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New Version of A2iA CheckReader, an All-Inclusive Check Recognition Toolkit, Features Check 21 Image Quality Analysis Tools and Blocks Check Processing Risks in Real Time

A2iA CheckReader 3.4 Includes Check Stock Verification, Improved Positive Payee Performance and Image Quality Analysis Tools – All in a Single Engine – to Reduce Industry Losses Due to Fraud and Low Image Quality

NEW YORK – April 20, 2005 – A2iA, a worldwide leading developer of image analysis software and advanced recognition engines that automatically capture handwritten and machine-printed information, today announced the availability of version 3.4 of A2iA CheckReader™, its all-in-one check recognition toolkit that locates and reads information from all areas of interest on personal and business checks, payment coupons and associated documents. With the addition of image quality analysis tools designed for check image exchange under Check 21 and related industry standards, A2iA CheckReader 3.4 offers integrators, solution providers and value-added resellers the most comprehensive set of tools for processing check images on the market today.

A2iA CheckReader has been helping financial institutions verify check image usability and check validity, by locating and reading all of the key data fields on checks. Now, through this latest version, A2iA CheckReader verifies, and flags if deemed unacceptable, key image quality attributes: partial image, excessive image skew, piggyback image, image too light or too dark, streaks and/or bands on the image, “below minimum image size” and “exceeds maximum image size.” Like all of the technology contained within A2iA CheckReader, the new image quality analysis tools are developed by A2iA and designed to work in concert with the other image cleaning, data location and

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document identification components within the software, while meeting or exceeding industry standards. In addition to checks, money orders and other related payment documents, A2iA CheckReader is now able locate and read information from Image Replacement Documents (IRDs) or substitute checks, which are used in Check 21 image exchange.

“With our extensive experience in check imaging, Intelligent Word Recognition, and OCR/ICR as well as image analysis, it made sense for us to develop our own image quality measurement tools, enabling us to create more value for our partners and end users,” said Jean-Louis Fages, A2iA’s president and CEO. “Using A2iA CheckReader 3.4, users will have all the tools they need in one advanced, reliable distributed check processing solution. The tools are designed to work together seamlessly to deliver the information that users need to make sound decisions regarding check processing methods and options.”

Check fraud continues to be a major problem for banks and businesses alike, resulting in significant financial loss, operational inefficiencies and weakened customer confidence. A2iA CheckReader 3.4 contains check stock analysis tools that analyze the design of a presented check and quickly compare it to previous images of checks issued by the same accountholder; a mismatch is often evidence that the check may be a counterfeit. Another fraud deterrent within A2iA CheckReader is CAR/LAR mismatch detection, which in version 3.4 is also available for the Canadian Country version. This feature detects checks that may have been altered fraudulently or checks that are not usable because the CAR and LAR are not valid or are questionable. These analysis tools will help cut industry losses and reduce risk by detecting fraud earlier.

Furthermore, with check processing moving out of large, centralized operations centers and into desktop devices and self-service systems, A2iA CheckReader 3.4 provides all the information required to make informed decisions about the check images so that users can be assured they do not increase their risk and liability by sending check images in lieu of paper.

A2iA CheckReader goes beyond new industry standards and safeguards by looking at the total validity of the check. In addition to image quality and usability, A2iA CheckReader also includes the following capabilities.

- Positive-Payee Comparison - payee name is located, read and compared to an issue file for possible fraudulent alterations.
- CAR / LAR Mismatch Detection - amount comparison identifies mismatched courtesy (CAR) and legal (LAR) amounts.
- Signature Detection - Signature presence is detected on the front and rear of the check.
- Check Stock Validation – a Check Identity Record (CIR) is created during a pre-processing phase that accelerates the identification of fraudulent checks.

“We are committed to delivering high-quality, reliable products that the industry needs; and we do this by listening to the needs of our customers and to the needs of the industry as a whole,” said Fages. “For over a decade, financial institutions and corporations around the world have turned to A2iA as their trusted source for high-quality data capture. By continuing to stay ahead of the industry and by building mission-critical features – like early fraud detection – into our applications, we remain confident in our ability to help our customers achieve success, time and time again.”

The development of this all-inclusive check recognition toolkit, version 3.4, further solidifies A2iA CheckReader's position as the most comprehensive check recognition system in the world. Because it is equipped with the ability to recognize more fields at a faster rate, A2iA CheckReader 3.4 is ideal for distributed check processing environments. It is available in 19 country-specific versions, including a new Malaysian version in this release. A2iA CheckReader 3.4 also includes new tools that make it easier to install in systems that do not have A2iA CheckReader as the primary recognition engine, making it easier than ever to switch to A2iA CheckReader.

Availability

A2iA CheckReader is available immediately through A2iA's official licensees and resellers. For more information, please call 917.237.0390 or visit www.a2ia.com.

About A2iA Corporation

A2iA (Artificial Intelligence & Image Analysis), founded in 1991, headquartered in New York and Paris, is the worldwide leading developer of Intelligent Word Recognition (IWR) technology for reading natural handwriting, including cursive handwriting, from paper documents. The company's technology has been helping paper-intensive industries reduce data entry costs and improve processing automation for 14 years. A2iA's products combine the company's OCR, ICR and IWR technologies with its artificial intelligence and neural network systems, making it the most comprehensive advanced recognition engine on the market today. For more information: www.a2ia.com.

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