

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pan-Oston Company Continues Strategic Capital Investments in Product Design and Manufacturing Capabilities**

*New investments enhance customer value for existing products as well as the increasingly popular C-Flex™ Counter System, Ergolane™ Checkout Lane, Display Genie™ Shelving and Utopia™ Self-Checkout brands*

**Bowling Green, KY – September 18, 2009** Pan-Oston, a leader in smart counter and checkout solutions for over 40 years, announced today the purchase and impending installation of a second Salvagnini S4 Punching and Shearing Machine. In addition they have undertaken a significant upgrade to their 3D CAD Engineering Software capability with PDM Enterprise and SolidWorks Engineering Software. “These capital investments are a commitment to our strategic objective of continuous improvement in support of the enhanced requirements of our valued customers,” said Jim Vance, President, Pan-Oston Company.

A Salvagnini S4 Punching and Shearing Machine is a fully automated CNC work center that punches and shears precision sheet metal parts. To further enhance its accuracy and productivity, the CNC programs are derived directly from the design models produced by the SolidWorks 3D CAD software. The Salvagnini S4 Punch/Shear System is one of the most accurate machines available for punching and shearing sheet metal. Among its many advanced features are the continually live punch stations that allow for single sheet passes ensuring high reliability and part accuracy.

“The Salvagnini S4 system coupled with our Salvagnini P4 Bending Machine, will further advance our already industry leading product delivery and the exacting quality standards customers have come to expect from Pan-Oston,” said Brian Schandel, Director of Operations, Pan-Oston Company.

The upgrade of the 3D CAD Engineering Software with PDM Enterprise and SoldiWorks software enables design teams to manage product data, share design information, automate workflows and improve collaboration between engineering and manufacturing. An additional benefit is the ability to automatically support and notify manufacturing of workflow processes such as engineering change notices or engineering change orders.

“Our new 3D CAD software capability expands our technical communication between manufacturing, engineering and our customers and has exceeded the capabilities that we thought were achievable,” said Chad Eilers, VP of Design Engineering, Pan-Oston Company. “Perhaps even more exciting is the speed at which we can design, value engineer, prototype and manufacture new products like C-Flex™, Display Genie™ and Utopia™ self-checkout models to support our customers’ need for ‘speed to market’.”

Pan-Oston Company, a majority owned subsidiary 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.

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