

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Utopia™ introduces Smallest Modular Self-Checkout Lane

Third new product introduction in 12 months gives retailers' ultimate flexibility

Bowling Green, KY - August 24, 2009 Pan-Oston, a leader in smart retail counter and checkout solutions for over 4 decades, is proud to introduce the newest self-checkout line in the ever-expanding Utopia self-checkout product family.

Utopia's modular line is the smallest fully modular self-checkout in the world. It enables retailers to build a custom lane by selecting the cabinet style, hardware, software and features then later add/remove these components as their customer preferences and/or business evolves.



As with every Utopia self-checkout, the modular line gives retailers the option of using their existing checkout peripherals like monitors, scanners, printers and EFT's in their new self-checkout lanes.

The modular line is built upon the market proven Utopia self-checkout platform that under multiple banners has smoothly transacted tens of millions in sales with the industry's lowest intervention rates (Utopia at 11% versus Industry at 140%).

“Our modular line was designed to give independent grocers all the benefits of self-checkout along with their favorite feed, takeaway and bagging system,” said Jim Vance, President of Pan-Oston. “And maybe even more beneficial is the fact that the lanes can be easily changed by adding/removing cabinet, hardware and software components as well as features so they never become obsolete.”



The deployment of self-checkout units in 2008 grew by almost 20% and is expected to maintain or exceed that pace for the next six years. Self-checkouts are becoming increasingly popular with customers because they reduce checkout wait times, give them a greater sense of privacy and make them feel more in control of their transaction.

Utopia is the only plug-and-go self-checkout solution, the only system that works with both Microsoft.NET or Linux software, the only solution using the revolutionary Bank Note Recycler and the only self-checkout that offers grocers the choice of “scan, bag and pass” lanes, traditional modular units, in-counter or counter-top units, and even a cashier-optional model. Utopia is also the only self-checkout that works with 98% of POS software, has exclusive Delayed Mediation Technology™ and Advanced Redundancy Technology™.

Pan-Oston, a division of Houchens Industries, Inc., one of the largest employee owned (“ESOP”) companies in the United States, has been an industry leader in the design and manufacture of retail checkout products as well as a broad range of retail fixtures and fittings for over 40 years. www.panoston.com

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