



CONTACT: Lynn Ramsey
212-989-2106
917-922-2803
lrusa@earthlink.net

PHOTOSCRIBE TECHNOLOGIES DISPUTES LAZARE KAPLAN PATENT SUIT

NEW YORK, May 30—PhotoScribe Technologies, Inc., the world’s largest manufacturer of diamond laser inscription equipment, responded today to a suit brought on May 25 by diamond distributor Lazare Kaplan International, alleging infringement of LKI’s patents with respect to diamond laser inscription equipment and methods. “We were very surprised by Lazare Kaplan’s action,” said PhotoScribe’s President and CEO David Benderly, whose company holds seven patents relating to diamond marking. “It is totally without merit, and we will strongly defend our right to use our patented technology to provide the diamond inscription equipment that the industry wants and needs.”

The LKI lawsuit alleges infringement of patents, which include claims relating to methods of, and apparatus for, laser inscribing gemstones. “We are not infringing the patents asserted in the LKI lawsuit, because we use a fundamentally different and more advanced laser technology,” said Benderly.

PhotoScribe’s Laser Marking Systems use an exclusive “Excimer,” or cold laser, technology. The company guarantees that the laser will not penetrate the diamond and cause internal damage. “The cold laser is the only technology that has proven itself to be safe for diamonds,” Benderly said.

PhotoScribe Technologies introduced its first diamond inscription laser in 1999, “after doing its due diligence,” according to Alan Israel and Martin W. Schiffmiller, partners in the New York City patent law firm of Kirchstein, Ottinger, Israel & Schiffmiller, P.C. “After a

35 West 45th Street • 2nd Floor • New York, NY 10036
212-819-1177 • 1-800-PHOTOSCRIBE (746-8672) • Fax 212-819-1717
www.photoscribetech.com

Page two of two

thorough patent search, we gave PhotoScribe our assurance that the company was not infringing on any existing patents,” said Israel and Schiffmiller.

In 2000, PhotoScribe received a letter from LKI alleging patent infringement, said Benderly. “We knew we were not violating any intellectual property, however, in good faith, we invited LKI’s patent attorneys to inspect our systems with the understanding that they keep our technology confidential, which they agreed to,” said Benderly. “That was about six years ago, and they took no legal action against us until last week. If LKI’s patent claim against us had any merit, certainly they would have taken action much earlier.”

One reason for the LKI taking action at this time, Benderly surmised, is that the diamond laser inscription business is rapidly growing in response to increased consumer demand for more assurances about the diamonds they are buying. “The diamond industry needs this unique diamond identifier. Inscription can help trace and control the flow of diamonds, and it can address increasing consumer concerns regarding synthetic and treated diamonds,” Benderly said. PhotoScribe projects that in the next five years, every stone from 1/5 of a carat up will be marked with some inscription, such as a lab name and certificate number, a manufacturer’s SKU, or a brand logo.

PhotoScribe Technologies, headquartered in New York City, was established in 1998. In addition to manufacturing diamond laser inscription equipment for the jewelry industry, its precision marking technology is used in the fields of aerospace, biotech, medical, optical, ophthalmology, fiber optics, electronics, semi conductors, and MEMS (micro electrical mechanical systems).

For information about PhotoScribe Technologies, contact 212-819-1177 or visit www.photoscribetech.com.

###

35 West 45th Street • 2nd Floor • New York, NY 10036
212-819-1177 • 1-800-PHOTOSCRIBE (746-8672) • Fax 212-819-1717
www.photoscribetech.com