

- For Immediate Release -

Northern Digital Inc. and Mednetix AG Announce Launch of AURORA™ Magnetic Measurement System

Non-Line of Sight Device Provides New Dimension in Spatial Measurement; Expands Functionality and Applications

WATERLOO/VILLIGEN, April 7 / -- Northern Digital Inc. (NDI) and Mednetix AG today announced the official introduction of their AURORA™ spatial measurement system. The new product uses a proprietary magnetic technology to accurately determine the position and orientation of a miniaturized sensor coil. AURORA's introduction marks the beginning of a new era in magnetic spatial measurement by offering superior performance, extended functionality, and optimized usability.

Today's launch comes as the result of a joint venture struck in December, 1998 between Northern Digital and Mednetix. Resources from the two companies were strategically combined to apply the product development and metrology experience of NDI to Mednetix's unique base technology. AURORA will now be marketed by both companies according to the terms of their joint venture agreement.

Stefan Kirsch, CEO of Mednetix explains, "Although AURORA is the first commercial product offering from Mednetix, our development partnership with NDI ensures customers a reliable, high quality, and cost effective solution." Mednetix President, Christian Schilling added, "The result of the J.V. is a magnetic measurement product with capabilities that go far beyond those of competing systems. AURORA will accurately track up to ten sensors in six degrees of freedom *and* can ascertain disturbances in the magnetic field."

"Advanced spatial measurement has become an integral element of so many critical applications and the challenges are increasing every day," says David Crouch, President of Northern Digital Inc. He went on to say, "AURORA meets these challenges by giving existing and future customers a whole new range of capabilities – including hybridized uses with other NDI spatial measurement systems."

AURORA is now available to both companies' OEM partners for application development, testing, and integration. Serial production of the new system is scheduled for later this year.

Northern Digital Inc., headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, is the world's leading provider of advanced spatial measurement technology for such diverse applications as aerospace, robotics, human motion measurement, and the computer assisted medical device market. Its Internet address is <http://www.ndigital.com>. Mednetix AG, located in Villigen, Switzerland, specializes in the development and marketing of innovative magnetic measurement products. Mednetix is on the Internet at <http://www.mednetix.ch>.

