

PRESS RELEASE

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Small Controller Enables Distributed Microscope Automation

San Jose, CA and Palo Alto, CA (January 2007) – TOFRA, Inc. has released the first two devices in its new generation of microscope automation products with built-in motion controllers from AllMotion, Inc. This achievement was made possible by the small size and ease of integration of the EZHR17EN step motor controller.

The advantage for the end user is lower cost, less required desk space, reduced cable clutter, and improved scalability. The two released devices are filter wheel and focus drive. They can be daisy-chained together and with other filter wheels and stages (in development), creating an automated microscope system. The cables carry only direct current and communications signals minimizing electromagnetic interference. The new microscope automation devices do not need any additional control units; they connect directly to the computer serial port (or to USB port through USB-to-serial converter) via a custom cable and can be used with desktop or laptop computers. Distributed control does not force the user to decide in advance on the composition of the whole microscope system or to upgrade the control unit when new devices are added.

The key features of the EZHR17EN step motor controller that make it very suitable for distributed microscope automation are:

- Small size, corresponding to NEMA 17 motor, including cut corners; no need for heat sinking.
- Easy packaging, including convenient connectors and output voltage for limit switches.
- The ability to mount controller on-axis or off-axis and use it with different motors.
- Easy programmability.

For more information on AllMotion see the company web site www.allmotion.com or contact David Goodin at david@allmotion.com, by telephone 408.460.1345 or write to AllMotion, 5501 Del Oro Court, San Jose, CA 95124.

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