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Largest U. S. Library Binding Company Adds Kirtas Book Digitization Technology

October 21, 2004, Victor, NY – Kirtas Technologies and Ohio-based ICIBinding Corporation — the largest library binding and preservation service provider to libraries in the United States — jointly announced today that ICIBinding is making an initial purchase of two APT BookScan 1200™ systems. Two ICIBinding sites — one near Cleveland, Ohio and one in Hayward, California — will be set up as live, demonstration and production facilities for the Kirtas book scanner. The two companies also plan to work together to open new markets for this breakthrough digitizing technology.

“ICIBinding is a very respected and highly trusted name among the library community,” said Lotfi Belkhir, CEO and founder of Kirtas. “We’re thrilled to count them among our early customers and partners as we work together to further develop the library market.”

“As demand dictates, we hope to add additional Kirtas systems to each of our locations and believe we may place multiple machines in some plants,” said Eric Fairfield, Vice President of Marketing and Sales for ICIBinding Corp. “We are very impressed with the technology and engineering that went into BookScan 1200 and we are pleased and excited to work closely with Kirtas to offer this technology to research and public libraries all across the country”.

“Although libraries have been traditionally slow to embrace digital, most libraries now have a digital strategy that’s funded and waiting for this kind of technology,” adds Barb Voyer, ICIBinding Corp’s Manager of Technical Sales. “Whether their books are old and brittle, extremely rare manuscripts not suited for circulation or documents that require specialized off-site storage environments, libraries are definitely embracing digital technology as a primary preservation option.”

Unique Benefits of the Kirtas Technology

The APT BookScan 1200 offers a turnkey digitizing solution that enables an integrated workflow with automatic book scanning and post-processing at 1200 pages per hour to finished file creation. The technology redefines digitization for all bound documents, delivering gentler handling and higher quality digital images faster, with fewer errors and at a lower cost than any other solution in the marketplace. The cost, speed and efficiency of the system are identical for black-and-white, grayscale and color images. It also offers customers wide flexibility in the output format — TIFF, JPEG and a special compressed PDF file option.

The unique post-processing software suite of the Kirtas system allows the creation of PDF files that are up to 10 times smaller than Adobe PDF, for faster and easier viewing, printing, sharing, archiving or online access.

The Kirtas software automatically creates three different types of XML-based metadata files, including technical — with a unique checksum to verify authenticity — descriptive and structural information about the book. This feature allows clients to automatically organize and catalog their files for a variety of applications.

About ICIBinding

Based in Ohio, ICIBinding Corporation has been a leader in binding and preservation services for over 25 years. The company, along with its conservation partner, Etherington Conservation Center based in Greensboro, NC, serves a wide range of customers from small book repositories and special libraries to archives, government libraries and many of the oldest and most prestigious research institutions in the United States. ICIBinding currently operates in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Washington, California and Hawaii. As a natural extension to its existing services, the company will use the Kirtas systems to offer high-speed book digitizing to convert for electronic access projects and will also support print-on-demand services to libraries and corporate clients looking for hard copy printout of digital files or book reproduction. ICIBinding is known for its policy of providing more than one software alternative to their customers and has been a driving force in several revolutionary software development projects, including CBS, GOLDBACS, ABLE™, LARS, Z-Link, LINCPlus and numerous other in-house developed applications.