



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Singulus Mastering & DCA Announce DiscTag Partnership**

**Cushing, OK (January 15, 2007)** – Doug Carson & Associates, Inc. (DCA) proudly announces Singulus Mastering as the latest partner in the DiscTag Enabled program, enabling Singulus Mastering LBRs & in-line systems to fully support DiscTag tracking, HCRC verification & XML metadata consolidated reporting.

This partnership enables all Singulus Mastering's products to utilize DiscTag components.

The DiscTag Enabled workflow uses a unique marker on each layer as a key to retrieve a "Gold Reference" HCRC value and XML metadata from a network location and enable automatic physical testing with HCRC logical verification. The XML metadata contains customer, catalog, format type, and job report information for each application that touches the title. HCRC values provide verification of the replica against the original source data without the need for the original source to be present, while additionally reporting individual miscompare errors by sector and radius location.

There are several possible applications for the DiscTag Enabled workflow in the replication chain, including:

- **Automatic Verification** – stamper & replica verifiers can retrieve the DiscTag marker to automatically populate the user interface and start verification with no operator intervention or data entry errors
- **Automatic Layer Matching** – stamper & replica verifiers can retrieve the DiscTag marker on each layer to ensure that both layers belong together
- **Job Histories/Audit Trails** – plant personnel can lookup job history reports using either the DiscTag from a replica or a host of other parameters, including Customer Name, Catalog ID, Cut Number and Date Range. Reports from each DiscTag Enabled application in the chain are added to the job history reports, so customers can easily pinpoint production issues for a specific title.

"Singulus Mastering is the global leader for the optical disc manufacturing industry. The combination of Singulus Mastering's leadership and DCA's expertise with the DiscTag Enabled product family provides even more opportunities to customers who

choose innovative solutions to differentiate their production facilities," says Eric Carson, Program Manager for DiscTag at DCA.

Ruud Broers, Product Manager for Singulus Mastering says, "By making our products DiscTag Enabled, we feel that we provide our customers with an important product that will result in a higher yield due to less errors and easier manufacturing and quality control. In addition to the DMS and AM line of products, also the CrystalLine mastering system for 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Optical Disc formats, will become DiscTag enabled. "

### **About DCA, Inc.**

DCA, Inc., Doug Carson & Associates, (<http://www.dcainc.com>) is the industry's leading provider of innovation and world class signal processing technology. Since 1988, optical disc manufacturers have relied on DCA's pre-mastering, mastering and verification products. DCA's products include Pre-Mastering tools (Viper, UDF & Video Verifier, Blazer AACs Workstation), Mastering tools (MIS with Pulse Control System) and Plant Management tools (Commander job controller, Title Manager reporting index). DCA's leadership position in the optical disc industry extends now to 3G format development for HD DVD and Blu-ray. DCA continues to champion new solutions for optical discs, including its DiscTag, HCRC and job history metadata for automated verification, testing and tracking of job information.

### **About Singulus Mastering:**

SINGULUS MASTERING (<http://www.singulus.nl>) has been delivering mastering systems to the industry since the first generation of Optical Discs. Located in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, Singulus Mastering is the merger of former SINGULUS OMP and all mastering activities of ODME. With a customer base covering the globe, Singulus Mastering customers range from small plants that operate on a local scale to world-leading discs manufacturers active in the forefront of emerging optical standards.

The Singulus Mastering portfolio does not only include workhorses like the DMS Evolution with 10X/4R mastering speed and the AM Master with 15X/5R using CAV, but also systems for R&D environments like the 266 and the AM-Direct for the environmentally conscious manufacturer, who does not want to use electroforming for stamper making.

Currently Singulus Mastering is working towards the launch of the CrystalLine system, especially designed to serve the needs for mastering of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Optical Discs.

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