

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

ACOM'S FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS DIVISION DEMONSTRATES FIRST AUTOMATED IN-HOUSE CHECK PRODUCTION SYSTEM AT ICBA'S NATIONAL CONVENTION AND TECHWORLD

ATLANTA, March 3, 2002 – ACOM's Financial Documents Division, developer of the MICRPro® in-house check printing solution, today introduced an automated production and finishing system that cuts stacks of printed personal checks into checkbook size, and then stitches and tapes them into pads in a continuous, hands-free process. The system is being demonstrated for the first time at the Independent Community Bankers of America Convention and Techworld, March 2-6 at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort.

According to Financial Documents Division vice president Mark Firmin, the new solution dramatically accelerates the in-house check production process, and makes the MICRPro solution even more feasible for large, often multi-locational institutions of \$250 million assets or more, who may have considered their personal checkbook order volume so high as to preclude the use of an in-house system.

"For banks of any size, the ability to offer customers high-speed delivery of checks that are as good as, or better quality than those available from third party vendors, is great customer service, as well as a significant source of new non-interest revenues," Firmin said. "With in-house solutions, next-day delivery is typical, and in emergencies, a few minutes is possible. The capability of this new automated system provides large banks with another opportunity to sell additional bank products and services, while also strengthening their competitive position in their markets."

The MICRPro Automated Check Production Total Solution comes in two versions, differentiated by their capacities: the MICRPro 800 generates up to 25 checkbook orders per hour, and the MICRPro 1600 generates up to 50 checkbook orders per hour. The total solution also includes the MICRPro check printing software, a PC and a MICR-enhanced laser printer. Prices are \$55,000 and \$70,000, respectively, with availability in the second quarter of 2003.

"At these prices, banks can produce an order of checks for less than \$5.00, leaving room for substantial profit," Firmin said. "With check order prices to customers currently ranging from \$12.00 to \$20.00, it is easy to see how a bank can realize profits of \$200 to \$400 per hour from this activity, leading to a system payback of less than one year."

To produce a customer check order, the operator sets up the checks in the MICRPro software, and prints them on blank security check stock, using the associated MICR-enhanced laser printer. The operator then removes the stack of printed checks comprising the order -- typically eight checkbooks -- places them in the input tray of the automated production system, and presses the start button. In as little as 90 seconds, the device stitches, tapes and cuts the books. They are then ready to be mailed or handed to the customer.

The system is fast, quiet and safe, Firmin said. It is compact, requiring less than 20 square feet for the entire MICRPro installation: PC and printer reside on a table, and the automated finishing system resides on a rolling cabinet that serves as a storage unit for the check stock and printer consumables, with the combined unit measuring about 5' x 2.5' x 4.5'. The stitching, taping and cutting elements are protected by an OSHA-compliant safety enclosure, with an attractive, hinged gull wing access door for service.

"We firmly believe that this new equipment will remove any remaining obstacles to the use of in-house check printing in large financial institutions," Firmin said. "It should be well-received in the banking community, where there is a constant quest for new non-interest revenue sources to supplement sagging interest rates."

About ACOM Solutions, Inc.

ACOM's Financial Document Division is the premier developer of in-house check and financial document production solutions, which enable financial institutions to streamline their check and financial document production activities, and enable them to create and fulfill customer check orders (and reorders) in-house, versus outsourcing to commercial check vendors. ACOM is a multidivisional, international developer and marketer of conventional and e-business solutions. For more information, contact ACOM's Financial Documents Division at:

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