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CONTACT: J.B. Stanton Communications
860/542-1234 Voice • 860/542-0005 Fax

Stan Pinkwas / [718] 788-7777

stanp@jbstanton.com

Bryan Stanton / jbs@jbstanton.com

Dolby to License Meridian MLP™

New Meridian Lossless Packing Technology
To Be Offered for Variety of Applications

ATLANTA, GA, June 19, 1998—Dolby Laboratories [San Francisco, CA] has agreed to handle the licensing of Meridian Lossless Packing™ [MLP™]. MLP will be incorporated by makers of integrated circuits, recording equipment, CD and DVD players, and audio/video decoders, and will also be used for transmission, storage and archiving applications.

"We see the licensing of MLP as a perfect fit with our ongoing licensing program." said Roger Dressler, Director of Technology Strategy at Dolby. "MLP not only has a potential role in the DVD format alongside Dolby Digital, the system's unique capabilities will round out our portfolio of audio coding solutions for a wide range of uses."

Meridian Lossless Packing, or MLP, is an audio coding process employing proprietary technology that has been developed by Meridian Audio and its associates over the past three years. It has been designed to deliver the very best listening experience possible by fully exploiting all the information contained in advanced high-rate audio formats.

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MLP processing raises the standard for high-end audio reproduction. It is extremely accurate, and has been designed to guard against generation loss, and protected to an unusual degree against transmission errors. At the same time, it is extremely efficient and requires relatively low computational power for playback. Beginning now, MLP will be supplied as a standard feature in Meridian Surround Decoders.

Unlike perceptual or lossy data reduction, lossless coding does not alter the final decoded signal in any way, but merely 'packs' the audio data more efficiently into a smaller data rate for transmission. MLP is a simple-to-decode method optimized for the new requirements brought about by applications like DVD Audio.

In particular, MLP has been optimized to enable more opportunities for multichannel audio and for audio at high sample rates with high precision. There are many applications for a lossless coding system. MLP has been optimized for modern carriers. Useful examples include:

- High-rate multichannel audio on DVD
- 3 or 4 channels on CD
- 2 channels of 20/24-bit on CD
- 88.2 kHz 2-channel on CD

Currently, the highest quality sound comes with Linear PCM coding. Unfortunately, distribution formats like CD and DVD do not require the mastering or playback process to be lossless—the data can be subtly changed on the way through the production chain.

MLP is a *true lossless* system. The original data is delivered bit-for-bit at the playback stage. MLP even has a method of confirming that the whole signal chain is lossless. This means that for the first time, the listener can be sure of hearing exactly what the producer intended—bit-for-bit, note-for-note.

There is no need for elaborate listening tests to qualify this coding system. MLP simply guarantees delivery of the original recording, efficiently, over a

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number of carriers, archive and computing platforms.

The Meridian Audio Group is a privately held company based in the U. K. The group consists of three companies: Meridian Audio Ltd., Meridian America, Inc. [Atlanta, GA] and Digital Gramophone and Wireless Ltd. Meridian specializes in advanced audio and signal-processing technologies and makes some of the very finest CD, DVD, multichannel and DSP products available today. MLP was developed as part of Meridian's efforts to advance the state of the art for new formats like DVD.

Dolby Laboratories, a privately held company based in San Francisco, California, is the pre-eminent audio technology and licensing company in the U.S. Dolby and Meridian are both represented on WG-4 of the DVD Forum.

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