

NEWS RELEASE

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ITAC Systems MOUSE-TRAK® Boosts Radiologists' Productivity With Dedicated Button "Cine" Feature

Responding to a request from an observant radiology lab technician, ITAC has created a version of its MOUSE-TRAK Industrial trackball to "save the Docs a lot of time" when utilizing the Cine function on Siemens Medical's PACS workstations.

Editors note: Images are available as .tif files for downloading from the Press Room at www.itacsystems.com.

Garland, Texas—February 18, 2004—ITAC Systems announced today the availability of versions of its MOUSE-TRAK Industrial trackballs for use on Siemens PACS terminals using Sun or Wintel platforms. Developed in response to input from the Siemens user community, these trackballs simplify the task of reviewing sequenced patient images. One early user, Dr. Stephanie Swope of St. Johns Hospital, Springfield, IL, says ***"The ability of the ITAC trackball to scroll smoothly through exams***



has allowed us to increase our workflow. No one cares to think of the days when we were scrolling through 800-image CT scans with a regular mouse. I'd never go back."

Siemens delivers its PACS products on several platforms including Sun SPARC, Sun Blade, and Wintel systems. To support these varied installations, ITAC Systems has created two products supporting the Siemens PACS Cine function. The BPACSI model is compatible with the Sun Sparc's proprietary mouse interface, while the BUSBID-PACSI model supports the USB mouse interface of Sun Blade and PC platforms. By basing these products on ITAC's rugged MOUSE-TRAK Industrial product, medical laboratory issues such as damaged plastics resulting from exposure to isopropyl alcohol wipe-downs are greatly reduced when compared to normal computer mice.

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According to Don Bynum, President of ITAC Systems, “The weakest link in the user interface is where a human being comes in direct contact with a mouse—a mouse that was designed for light home or office use in either games or traditional office applications. Our medical systems users over the years have told us of the overriding issues in their operations. Doctors need tools that help them, more quickly, to gain better insight as they formulate diagnosis and treatment strategies for the patient.”

A feature like Siemens’ ‘cine’ function is designed, by the system developer, to provide a better way to look at a patient’s data, but in this case, the way a standard mouse works materially limits the ease with which the doctors and technicians are able to fully exploit the feature. ***“Prior to our custom trackball, scrolling through large numbers of images required holding one button down while another finger rolled the trackball or moved the mouse back and forth. With numerous images to scan through, this repetitive motion becomes very strenuous on the hand and wrist. Now, with ITAC’s solution, you simply roll the ball to cine”***, notes Alan Bea, PACS Administrator at St. John’s Hospital. By reprogramming the processor inside the trackball, dedicating our fourth button to the cine function, and ‘locking’ down the cine button ITAC has provided a tool which:

- 1—simply plugs in, in place of the standard mouse, which is good news for system administrators, and
- 2—doctors tell us improves their ability to exploit the cine function with less effort.

Added Value for OEMs and VARs

OEMs and VARs know how important their products are to maintaining and improving productivity in today’s healthcare industry. Still, they often overlook the difference in the physical environment between their software development lab and the place where their product really gets used. They will want to ensure that that performance edge they are selling is not compromised by an underperforming consumer mouse or trackball.

Plug and Play Convenience

Like all of ITAC’s products, these devices offer easy installation. Just plug them in. There are no special software drivers to install—they work with the drivers that come with your operating system (for USB users, Solaris, Windows 98 or Windows 2000 is required).

A Family of Precision Input Devices

The MOUSE-TRAK family offers a selection of mouse replacement devices that are not only built to withstand rugged use in harsh environments, but also offer precision accuracy and comfort of use to enhance productivity in industrial, medical, business, and military applications.



About the Company

ITAC Systems, Inc., founded in 1977, is a privately held company based in Garland, Texas. ITAC designs, manufactures, and markets MOUSE-TRAK high-reliability computer input devices and EnviroCase enclosures used in manufacturing process control, transaction processing, and medical systems, as well as in the computer graphics, engineering, and government markets.

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*Members of the media who would like to evaluate a MOUSE-TRAK device should contact
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