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Media contact:

John Starkweather

Morse Associates

+1 425.771.8473

[johns@morseassoc.com](mailto:johns@morseassoc.com)

**Zentek Technology Group and Agfa Monotype collaborate on EIA 708B,  
platform-independent digital closed-captioning solution**

***Modular, pre-integrated package promises to simplify digital television development for OEMs and streamline deployment of accessibility services for the hearing impaired***

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – August 27, 2003 – Today Zentek Technology Group ([www.zentek.com/index\\_e.html](http://www.zentek.com/index_e.html)), in partnership with Agfa Monotype Corp. ([www.agfamonotype.com](http://www.agfamonotype.com)), announced the commercial availability of a modular, portable, closed-captioning package that meets the FCC-mandated EIA 708B standard for digital television. The integrated solution aims to enhance the accessibility services that digital television broadcasters and network operators provide to the deaf and hard-of-hearing population in the United States and Canada.

This collaborative effort includes closed-caption fonts, a font engine and program and system information protocol (PSIP) software that will simplify what is otherwise a custom-built and costly process for digital set-top box and television manufacturers. The software package already has been licensed to STMicroelectronics, the leading manufacturer of integrated circuits for set-top boxes.

According to InStat/MDR, a market research firm based in Scottsdale, Ariz., the global market for digital television sets is expected reach 58 million by 2007, with U.S. consumers accounting for more than half of all annual shipments. This growing market includes 28 million hearing-impaired Americans (roughly 10 percent of the U.S. population), creating a substantial market opportunity and need for digital closed-captioning services.



“Together with our partners we are providing a critical technology for the hearing-impaired community. Our 708B solution, part of our MediaStack family of digital products, incorporates legacy 608 analog caption support and also includes the intelligence to display closed captioning in multiple languages simultaneously, a feature which is very important in an ethnically diverse country such as the U.S.,” said Shozo Ohtani, president and chief executive officer, Zentek Technology Group. “The lab and field testing we’ve completed will help many digital set-top box and television manufacturers bring competitive digital television products to market with reduced software integration risk and cost.”

The integrated Zentek solution is a full implementation of EIA 708B and allows the viewer to change all available properties of the displayed text: font style, character size, foreground and background color and edge effect. For example, a hard-of-hearing viewer, who also has impaired vision, can use the caption “volume control” to adjust the size of the displayed text to make it more readable. Multiple active windows also are supported thus enabling a hard-of-hearing parent to view normal captions while a child watches early-reader captions in a separate window.

“In terms of text display, one of the most important benefits for users resulting from the EIA 708B mandate is choice,” said Steve Kuhlman, vice president and general manager of Agfa Monotype’s Display Imaging group. “Through Agfa Monotype’s closed-caption fonts and iType® font engine, users with hearing disabilities are able to easily choose from a selection of seven highly legible, quick-to-display fonts, display sizes and font colors.”

The pre-integrated package also includes PSIP digital channel mapping technology required by the Advanced Television Systems Committee for the U.S. market. PSIP simplifies consumer navigation of new digital television channels. Zentek’s commercial PSIP implementation also supports the delivery of broadcaster analog channel branding, accurate time-of-day displays and announcements of caption services.

“Our robust STi5517 and STi7020 chipset combination for digital set-top box and television offers an affordable, proven solution for digital consumer electronics manufacturers,” said Christos Lagomichos, vice president and general manager, STMicroelectronics’ Set-Top Box Division. “The integrated 708B, 608 and PSIP software is performing well in lab trials and we look forward to powering advanced digital captioning and channel information services in the U.S. using the Zentek and Agfa Monotype software.”



### **About Zentek Technology Group**

Zentek develops software and provides engineering services for the digital consumer electronics market with a focus on two areas: digital television and mobile digital devices. The company pioneered mobile device emulation tools that shorten product development cycles. Zentek Technology Group's U.S. headquarters is in Redwood City, Calif. The company was founded in 1997 and is a subsidiary of Zentek Technology Japan, Inc. with shares traded on the Japan New Market, code 4296. The company also has offices in Tokyo and Osaka in Japan, and in Singapore. Further information can be found at [www.zentek.com](http://www.zentek.com).

### **About Agfa Monotype Corp.**

Based in Wilmington, Mass. with regional offices in the U.K., Japan and China, Agfa Monotype specializes in fonts and font technologies for graphic professionals, software developers and manufacturers of printers and display devices. The company also provides printer drivers, imaging technologies and integration services for OEMs. Agfa Monotype is a wholly owned subsidiary of Agfa Corp. based in Ridgefield Park, N.J. and is part of Agfa's Graphic Systems business unit. Agfa is the U.S. subsidiary of the Agfa-Gevaert Group, one of the world's leading imaging companies. Agfa develops, produces and markets analog and digital systems primarily for the graphic imaging, healthcare, non-destructive testing, micrographic, and consumer desktop and photography markets. Headquartered in Mortsel, Belgium, Agfa has 40 national sales organizations globally, with worldwide sales of 4.683 billion euros in 2002. Additional information about Agfa Monotype and its products can be found on the company's Web sites at [www.agfamonotype.com](http://www.agfamonotype.com), [www.fonts.com](http://www.fonts.com) and [www.agfamonotype.co.uk](http://www.agfamonotype.co.uk).

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

*Statements in this release that are "forward-looking statements" are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially because of a variety of market factors. For additional information contact Zentek Technology Group investor relations department at +81-3-5298-8100 or visit [www.zentek.com/eng/ir/index.html](http://www.zentek.com/eng/ir/index.html).*