



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jay Mitchell wins CEO Self-Checkout Scan-Off at N.G.A. Convention

Bowling Green, KY - February 25, 2009 Pan-Oston and the National Grocers Association are proud to announce that Jay Mitchell of Mitchell Grocery Corporation in Alabama recorded the fastest time scanning and bagging a cartload of groceries to win the Utopia Innovation lane in the N.G.A.'s first ever CEO Self-Checkout Scan-Off.

"I had fun competing in this event and learned a tremendous amount about self-checkout," said Jay Mitchell. "We are looking forward to installing this smart and simple new technology in our store and providing our customers different checkout options."



Steven Guess, CFO of Pan-Oston presenting Jay Mitchell with the 1st prize certificate in front of the lane that Jay will be installing in one of his stores.

Utopia is the most advanced self-checkout solution available. It is the only Plug-and-Go self-checkout, allows retailers to use their current hardware and works with any POS system. "Utopia was designed to simplify self-checkout technology for grocers," said Jim Vance, President of Pan-Oston. "It works with any .NET or Linux software, provides store level control, a choice of lane designs and configurations, Delayed Mediation

Technology™ to speed-up the checkout process and Advanced Redundancy Technology™ so shoppers can checkout even if the POS system is down.”

With Utopia self-checkout, grocers can install a single lane, multiple lanes, the ergonomically designed Innovation lane with lay-aside carousel or the exclusive cashier-optional lane that easily converts from a self-checkout to cashier manned lane. “We were delighted with the number of executives who participated in the Self-Checkout Scan-Off,” said Frank DiPasquale, Executive Vice President and Executive Director, National Grocers Association. “It was evident from the participants comments why Pan-Oston’s Utopia self-checkout solution is a proven self-checkout solution for independent grocers. Utopia is the most affordable self-checkout and can even be leased through a N.G.A. program.”

Pan-Oston, a majority owned subsidiary of Houchens Industries, one of the largest employee owned (“ESOP”) companies in the United States, has been designing and manufacturing retail checkout products as well as a broad range of retail fixtures and fittings for over 40 years. www.panoston.com

National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family, and others are employee owned. Independents are the true “entrepreneurs” of the grocery industry and are dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: www.nationalgrocers.org

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