



Sequoia Voting Systems supports third party reviews and testing of its election equipment

March 18, 2008 (DENVER, CO) - In response to some recent media reports, Sequoia is issuing this statement to educate individuals on the third party review mechanisms already in place in the election industry as well as our company's business practices regarding third party reviews and testing of its election equipment.

Sequoia Voting Systems is committed to maintaining voter confidence in the electoral process. Our company is dedicated to working with our customers in this regard and has done so over our century of serving state and local election jurisdictions throughout the United States.

Sequoia's products – and those of all election equipment manufacturers - go through a complete and independent review as part of the Election Assistance Commission's (EAC's) federal voting system certification process including rigorous testing and a line-by-line review of the voting system's source code by EAC accredited Voting System Test Labs (VSTLs).

Prior to the EAC's certification program which was initiated in 2007, voting systems were qualified at a federal level by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) after testing by NASSED-approved Independent Test Labs (ITAs). The ITAs also performed a line-by-line review of voting system source code.

In addition to the federal certification program, individual states have their own state certification programs which vary state-by-state but most often entail additional testing and review by qualified third party experts. Many states also require voting system manufacturers to submit their source code to be kept in escrow, should there be a need to access this code by the state in the case of some type of unanticipated situation or problem.

Sequoia also voluntarily submits its voting system source code to the National Software Reference Library (NSRL) which operates under the umbrella of the federal government's National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST). The purpose of this is so that Sequoia customers can check the hash codes of their product, as installed, against the certified copies at the NSRL.

Additional independent reviews of Sequoia products have most recently taken place in the State of California (Secretary Bowen's Top to Bottom Review of Voting Systems),

the State of Colorado and The City of Chicago/ Cook County, Illinois. In addition, the New Jersey Institute of Technology is also completing a review of the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) adaptation for Sequoia's AVC Advantage at the request of the state of New Jersey. As recognized by the Election Technology Council (ETC), the election industry trade association of which Sequoia is a founding member company, such an independent review is a complex and interdisciplinary process involving a broad knowledge of election law, public administration and technical matters (see the ETC's *Guidelines for States conducting "Top-to-Bottom" Reviews* found on the organization's website at <http://www.electiontech.org/resource.html>). These independent reviews, and many others, have been successfully conducted within the framework of Sequoia's license rights pursuant to appropriate and mutually agreeable arrangements between Sequoia and governmental agencies charged by law with the authority to conduct such reviews. Sequoia welcomes all such responsibly executed review activities.

Sequoia does not support any and all unauthorized activities that violate or circumvent our product licensing agreements. Licensing agreements are standard practice in the technology industry, including the elections industry and have been for decades. Sequoia will vigorously protect and defend its intellectual property and enforcement of established licensing agreements.

About Sequoia Voting Systems (www.sequoiavote.com)

Sequoia Voting Systems is an American-owned election technology company with major offices in Denver, Colorado; Jamestown, New York and Oakland, California with over a 100-year history of providing accurate, reliable and innovative voting solutions dating back to the nation's first lever-based mechanical voting equipment in the 1890s. Sequoia provides comprehensive election technology products, customized training options, ballot layout and printing services and complete implementation and support programs to its state and local government customers throughout the United States. Sequoia's product suite includes a comprehensive election management system, precinct-based optical scan voting units, high-speed central count optical scan ballot readers, and full-face and paginating touch screen electronic voting equipment with optional printers that produce voter verified paper records. Sequoia's voting equipment is currently used by hundreds of jurisdictions throughout 17 states and the District of Columbia.

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