

*For immediate release*

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*SpencerLAB PRINTER TEST SUITE – UPDATE TO VERSION 4.4*

**Providing Essential Tools for Analysis & Benchmarking of Digital Printers TODAY**

Melville, NY, 13 December 2011 — The *SpencerLAB* DIGITAL COLOR LABORATORY has announced the latest update, version 4.4, to the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE. This update is available for immediate access at [www.spencerlab.com/MySpencerLab](http://www.spencerlab.com/MySpencerLab). If you are a current licensee of the SUITE, this update is included with your annual subscription – **at no charge**.

This most recent update of the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE continues *spencerLAB*'s commitment to providing a comprehensive tool for Print Quality analysis and printer benchmarking – an invaluable resource for digital printers of today. Although, Print Quality analysis is still the fundamental assessment in printer benchmarking, as technologies evolve, print speeds increase, and substrate choices expand, Durability has become a key concern among hardware manufacturers, paper and ink suppliers, print service providers, and end-users. Acknowledging this trend, *spencerLAB* developed a set of 11 new test files – the Durability Suite – with files facilitating Abrasion, Smudge, Highlighter Smear, Fold and Crease, Adhesion, Scratch Resistance, and Waterfastness testing.

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“The reality is that hard copy output is produced to be used, and in that usage it encounters various degrading forces. The Durability Suite is just one more solution *SpencerLAB* provides...”

– *SpencerLab* Operations VP & Director

New features and enhancements in the latest version of the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE include:

- ◇ Addition of Durability Suite of test files:
  - *SpencerLAB Abrasion* files – Monochrome & Color versions
  - *SpencerLAB Highlighter* files – Monochrome & Color versions
  - *SpencerLAB Fold* file
  - *SpencerLAB Waterfastness* files – Monochrome; Color version in large Format & US letter-size
  - *SpencerLAB Durability Tints* files – Monochrome; Color version in large Format & US letter-size
- ◇ File update:
  - *SpencerLAB Collage* file - Enhanced color correction of memory colors

To celebrate the new update, *spencerLAB* is currently offering special, limited time discount opportunities through 31 January 2012: 20% off the license fee for the TEST SUITE which includes one year of tech support and free updates, and for current subscribers, 20% off the 2012 annual subscription fee.

“As the industry continues to expand, so does the need to address arising concerns. In the continuation of *spencerLAB* tradition of being in the forefront of understanding clients’ needs and responding to such, this version 4.4 release provides our licensees with files for measurement and assessment of

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print Durability. The reality is that hard copy output is produced to be used, and in that usage it encounters various degrading forces,” said Catherine Fiasconaro, Director of the Laboratory and Vice President, Operations. “The Durability Suite is just one more solution *spencerLAB* provides to the digital imaging community for comprehensive product testing and evaluation. *SpencerLAB*’s Durability Suite provides the ability to measure and assess how today’s technology endures.”

The *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE consists of over three gigabytes of data, includes more than 90 test files (in over 200 adaptations, printing over 500 pages), and covers the full breadth of market segments, including: Consumer, SMB/Office/Enterprise, Photographic, Graphic Arts, Large Format and Production. The SUITE has become a printing industry standard for print and image quality analysis. Files include black-and-white as well as color; color-managed RGB and CMYK; PostScript, PDF, and application formats; output sizes ranging from 4x6” through large format; and both U.S. and international page sizes.

### **AVAILABILITY**

The version 4.4 update is available immediately at no cost to current subscribers of the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE – the update is automatically available at their *MySpencerLab* login page. For information on how to become a site licensee of the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE, visit [www.spencerlab.com](http://www.spencerlab.com) or e-mail [suite@spencer.com](mailto:suite@spencer.com).

### **BACKGROUND**

Assisted by over a dozen key corporate sponsors, *spencerLAB* has shared its expertise in Print Quality, Throughput Speed/Availability, Toner/Ink Yield and associated Cost-per-Print, Usability and Reliability analysis in the development and refinement of the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE. Since its 1990 introduction as the *CHQF* Test Suite, it has become a generally accepted *de facto* standard in facilitating evaluation of Print Quality. Test files in the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE complement recent and forthcoming ISO/IEC standards (*spencerLAB* participated in their development for nearly a decade).

More than a dozen firms sponsored development of Version 4 in order to share access to meaningful measurement tools and standards. These have included Adobe, Canon, Eastman Kodak, EFI, Hewlett-Packard, Konica Minolta, Lexmark, Océ, Okidata, Samsung, Toshiba, and Xerox among others. Many of these sponsors as well as other major industry firms are using the *SpencerLAB* PRINTER TEST SUITE, our testing services or methodology on a continuing basis.

### **ABOUT THE *SpencerLAB* DIGITAL COLOR LABORATORY**

Celebrating more than two decades of industry service, Spencer & Associates Publishing, Ltd. has earned an international reputation for expertise in Color Print Quality and Consumable Yield/Cost-per-Print. *SpencerLAB* DIGITAL COLOR LABORATORY, its independent test division, is recognized as a leader in unbiased, third-party digital image testing. Leading vendors also rely on *spencerLAB* to provide Throughput Speed/Availability, Cost-per-Print, Usability and Reliability benchmarking for a wide variety of printing technologies – inkjet, laser/LED, thermal, and photographic, to name a few. *SpencerLAB* provides leadership in quantitative and qualitative comparisons – test and evaluation services, focus group management, compliance certifications, and benchmark test software/hardware.

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NEWS RELEASE