

ST Imaging Introduces “Ultra” New and Enhanced ST200X Series Digital Microfilm Viewers and Scanners

New Class of Digital Microfilm Image Viewing and Retrieval Solution Improves All Aspects of the World’s Leading Digital Microfilm Solution for Libraries

American Library Association Annual Conference, Washington DC – Booth # 1336– June 24, 2007 – ST Imaging is the industry leading manufacturer of all-digital microfilm viewing and retrievals systems. ST’s ST200 system can be found in hundreds and hundreds of large and small libraries nationwide, and worldwide. Today the company introduced its new ST200X-series offering, which uniquely adds Ultra Fiche to its existing range of image view and capture capabilities. Like the preceding ST200 product, it is a demand-based digitizing scanner for roll microfilm, microfiche, film slides, opaque card and micro card media. It allows staff and other film researchers to use a PC to view, scan, fax, e-mail, or print a microfilm image. Specifically designed for library user requirements, the **ST 200 Series** products bring secure network environment compatibility, ease of use, digital quality images, and new “digital” life to microform reference collections in libraries.

As the ST200 products gained popularity since their introduction in 2004, greater demand naturally resulted for higher resolution, faster operation, even greater ease of use, and more versatility in the range and type of images that can be captured. The enhanced capabilities of the new X-series platform demonstrates a stunning new level of performance across the board. ST Imaging’s Director of Imaging products, Dan Donaldson, was asked what the specific goals were for the redesigned product. Dan responds, “While the number one goal of the new product was, and is, to add higher resolution to improve results on standard microfiche media, the system does much more than this. The ST200X is a historic breakthrough for micrographic solutions. We now have a product with a single carrier, a single platform and an amazing single lens assembly, that can view and capture from almost any micrographic media.”

“The range includes full page scanning of newspaper pages on 35mm film, all standard microfiche reductions, opaque materials such as Micro Cards, and now the ability to view and capture from image reductions so high that they are categorized as Ultra Fiche (up to 87X optical capture, up to 96X digital viewing). The ST200X also sets a new level of capture speed (less than one second) while achieving stunning image quality on viewing and printing. Customers can also uniquely enjoy ease of use that allows them to print to paper or save to digital media without leaving the viewing mode or even opening any pc software to perform the tasks. No other digital or analog product offers these benefits.”

Existing Customers were present at the ST booth who were already familiar with ST’s previous product offerings. Many noticed and commented on how much they liked the features that hit the mark for their own particular enhancement wish list: a more sturdy and robust base unit, a built in micro card light, the live action preview mode, the ability to see and read more text on the screen in the viewer mode, a cord connection cover, easier scanning interfaces, better fiche movement and much better fiche holder, ability to save to a camera media card, faster zoom, higher magnification, faster screen refresh and more were mentioned.

Not surprisingly Dan was asked, “Will this ST200X product make the previous models obsolete? What about my investment in the previous level of technology?” Dan said, “All customers expect

faster and more powerful PC's to come out every year, but they do not need to fully replace their PC's every year. Often they only increase the memory or upgrade the software. The previous model of the ST200 has not been discontinued. Not all of our customers will need the higher levels of performance and speed that the new product provides. However, for those who do want to upgrade, our unique modular product design greatly benefits them. The better microfiche platform can be placed on the previous model base unit for a small upgrade exchange fee. A higher resolution scanner can be added to the previous model's carrier assembly. Even the entire base unit of the old model can be replaced by the new X-series version and used with the existing film carrier. Customers will save thousands of dollars if they want to update various modular components and this approach can result in a system with all of the capabilities of the new X-series products."

All older and the newest ST 200 products will continue to use standard PC USB and monitor connections, eliminating the need for Firewire connections or other proprietary PC hardware modifications. Unlike other microfilm readers, all ST 200 models operate under normal, bright ambient space lighting. As a result, the ST 200 can be placed alongside a PC almost anywhere in the library. The ST 200 provides high resolution, edge-to-edge quality images, and handles both negative and positive film. Network connectivity allows the utilization of the library's charge account system or a debit/credit card to be used for billing purposes, rather than using a cumbersome and time-consuming coin-op system.

How does the ST200/200X differ from traditional reader printers? All Canon, Minolta, Alos, Kodak, Indus and all other analog reader printer systems begin the image view and capture process the same way. They shine the light of a hot halogen light bulb through a series of interchangeable reduction lenses, Fresnel condenser lenses, large mirrors, and then they reflect it onto the back of a translucent viewing screen panel. The result is an image that at best only reflects the likely to be scratched condition of the film. It also may be dim, unevenly lit, and less in focus towards the outer edges of the viewing area. By using our all-digital image path technology to capture images directly from the surface of the film and present them onto the screen of the PC, these problems are eliminated. In addition, the image is digitally enhanced to invert negative images, remove dirt, brighten dingy backgrounds, and remove scratches, greatly improving both the viewing experience and the scanning quality. This digital image can then be faxed, e-mailed, copied, saved, or printed. In addition, film in the library's collection can be optionally viewed and searched by remote Internet access, using ST Image's patent pending **Remote Film Access** option. You can read more about adding Remote Film Access to any ST200 system at the company website.

The new X-model products are proving very popular and record numbers of advance orders have already been placed for the new X-series systems.

S-T Imaging is a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Check Corporation, located in Northfield, Illinois, USA. S-T Imaging is a leading distributor of universal film carriers, and digital microfilm viewers and scanners. For more information on S-T Imaging and its products, please visit www.stimaging.com or contact Dan Donaldson at S-T Imaging, Inc, via phone at 856-728-3057 or e-mail: info@stimaging.com.



The new ST200X-Series system for Roll Film, Micro Fiche, Ultra Fiche, and Micro Cards. PC and Monitor not included.