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## **CIP4 and GATF Announce Product Certification Program**

**Washington, DC (January 21, 2004)** – The International Cooperation for the Integration of Processes in Prepress, Press, and Postpress (CIP4) Organization and the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF) signed an agreement to develop JDF-enabled application testing, product testing, and certification programs. Under the terms of this five-year agreement, GATF will work in cooperation with CIP4’s Interoperability and other working groups to develop certification testing methods for different classes of printing and prepress software, systems, and equipment.

“To specify exactly what individual classes of devices need to do with JDF, CIP4 members are developing ‘Interoperability Conformance Specifications’ [ICS] that will provide the standard for individual classes of devices,” said CIP4 executive director, James E. Harvey. “In practice, no single device is likely to utilize all that the JDF specification provides for. For instance, if you are in the digital printing business, you may not care to facilitate data on hard case binding. A RIP need not facilitate JDF preflighting. A Stitcher probably doesn’t need to handle image rendering data. These specifications will provide users with a resource designed to facilitate the implementation of the JDF specification.”

Once published, ICS documents will be used as the basis for certification testing by GATF. CIP4 has signed GATF to an exclusive North American contract to be the first certification testing facility. Other facilities may be later be added in Europe and Asia, and GATF will assume the role of the lead facility.

Once the JDF Certification program is in operation, users will start seeing products that are marked with the “JDF Certified” logo. This certification will be to a specific ICS document and class of device. The ICS documents are all currently in draft form and only in circulation among members of CIP4, but once published, like the JDF standard itself, they will be freely available to the public.

“Several manufactures have already contributed JDF-enabled products to GATF and we’ve been impressed by what we’ve learned so far,” said GATF executive vice president and COO George

Ryan. “GATF is committed to providing the technical and educational resources that printers and the graphic arts industry at large demands and this is an exciting opportunity for GATF to play a key role in the evolution from 20<sup>th</sup> century printing to 21<sup>st</sup> century printing.”

### **About the Job Definition Format**

JDF is an industry standard designed to simplify information exchange between different applications and systems in and around the Graphic Arts industry. JDF builds on and extends beyond pre-existing partial solutions, such as CIP3's Print Production Format (PPF) and Adobe Systems' Portable Job Ticket Format (PJTF). It also enables the integration of commercial and planning applications into the technical workflow. JDF joins the growing number of standards based on XML, ensuring maximum possible portability between different platforms and ready interaction with Internet-based systems. More information is available at <http://www.cip4.org>.

### **About GATF**

The Graphic Arts Technical Foundation is a member-supported, nonprofit, technical, and education organization serving the international graphic communications industries. Its mission statement is “to serve the graphic communications community as the leading resource for technical information and services through research and education.” It is the oldest continuous organization of its kind in graphic communications. Located in Sewickley, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh), the Foundation employs a staff of approximately 50 people. GATF's facilities include state-of-the-art prepress, pressrooms, testing laboratories, libraries, and classrooms that provide a world-class platform for innovative sheetfed and web research, leading-edge publications and instruction, and the development of effective test images. Information about GATF is available at <http://www.gain.org>.

### **About CIP4**

CIP4 brings together vendors, consultants and end-users in the print communications, Graphic Arts industry and associated sectors, covering a variety of equipment, software, peripherals, and processes. Members participate in focused working groups to define future versions of JDF, to study user requirements, and to design the JDF SDK. Information on CIP4, including membership details, is available from the organization's web site: [www.cip4.org](http://www.cip4.org). Or contact Stefan Daun, Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics, telephone: +49 6151 155 575, email: [secretariat@cip4.org](mailto:secretariat@cip4.org). Printers, publishers, prepress services and others may subscribe to the electronic JDF Bulletin newsletter by visiting: [http://www.cip4.org/contact/subscribe\\_cip4info.php](http://www.cip4.org/contact/subscribe_cip4info.php)

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