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**Maerys, Kofax and A2iA Automate the Processing of 300,000 Answer Sheets for the World's Largest Math Competition for French-Speaking Students**

*Kangourou des Mathématiques Enlisted the Expertise of Leading Forms Processing Vendors to Accurately Capture 9.6 Million Form Fields in Less than Two Weeks*

**NEW YORK, April 6, 2007** – A2iA, a worldwide leading developer of advanced handwriting and print recognition engines, today announced the success of the forms processing application used by Editions ATL for Kangourou des Mathématiques, the world's largest mathematics testing competition for French-speaking students ages 8 to 18. Processing of the 300,000 student answer sheets was automated using a solution containing products from Maerys, Kofax (DICOM) and A2iA. Maerys' forms archiving application, Maarch, incorporated Kofax Ascent Capture and A2iA FieldReader™ to automatically extract the information, including several freeform name and address fields, contained on the students' answer sheets. All of the 300,000 forms needed to be processed within two weeks – a deadline the companies successfully met by accelerating the data entry process through the use of intelligent character recognition (ICR) and intelligent word recognition (IWR) technologies from Kofax and A2iA, respectively.

Kangourou des Mathématiques is an international competition hosted by Editions ATL. In 2006, nearly 300,000 French-speaking students representing 37 European, Asian and North American countries took part in the competition. Kangourou des Mathématiques consists of a math quiz containing 24 multiple-choice questions and is complemented by mathematical handouts that simultaneously provide students with culture, entertainment and knowledge. The answer sheet used by all participants contains the following information:

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- 24 multiple-choice answers, each with five possible choices (A-E).
- Two tie-breaker answers used in the event of a tie.
- The student's first and last name in freeform handwriting.
- The student's full address in freeform handwriting.
- The student's grade or year of education, containing 19 possible choices.
- The student's gender.
- A yes/no question about the computer equipment used by the student.

Editions ATL needed the 300,000 answer sheets to be processed in less than two weeks in order to meet their deadline for announcing the competition's results. They retained Maerys to manage the project and automate the processing of the answer sheets. Maerys' Maarch processing and archiving engine incorporates Kofax Ascent Capture and A2iA FieldReader. Two industrial scanners were deployed to capture images of the answer sheets. For each captured answer sheet image, 168 tick boxes were recognized using Ascent Capture, and the unconstrained handwritten information, such as the student's name and address, was extracted by A2iA FieldReader. A2iA FieldReader's IWR technology – which permits the extraction of entire words written in cursive handwriting – provided for accelerated data entry, particularly for those fields that did not contain any character separators, such as character boxes or “combs.”

In past competitions, operators processed the answer sheets using optical reading, a process that was tedious and unreliable. The new imaging process combined with the automatic recognition technologies from Kofax and A2iA enabled Maerys to simplify and accelerate the processing of the answer sheets for Editions ATL. Together, the recognition engines in Ascent Capture and A2iA FieldReader were able to extract data from all form fields with the highest levels of accuracy, which reduced the amount of manual data entry required. The results obtained were then transferred to the Maarch engine, and Maerys sent the results to Editions ATL to be incorporated into their system. This solution also automatically detected suspicious documents.

“To ensure the timely and accurate processing of the answer sheets, Editions ATL required a solution that was simple and intuitive,” said Jean-Louis Fages, Chairman of the Board and CEO of A2iA. “As a result of superior technologies from Kofax and A2iA, Maerys was able to employ a productivity-enhancing solution that saved Editions ATL a significant amount of time

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on the return of the Kangourou competition results, while still guaranteeing indisputable accuracy. Furthermore, through this project, all companies involved were able to prove their ability to quickly implement an effective forms processing solution for high volumes of forms.”

**About A2iA Corporation**

A2iA (Artificial Intelligence & Image Analysis), founded in 1991, headquartered in New York and Paris, is known as the worldwide leading developer of Intelligent Word Recognition (IWR) technology for extracting information from natural freeform and cursive handwriting on paper documents. The company’s technology has been helping paper-intensive industries reduce data entry costs and improve business process automation for over 16 years. A2iA’s recognition engines harmonize their OCR, ICR and IWR technologies with their image analysis, artificial intelligence and neural network systems to enhance solutions from the world’s leading systems integrators and other independent software vendors. For more information: [www.a2ia.com](http://www.a2ia.com).

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*A2iA FieldReader is a trademark of A2iA Corporation.*

*Ed. Note: Images available upon request.*