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**COGNEX CORPORATION RECEIVES PURCHASE ORDER TOTALING
OVER \$1 MILLION FOR SURFACE INSPECTION APPLICATION
Order Represents Largest Single Purchase Ever for Fine-Line Series**

NATICK, MA, October 29, 1997—Cognex Corporation (NASDAQ: CGNX), the world's leading supplier of machine vision systems, has received a purchase order for over \$1 million from a U.S.-based manufacturer of sheet materials. This is the largest order ever received for Cognex's Fine-Line Series. (These products were developed by Mayan Automation of Montreal, Canada, which was acquired by Cognex in August 1997 and is now part of the company's Surface Inspection Systems Division.) All systems are scheduled for delivery by year end.

"During the due diligence process that preceded our acquisition of Mayan Automation, we discovered that Mayan was pursuing this important account. However, we were pleasantly surprised when the order was received earlier than expected, and for a substantially larger number of systems than originally anticipated," said Dr. Robert J. Shillman, Cognex's President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman. "This order is a promising indicator of the future potential of our Fine-Line products."

"We received our first purchase order from this customer—who was seeking an inexpensive, easy-to-use, 'plug and play' inspection solution—in the first quarter of this year. The success of the first installation, in terms of its realized value and positive financial impact on the customer's operations, resulted in this latest purchase order," said Michael Braeuel, Site Manager for Cognex's Surface Inspection Systems Division, Fine-Line Products. "This record order is an excellent way for Mayan Automation to kick off our new identity as part of Cognex's Surface Inspection Systems Division. I anticipate that this will be the first of many successes for us as part of the Cognex team."

(more)

Cognex Corporation designs, develops, manufactures, and markets machine vision systems, or computers that can "see." Cognex is the world's leader in the machine vision industry, having shipped to date more than 65,000 machine vision systems. Cognex's Modular Vision Systems Division, headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts, specializes in machine vision systems which are used for automating the manufacture of a wide range of discrete items and for assuring their quality. Cognex's Surface Inspection Systems Division, headquartered in Alameda, California, specializes in machine vision systems which are used for inspecting the surfaces of products manufactured in a continuous fashion, such as metals, paper, and plastics. In addition to its corporate headquarters in Natick, Massachusetts, Cognex also has regional offices located throughout North America, Japan, Europe, and Southeast Asia. Visit Cognex on-line at <http://www.cognex.com>.

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