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Matrox Parhelia™ graphics card powers advanced GIS visualization of recent blackout in northeastern U.S. and Canada

Montreal, Canada, August 21, 2003 — Matrox Graphics Inc., the leading manufacturer of professional graphics solutions, today announced that the Matrox Parhelia™ graphics card powered advanced visualizations of the recent blackout in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. These images were created by Vector One, a GIS and visualization services provider based in Germany, using the following powerful GIS and visualization software: Visual Nature Studio and Ultimate Earth, by 3D Nature and GeoMedia Professional, by Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions.

"The Matrox Parhelia graphics card is very useful for use with GIS applications for a number of reasons," said Jeff Thurston, Director, Vector One. "One reason being that the rendering speed is enhanced greatly, which is important where geospatial data files, such as the blackout maps, are not simple pictures but are true digital elevation models (DEM), with enhanced satellite imagery, and are very large files covering a great part of the eastern seaboard."

The blackout, which occurred the afternoon of August 14, 2003, covered an area of 25,000 sq. km., and affected over 50 million people. It is believed to have originated in the state of Ohio, near Cleveland, where a series of events triggered the collapse of the Eastern Intersection Grid, an integrated power grid covering the area and consisting of numerous hydroelectric and nuclear power generating stations. The images created by Vector One GIS and Visualization depict the area and the events, as they are currently known, that contributed to the blackout—the largest ever experienced in North America.

The images created are available on Vector One's website at: <http://www.vectorone.info/power.htm>

About Parhelia

The Matrox Parhelia™ graphics card, available in 128MB and 256MB configurations, brings unmatched versatility with Surround Design—hardware accelerated 2D and/or 3D on one, two or three displays, industry-leading image quality, exceptional performance, driver certifications for leading applications, and renowned driver stability to GIS professionals.

About Matrox Graphics

Matrox Graphics Inc., the leading manufacturer of professional graphics solutions, has been delivering high-quality, innovative 2D/3D and video graphics accelerators for more than a quarter century. Pioneer of the trend-setting DualHead® technology, Matrox is a graphics chip designer and board manufacturer whose products have been awarded over 1,000 times worldwide for their superior image quality, practical ingenuity and unwavering stability. In July 2002, Matrox was elected as a voting member of the OpenGL® Architecture Review Board (ARB). A privately held company headquartered in Montreal, Canada, Matrox has international offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Information on Matrox products, drivers, technical support and more can be found at: www.matroxcad.com.

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