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Escher Group's Legacy-Free Initiative Gains Momentum with Addition of Weigh-Tronix Peripherals

-- Weigh-Tronix introduces new plug-and-play USB scale that is compatible with Escher's Riposte® and WebRiposte™ counter automation platforms --

Cambridge, Mass. – October 8, 2002 – Escher Group, Ltd., a leading provider of peer-to-peer messaging and data management solutions, today announced that it is working with Weigh-Tronix, Inc., a leading provider of specialized electronic scales, to offer a counter solution that supports legacy-free peripherals. Weigh-Tronix's new 7620U scale is designed to be compatible with Escher's Riposte® and WebRiposte™ counter automation platforms, and it features a universal serial bus (USB) connection. This latest offering from Weigh-Tronix can help Escher's customers to implement their counter automation initiatives more quickly and easily.

"Weigh-Tronix is very excited about the opportunity to develop postal scales that complement Escher's Riposte family of products for the international market," said Peggi Trimble, chief marketing and sales officer of Weigh-Tronix. "The USB technology allows us to provide the most reliable and accurate scale as well as expand the flexibility and connectivity today's postal organizations are looking for."

Escher Group provides high-volume, fault-tolerant, distributed, transaction-processing platforms to postal authorities around the world. The company is a proponent of legacy-free networks, in which older components of a traditional PC architecture are replaced with newer, more intelligent technology. The goal is to simplify system installations and reduce the total cost of ownership; for example, by providing plug-and-play peripheral support.

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"Escher's relationship with Weigh-Tronix demonstrates our commitment to delivering the best and most cost-effective counter automation solutions to our customers," said Michael J. Murphy, president and CEO of Escher Group. "The new scale that Weigh-Tronix has developed replaces the older serial port with a USB connection. It requires no external power source, and it can be plugged directly into a workstation for immediate use with Riposte or WebRiposte. This solution reduces costs and clutter at the postal counter, and it enables customers to complete their automation projects more quickly than ever before."

The Weigh-Tronix 7620U scale has a resolution of 1 gram, and it is available for capacities of 30, 35, 50, and 75 kilograms. It features the company's patented Quartzell digital technology, and it is designed for USB or RS-232 standard output.

Visitors to POST-EXPO 2002 – which is being held October 8-10 in Köln, Germany – will be able to view demonstrations of the new USB scale and other legacy-free technologies at the Escher stand (#636) in the exhibition halls.

About Escher Group Limited

Escher Group Limited is a leading provider of peer-to-peer messaging and data management solutions and services. The company offers a business-to-business, XML-based transaction management environment that is used in thousands of locations worldwide. Escher introduced Riposte — its flagship peer-to-peer messaging solution — in 1993, and later extended the product's functionality with support for Internet-based applications when it launched WebRiposte in 2000. Today, the Riposte family of products has established Escher as the market leader in post office counter automation. The company is a proud sponsor of the MIT Media Lab's "Things That Think Consortium," which researches advances in information technologies. In addition to its headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Escher has offices in Dublin, London, and Singapore.

About Avery Weigh-Tronix

Avery Weigh-Tronix is a leading manufacturer, marketer, and servicer of industrial and retail weighing systems. The Avery Weigh-Tronix Group markets and sells its products in over 100 countries under established brand names, including Avery Berkel, Weigh-Tronix, Dillon, NCI, and Salter-Brecknell.

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