

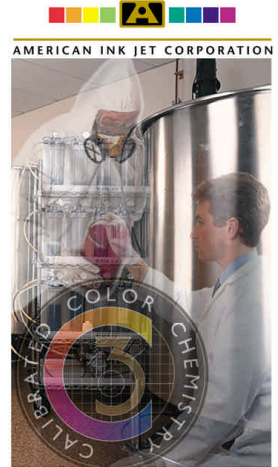
SPECTRA PRESS RELEASE

a world apart in digital imaging

For Immediate Release:

Lebanon, NH – September 17, 2001

Spectra, Inc. and American Ink Jet Corporation Sign Market Development Agreement



Spectra, Inc. and American Ink Jet Corporation announce the signing of a Market Development Agreement aimed at generating new and exciting opportunities in the world of digital printing.

“American Ink Jet Corporation is a highly specialized and capable ink manufacturer,” explains Per Frost, Vice President of Marketing & Sales at Spectra. “American Ink Jet is one of the few companies in the world that have focused completely on water-based ink jet inks. They have considerable knowledge in developing fade resistant inks and have earned a reputation for high quality inks and for excellent color control, in particular. We are very pleased to have signed this Market Development Agreement with American Ink Jet and we expect several innovative products to reach the market soon,” continues Frost.

Spectra and American Ink Jet have commenced development of a range of new products aimed at various segments and applications within the rapidly growing ink jet market. Piezoelectric ink jet technology permits the use of much higher viscosity fluids compared to other ink jet technologies and this is key to new product developments that meet the ever growing end-user requirements.

“Spectra is developing a strong reputation as the leader within industrial and commercial printing applications based on piezoelectric drop-on-demand ink jet technology,” says Steve Emery, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at American Ink Jet. “Our in-depth ink jet ink expertise combined with our systems approach to new ink jet applications enables us to more readily provide solutions,” adds Emery.

“Our market place and customer base is expanding rapidly,” says Linda Creagh, Director of Business Development at Spectra. “End users, as well as OEM customers, are constantly seeking new solutions and capabilities to match their requirements. Our collaboration with American Ink Jet puts us in a great position to address these needs.”

Spectra is a leading developer and manufacturer of state-of-the-art piezoelectric ink jet printheads and related consumables used in a wide range of applications, such as coding and marking, commercial printing, wide format graphics, and pre-press applications. A MARKEM company based in the Lebanon-Hanover, New Hampshire area, Spectra has developed multiple generations of proprietary drop-on-demand ink jet printheads capable of producing high performance digital images. With a staff of more than 250, Spectra invests heavily in research and development and maintains one of the most capable ink jet R&D groups in the world.

Established in Billerica, Massachusetts in 1983, American Ink Jet Corporation (AIJC) is one of the largest independent developers and manufacturers of ink jet inks in the world. The company maintains a multidisciplinary research and development staff that applies C3 Calibrated Color Chemistry™ technology to formulate inks with chromatic color, precision and purity. Utilizing dyes or pigments, AIJC manufacturers both standard and archival inks and works with printer manufacturers, printhead developers (continuous, piezo & thermal) and media coaters to develop optimum solutions using water-based ink jet inks.

For more information:

Spectra
Per J. Frost, VP Marketing & Sales
Tel: +1 603-443-5300
Fax: +1 603-448-9870
E-mail: pfrost@spectra-inc.com
Web: www.spectra-inc.com

American Ink Jet Corporation
Stephen J. Emery, VP Sales & Marketing
Tel: +1 978-670-9200
Fax: +1 978-670-5637
E-mail: semery@amjet.com
Web: www.amjet.com