domain. By providing real-time evaluation of video compression quality for every frame, along with the aforementioned audio and metadata analysis, problems can be detected prior to transmission.

With both individual alarms able to be set for every individual component – these are fully user-definable – and a full report of all errors logged against timecode able to be output as a XML file, Quality Auditor allows users to tackle any quality issues at the ingest point in a fully automated manner, saving both time and money. This development brings full quality analysis back into the studio environment. Potential applications include any environment where picture quality is important.

Quality Auditor can also be deployed on the playout side to raise alarms, when any number of user-defined parameters are exceeded.

Mike Hodson, managing director of OmniTek, says, "The development of Quality Auditor is a direct response to discussions that we have had with our customers. There is a clear need for this comprehensive quality management tool and Pixelmetrix and OmniTek are pleased see the first fruits of what promises to be a productive alliance come to market."

Danny Wilson, president and CEO, adds, "By combining OmniTek's clear leadership in advanced systems for HD and SD monitoring and our own technologies for real-time picture quality evaluation, I believe that this cooperation provide immediate and clear benefits to our customers."

The new product will be sold under both companies' brands as DVScope Quality Auditor from Pixelmetrix and as OmniTek Quality Auditor.

Quality Auditor feature set:
* Digital video, embedded audio, and metadata monitoring and logging system
* Integrated Pixelmetrix QMM picture quality analysis software
* Selected errors and warnings are logged to XML format data file
* Checks for gross video signal errors (line/pixel count, TRS, EDH, CRC)
* User-selectable YPrPb range and RGB gamut error detection
* Picture active/ freeze/mono/black detection
* Video index information and widescreen signalling packets decoded
* Teletext or closed-caption subtitles detected
* DVITC and ATC timecode detected with discontinuity checking
* 4-group embedded audio status indicator
* 16-channel audio peak overload and silence detection
* Manual, remote, or timecode-controlled start/stop data logging control
* User-selectable SNMP alarms on error detection
* Adjustable warning and alarm threshold timeouts
* Customizable user interface - display as much or as little data as required
* All SDTV and HDTV serial digital video formats supported.
* Serial digital input with active loop-through, plus RGB/YUV/composite monitor output

About OmniTek
OmniTek is an innovative test and measurement company formed in 1998 specialising in the development of video processing equipment for SD, HD and resolution independent applications. Additional information is available from www.omnitek.tv.

About DVStation products
DVStation, DVStation-Remote, DVStation-Pod, and DVStation-IP by Pixelmetrix are award-winning systems for monitoring the quality and performance of digital networks. DVStation is the only all-in-one solution that can monitor a signal path from studio to home. The operator sets the monitoring thresholds and alert methods for the entire network from a single location. DVStation will notify operators if there's trouble, with alerts delivered remotely over a corporate LAN, the Internet or even to a pager. If signal and content integrity is essential for business success, DVStation is the most advanced Preventive Monitoring solution available today. The terms Preventive Monitoring, DVStation, DVStation-Remote, DVStation-Pod and DVStation-IP are trademarks of Pixelmetrix Corporation.

About Pixelmetrix Corporation
Pixelmetrix Corporation is the global expert in Preventive Monitoring for digital television networks. The company provides equipment and network intelligence systems to television broadcasters for management and monitoring of quality of service. Headquartered in Singapore, Pixelmetrix has offices in the United States and Europe. Pixelmetrix customers include CNN, CBS, Disney, HBO, NHK, Japan Telecom, KPBS, NTL, SKY PerfecTV! Japan, British Telecom, Canal+ and Télédiffusion de France. It is the winner of the Peter Wayne Award for Best Design and Innovation IBC 2000, the winner of the STAR 2000 Superior Technology Award from TV Technology Magazine and recipient of a Cable-Satellite/Mediacast Product of the Year Award in 2003. For more information, visit www.pixelmetrix.com.

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