

Applied AI News

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Eastman Kodak (Rochester, N.Y.), a manufacturer of imaging-related products, has developed an online neural network-based machine vision system for surface mount solder paste inspection. This Windows-based inspection system automatically inspects and analyzes the fine-pitch solder paste physical quality.

Caere (Los Gatos, Calif.), a provider of neural network-based optical character recognition (OCR) technology, has signed an agreement to supply IBM Ireland with OCR Readers for AN POST, Ireland's national postal service. Using a hand-held wand, postal employees will be able to scan text and read bar codes from anywhere on a document.

BrainTech (Scottsdale, Ariz.), a developer of neural network and fuzzy logic-based pattern recognition technologies, has signed a development agreement with Raven (Alexandria, Va.), a developer of acoustic systems for the U.S. Navy. BrainTech will integrate its pattern-matching recognition engine into Raven's new medical diagnostic systems.

Contel Cellular (Atlanta, Ga.), a provider of cellular telephone service, has implemented speech recognition technology and will begin offering its subscribers continuous voice-activated dialing cellular services in its Louisville/Lexington, Ky., markets. Contel's subscribers will be able to speak a natural stream of continuous digits to place phone calls from remote locations.

Harlequin (Cambridge, Mass.), a provider of symbolic processing and electronic publishing solutions, has signed a technology transfer agreement with Geneva, Switzerland-based CERN (European Laboratory for Particle Physics), the originator of the World Wide Web (WWW), one of the

most popular Internet navigator and front-end tools. CERN has chosen Harlequin to continue development and commercialization of its Web product, WebMaker.

Ingersoll Milling Machines (Rockford, Ill.), a manufacturer of industrial products, has developed an expert system-based integrated project management (IPM) system. The IPM system schedules and reports on the activities that need to be completed to successfully install each customer's order. It allows a customer to directly access online information on the progress and status of their order.

Loral Space Information Systems (Houston, Tex.), a supplier of information, ground data, control center hardware and software, has been awarded a contract to develop expert system-based highway traffic manage-

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ment systems for the city of Houston. The new software will allow traffic controllers in the new \$11 million Greater Houston Traffic and Emergency Management Center to detect and quickly resolve traffic incidents.

Gensym (Cambridge, Mass.), a developer of real-time expert system development software, has joined the World Batch Forum, a professional non-profit organization established for the exchange of information related to the management, operation and

automation of batch process manufacturing facilities. In addition to process control, the forum plans to address issues related to evolving technologies, FDA, EPA, and OSHA compliance, safety and environmental concerns, and application of industry standards.

KnowledgeBroker (Reno, Nev.), a supplier of expert system-based help desk support software, has signed a support contract with American National Can (Chicago, Ill.), a packaging manufacturer. Following an initial rollout, KnowledgeBroker's HelpNet 800/900 Service will provide 24-hour live technical computer support for shrink-wrapped software applications to 2,000 American National Can employees in 80 locations nationwide.

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., better known as Freddie Mac (Washington, D.C.), a federally-chartered mortgage company, has signed an agreement with HNC Software (San Diego, Calif.) to use HNC's neural network-based Automated Real Estate Analysis System (AREAS). Freddie Mac will include AREAS in its newly launched automated underwriting service, Loan Prospector. Loan Prospector accesses AREAS (in addition to using its own internal models) for an objective, statistical computation of the current market value of a residential property within minutes.

Star Enterprise Refinery (Convent, La.), an oil refinery, has tested and installed a neural network-based application to control its atmospheric tower. The tower is a multi-product distillation tower with integrated heat recovery systems. The neural controller integrates with a real-time expert system to provide sensor validation, alarm filtering, access to plant-wide cost information, and an interactive graphical interface for users at the Star site.