



**For Immediate Release**

## **NEW SOUND MASKING DIAGNOSTIC PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY LENCORE ACOUSTICS CORP.**

Merrick, NY (December 15, 2003) -- Lencore Acoustics Corp., a leading provider of sound masking technology and equipment, announces the availability of the ***Sound and Privacy Evaluation and Criteria™ (SPEC) software program***, a new sound masking tool for ensuring optimum sound masking for speech privacy and comfort levels for new and existing commercial facilities.

The new SPEC software serves as a diagnostic and planning tool for sound masking and paging systems designed and installed by Lencore. The software enables a fact-based approach to analyzing and establishing the spatial and temporal uniformity of sound for sound masking. It also establishes the improvement of privacy levels in a space, both before and after the proposed masking system is installed.

“It is important for facility managers to show hard data about their investment in any sound masking system,” says Jonathan Leonard, vice president, Lencore. The indices created by the software detail how much the system will improve the environment’s acoustics – something that was previously difficult to determine.

In creating this software program, Lencore helps ensure users that the sound masking system that is installed meets industry standards for speech privacy. The software also provides information to help facility managers meet legal standards for oral privacy (HIPAA, GLBA). In addition, the program enables healthcare and financial facilities to document the reasonable safeguards they have undertaken to protect personal health and financial information.

Just as important as meeting privacy requirements, Leonard adds, is the critical question: Will the sound masking system provide a comfortable sound, and improve the environment, throughout the space?

### **How SPEC Software Works**

Using Lencore's SPEC program, proper planning for optimal sound masking is straightforward. Lencore measures the ambient background sound and uses a variety of other measurements in the space to determine the existing speech privacy and articulation indexes. Next, physical characteristics of the space are programmed into the software, including plenum measurements, ceiling measurements, partition layouts, and ceiling materials, among others.

After determining the desired sound masking level for the space, the software draws from a range of sound masking and paging system variables to calculate a number of specifications, including:

- Placement of sound masking generators and speakers for optimum temporal and spatial uniformity
- Performance parameters of sound masking units and speakers
- Configuration of paging speakers to ensure speech intelligibility
- Electrical specifications

From these specifications, the software then generates a *Privacy Index Report*<sup>™</sup> that includes details about how the sound masking and/or paging system will perform.

The report outlines:

- Decibel levels and variances at speakers, and between speakers, floor and ceiling
- Speech privacy levels after installation
- Articulation index after installation
- Sound masking coverage

“As sound masking has grown, we needed better tools to enable more precise designs and installations,” Leonard explains. “The new software gives us an accurate formula to follow that enables companies to meet privacy and articulation standards for any space. It then tells us a great deal about what is happening with the sound we are

creating.” Understanding the sound characteristics being created in a space permits installers to fine-tune the components efficiently.

The diagnostic capabilities of SPEC software also make it useful for troubleshooting problem spaces, and for comparing sound masking systems.

Lencore Acoustics Corp. is headquartered in Merrick, New York. Its principals have over 40 years of acoustical expertise, with over 100 million square feet of sound masking installations nationwide.

For more information about Lencore’s Sound and Privacy Evaluation and Criteria software program or Privacy Index Report, contact Lencore Acoustics Corp., 1 Crossways Park Dr. West, Woodbury, NY 11797. Telephone: (516) 223-4747. Or, visit [www.lencore.com](http://www.lencore.com).

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