



FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Contact: Krista Brownlee
412-323-4900 ext. 246
sam@pannier.com

**NEW INK JET PRINTING SYSTEM FIRST TO APPLY
CURABLE INK TO TIRES**

**REA-JET Printer Offers Tire Manufacturers Ability to Permanently Print
Real-time Manufacturing Information On Green Rubber**

PITTSBURGH, May 7, 2003 — An ink jet system that allows tire manufacturers to use curable ink to print real-time manufacturing information on green tires and other internal tire components prior to the curing process is now available in the United States exclusively from Pannier Corporation.

The REA-JET Ink Jet System from REA Elektronik GmbH applies specialized curable ink manufactured by APV Engineered Coatings (Akron Paint & Varnish, Inc) that withstands the vulcanization process. Until now, tire manufacturers have been unable to successfully mark green rubber tires with real-time manufacturing and product identification information.

"This specialized ink jet system, with its patented print head design, is an extremely robust machine that can print curable ink on tires and other rubber products in harsh manufacturing environments," says Dean Marlin, Director of Part Marking for Pannier. "The tire industry has long been seeking a means to print more accurate production data on semi-finished and finished product. The REA-JET is the only system that allows manufacturers to quickly and easily print the required data.

-more-

“Most manufacturers in the US today are seeking to identify their products using more sophisticated, high-technology equipment that allows more flexibility and better tracking capabilities,” says Marlin. “Now the tire industry can benefit from the latest printing technology with the REA-JET system. The REA-JET’s software can download information from various sources, and shift codes, line numbers, consecutive numbers, and date and time of manufacture can be printed with very little operator intervention.”

The tire-imprinting REA-JET system belongs to a family of rugged industrial ink jet printers manufactured by REA Elektronik GmbH of Germany and distributed in the United States by Pannier. Rated IP-65, the REA-JET ink jet printer can withstand dust, high humidity, extreme temperatures, and vibration while delivering clear printed images in character sizes ranging from ¼” to 5 ¼”. The REA-JET prints faster and uses up to 25 percent less ink than other large character drop-on-demand ink jet printers, reducing cost of ownership and boosting manufacturing productivity.

For additional information about the REA-JET family of ink jet printers and the specialized version for marking green rubber, contact Pannier Corporation at 412-323-4900 or sales@pannier.com.

-more-

Pannier Corporation is one of the world's leading researchers, designers and manufacturers of industrial marking and identification products and engineered systems. Founded in 1899, the Pittsburgh-based company produces and sells bar-coding, printing, stamping and embossing equipment for high- and low-tech industrial applications; automated identification systems and customized marking machines for specialized applications and modernization; and fiberglass signage.

###

REA-JET System Specifications

Electrical Supply	110 VA; 50/60 Hz	
Air Supply	Less than 30 PSI, clean and dry (optional electrical ink supply available with internal air pressure)	
Operating Environment	Temperature: 23°F to 113°F Humidity: 10% - 90% non-condensing	
Protection Rating	IP-65	
Serial Interface	RS-232 (RS-422 optional)	
Line Speed	2 fpm to 850 fpm	
Character Sizes	¼" to 5¼", bold characters, adjustable width and spacing	
Print Matrix	5x5; 7x5; 10x10; 16x10	
Lines of Text	7-dot head: 1 line 16-dot head: 2 lines 32-dot head: 4 lines	
Message Length	256 characters per message	
Languages	Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish	
Message Storage	100 messages including logos, expandable to 1,000 messages	
Mounting Configurations	top, bottom, or side mounting; R/L print or L/R print	
Bar Codes	Interleaved 2 of 5, Code 39	
Ink Types	Ethyl Acetate Ethyl Alcohol High Temperature Isopropyl Alcohol	MEK Pigmented Water-based Custom

Pannier Corporation