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NEW INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAM LEADS
SATA TECHNOLOGY INTO NEXT GENERATION
SATA-IO Gives Developers New Testing Resource

PORTLAND, Ore., November 21, 2005 – Serial ATA International Organization (SATA-IO), the consortium dedicated to sustaining the quality, integrity and dissemination of SATA technology, today announced the development of a new Interoperability Program set to launch Q1 2006.

With a history of five successful Plugfests since 2002, SATA technology leaders have provided manufacturers with an opportunity to bring products together and test interoperability during the product development cycle. With this proven track record, SATA-IO has taken the next step to create and formalize specific interoperability testing procedures into an established Interoperability Program. The program includes an Interoperability Workshop and an Integrators List that will be publicly available online in Q1 2006. The program also calls for establishing relationships with third-party testing facilities that will offer year-round interop testing.

"The growth of SATA technology this past year has been phenomenal and the need for a formal Interoperability Program has become essential," said Frank Chu, SATA-IO board member and senior engineer for Hitachi Global Storage Technologies. "The new Interop Program combines a cutting edge technology with a wealth of industry experience from our growing membership."

The initial step of the Interoperability Program is the Interoperability Workshop, which offers face-to-face interaction between companies. The first Interop Workshop is scheduled for Q1

2006. The workshop offers members an official testing forum for production-quality devices that are brought for official verification. This process will co-exist and run parallel to SATA's Plugfest series which provides pre-production sample products the opportunity to test for early interoperability.

The new program provides documented procedures and testing opportunities that will allow manufacturers to qualify SATA components directly against a set of specification requirements. Within the program, the SATA-IO Integrators List will be the central reference guide for the industry, which will enable manufacturers to determine the interoperability of different SATA components per the guidelines of the SATA-IO Interop Program. After a SATA component has successfully completed the appropriate Interop tests, the next step is being placed on the Integrators List. The Interop Program will be a key benefit for SATA-IO members because it will help ensure high quality SATA products are introduced into the marketplace.

Fifth SATA Plugfest

The fifth SATA Plugfest was held September 20-23 in Milpitas, CA. The event concluded with a total of 162 participants representing 51 companies and 64 test teams. Among those companies were Plugfest sponsors Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Maxtor and STMicroelectronics.

"We look forward to building on the success of the SATA-IO plugfests with an Interoperability Program that will produce a sanctioned list of interoperable SATA components to help simplify component selection and product development for SATA system builders," said Joni Clark, SATA-IO marketing chairwoman and Seagate Technology's manager of SATA marketing. "The record Plugfest participation in 2005 and an emerging crop of SATA components have set the stage for the Program's launch, which will support the rapid adoption of SATA systems worldwide."

About SATA-IO

Formed in September 2004, the SATA-IO is the International Organization that owns and manages Serial ATA specifications as open industry standards. The organization defines and

implements Serial ATA storage specifications as the industry's storage needs evolve. It is dedicated to sustaining the quality, integrity and dissemination of the SATA technology by maintaining the specifications, promoting and marketing the benefits of the technology and creating future interface features and specifications that carry storage into the next decade. Additional information about the organization, its 140 participating companies and membership is available at www.sata-io.org.

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