

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Editorial Contact:**

Jan Johnson  
MultiPath Communications  
714/633-4008  
jan@multipathcom.com

**OSTA ESTABLISHES COMMITTEE WITH NIST AND DVDA TO TEST DVD  
COMPATIBILITY**

***Test plan and preliminary findings to be announced at DVD 2003 Conference***

Gaithersburg, MD – June 9, 2003 -- The DVD Association (DVDA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Optical Storage Technology Association (OSTA) jointly announced today that the three organizations are participating in a joint DVD compatibility testing initiative to provide an independent, objective reference source for compatibility information on recordable DVD technology. The DVD Compatibility Committee, established as an OSTA working committee, will announce its goals, test plan, and preliminary findings at the DVD 2003 Conference, June 9-11 in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

According to Oliver Slattery, NIST Scientist, "NIST is committed to resolving issues of standardization for the preservation and distribution of digital information. This includes, among other things, working with industry and government leaders to develop testing guidelines, such as this test plan, to promote greater interoperability between digital media formats and digital playback devices. This study is one of the first steps towards unencumbered dissemination of digital content to consumers and enterprise end-users. It also is a step in addressing the broader concern of the preservation and access of digital content for the future."

"The DVD industry has been wrestling with recordable DVD compatibility issues from day one," said Jim Taylor, president of the DVDA. "This project, with its solid test plan and scientific approach, is very important in helping manufacturers improve compatibility and in winning consumer confidence. The combination of NIST's expertise, OSTA's industry

connections, and the DVDA's base of content developers has been perfect for bringing this important work to fruition."

The OSTA DVD Compatibility Committee, which began work in the fall of 2002, is focusing on recordable DVD technology and is rigorously testing a wide variety of media types, recordable DVD drives, DVD-ROM drives, and consumer DVD players. The group is performing compatibility and physical testing, and defining test methodologies and parameters. Throughout the process the committee will work closely with manufacturers to identify root causes of compatibility problems, fix compatibility issues, and provide useful information to consumers and the optical storage industry.

OSTA's Planning Committee will oversee the independent working group. Dr. Subutai Ahmad, Vice President of Engineering for YesVideo, is serving as chairman of the OSTA DVD Compatibility Committee. The committee also includes participants from NIST and the DVDA as well as OSTA. A branch of the US Department of Commerce, the mission of NIST is to develop and promote measurement, standards, and technology to enhance productivity, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life. The DVDA is a non-profit organization representing more than 5,000 independent content producers.

"In 1997, OSTA worked with media and hardware manufacturers to test CD-R compatibility, and the results were very positive, with CD-R becoming almost universally compatible with consumer and PC playback and recording devices," said Ahmad. "Today, we recognize that the same effort needs to be made with DVD recordable technology to ensure widespread compatibility."

Members of the committee include Jim Taylor of Sonic Solutions and president of the DVDA, Parker Lee of Sonic Solutions and Chairman of OSTA; Victor McCrary, John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory; Oliver Slattery and Fred Byers, from NIST; Bob Zollo and Lee Prewitt, Software Architects; David Bunzel, president of OSTA and Santa Clara Consulting Group.

Phase I of the test program, currently underway, covers DVD-ROM drives for personal computers. A total of 15 models of recordable DVD-ROM drives and over 40 different media

have been selected for this initial test phase, representing approximately 60 percent of the current market share for these devices. Preliminary results for Phase I will be presented at the DVDA's DVD 2003 Conference, with a final report scheduled for September 2003.

### **About the DVD Association (DVDA)**

The DVDA is a nonprofit organization funded through membership dues and corporate sponsorships. Membership is open to all those connected in any way with the creation of DVD titles. The bulk of DVDA members are developers that specialize in the creation of multimedia programs for training, education, presentations and entertainment using the DVD platform. The DVDA represents many of the most experienced producers of professional applications in the industry. For more information visit [www.dvda.org](http://www.dvda.org)

### **About NIST**

Founded in 1901, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a non-regulatory federal agency within the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration.. NIST's mission is to develop and promote measurement, standards, and technology to enhance productivity, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life. NIST carries out its mission in four cooperative programs: the NIST Laboratories, the Baldrige National Quality Program, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the Advanced Technology Program. The mission of the Convergent Information Systems Division, the group representing NIST in the OSTA DVD Compatibility Committee, is to develop and promote the exchange, storage, and manifestation of digital content via IT standards, measurements, and technology that support the economy, welfare, and defense of the USA, and in support of NIST's Information Technology Laboratory. For further information, please visit our website at [www.itl.nist.gov/div895](http://www.itl.nist.gov/div895).

### **About the Optical Storage Technology Association (OSTA)**

The Optical Storage Technology Association (OSTA) was incorporated as an international trade association in 1992 to promote the use of recordable optical technologies and products. The organization's membership includes optical product manufacturers and resellers from three continents, representing more than 85 percent of worldwide writable optical product

*-more-*

shipments. They work to shape the future of the industry through regular meetings of DVD Compatibility, Commercial Storage Applications (CSA), Marketing, MultiRead, Planning and UDF committees. Interested companies worldwide are invited to join the organization and participate in its programs by contacting an OSTA representative at +1 (408) 253-3695, by fax +1 (408) 253-9938 or by addressing its Web site at [www.osta.org](http://www.osta.org).

###