

ISI ANNOUNCES PRODUCTS AND UPGRADES REACHING END OF LIFE

SANTA CLARA, CA – June 12, 2013: Integral Solutions International, ISI, the world’s leading manufacturer of Quasi-Static testers for the data storage industry, announced today that availability and support of some of our older products and upgrades will reach end-of-life.

The following is a list of older ISI products that are reaching End of Life (EOL), along with ISI services/upgrades that will be Discontinued.

DISCONTINUING yearend 2014: BlazerX5 to BlazerX6 Bar Tester Upgrades

Since the release of the BlazerX6 Bar Tester in 2009 ISI has been offering existing 5-digit BlazerX5 customers the ability to upgrade their X5 testers to the latest X6 version, at significant cost savings vs. the replacement of these testers with brand new units. ISI will continue to offer this BlazerX6 upgrade through the end of year 2014, so X6 upgrade is highly recommended.

DISCONTINUING yearend 2014: QST2002/QST2002E to QST2002/QST2002E “PLUS” Upgrades

Since the release of the QST2002 “PLUS” Tester in 2011 ISI has been offering existing QST2002 non-PLUS customers the ability to upgrade their QST testers to the latest “PLUS” version, at significant cost savings vs. the replacement of these testers with brand new units. ISI will continue to offer this “PLUS” upgrade through the end of year 2014, so “PLUS” upgrade is highly recommended.

DISCONTINUED: QST2002 to QST2002 “PZT-only” Upgrades

For a brief time ISI was offering a partial upgrade option for original QST2002/QST2002E testers, which allowed upgrade of these units to be compatible with ISI’s fully-integrated PZT/uAct Capacitance Measurement Module. This partial “PZT-only” upgrade for QST2002 systems is no longer available, meaning that ISI’s fully integrated PZT/uAct Capacitance Measurement Module is only compatible with QST2002 “PLUS” systems.

DISCONTINUED: Upgrade of 1K Oe Field Magnet to 1.5K Oe Field for QST2002

The 1.5K Oe Magnet is standard on all QST2002 “PLUS” systems, but has also been offered by ISI as a upgrade to existing QST2002 non-PLUS testers. This 1.5K Oe Magnet upgrade is no longer available on its own, and will only be available as part of the upgrade to “PLUS” systems described above.

EOL yearend 2013: GEN2 version of 2xBarInterface Board and Gen2 Magnet for BlazerX5B Bar / BlazerX5S Slider applications, including Gen2 Probecards

ISI is no longer servicing the Gen2 2xBarInterface Board, which has been replaced with the Gen3, and now Gen3-B, 2xBarInterface Board versions since 2006. Most original Gen2 Bar/Slider customers have already upgraded to Gen3/Gen3-B. ISI will continue to offer the Gen3-B Board/Magnet upgrade for these original Gen2 X5 Bar and Slider Testers through the end of year 2013, so upgrade to Gen3-B is highly recommended.

EOL yearend 2013: 4-digit SN BlazerX5 Bar Testers

These systems are nearing 10 years old and are easily identified by the 4-digit SN and the red EMO button positioned through the door of the lower blue frame of the Blazer system (as opposed to the newer 5-digit SN systems with red EMO button positioned on the upper frame). These early systems are not upgradeable to the latest X6 version and will no longer be supported after the end of year 2013.

EOL yearend 2013: GEN2 version of 2xHGA Base and Board Assembly for QST2002

The Gen2 2xHGA Base and Board Assembly mounts onto the QST2002 and QST2002HF testers, and is the universal interface for mounting 2xHGA test fixtures. The Gen2 version of this interface was originally designed for GMR head usage, and is not recommended for TMR testing. The replacement is the Gen3-B version of the 2xHGA Base and Board Assembly, which utilizes the latest lower-noise, higher-accuracy Gen3-B interface electronics for GMR/TMR operation. Most HGA customers have already upgraded their HGA systems from Gen2 to Gen3-B. ISI will continue supporting this Gen2 version through the end of 2013 but thereafter the Gen3-B version will be required, so upgrade to Gen3-B is highly recommended.

EOL yearend 2013: 50ohm Intermediate RD board for Blazer X5/X6 Bar Testers

This 50ohm Intermediate RD board for Bar Testers was originally developed for GMR head usage, and is not recommended for TMR testing. The replacement is the 75ohm version, which was released in 2008. The 50ohm version will no longer be supported after the end of year 2013, so upgrade to 75ohm is highly recommended.

EOL yearend 2013: External LCR version of PZT/uAct Capacitance Measurement Module for QST2002

Since the release of ISI’s fully-integrated PZT/uAct Capacitance Measurement Module for “PLUS” systems in 2011 the original version of this system, which utilized a third-party LCR Meter, became superseded. This original system version will be obsolete by the end of year 2013, so upgrade to the “PLUS” system with the optional ISI PZT/uAct Capacitance Measurement Module is highly recommended.

EOL: GEN1-B HDA Toolings for QST2002

Since ISI released the Gen3 and Gen3-1B versions of HDA Toolings in 2008 these new versions have superseded the original Gen1-B HDA Tooling version. ISI is no longer servicing the original Gen1-B HDA Motherboards/Toolings. Although these old toolings are likely obsolete already, any customers still using Gen1-B HDA Toolings should upgrade them to the Gen3-1B version.

EOL: Side Field Option for QST2002

The original Side Field Option utilized a kit where two coil magnets were oriented within the standard QST2002 HGA/HSA/HDA Magnet. This kit has long since been obsolete, and is superseded by the QuadPole HGA and AutoZ QuadPole HSA/HDA Magnet options.

UPCOMING EOL Announcement: ISI Quasi97 software for WinXP

In the near future ISI will be releasing a new version of the Quasi97 software platform designed for .NET and WIN7. This is a comprehensive rewrite of the ISI test software and includes UPH improvements under most test conditions. This new software will require an upgrade licensing charge for most QST testers. ISI expects that for 1 year from release of the new WIN7 version ISI will continue to support both the current WinXP version along with the new WIN7 version, but thereafter the current WinXP version will be frozen and all future software developments will only be within the new WIN7 version. The WIN7 version will not support any of the items that will reach EOL as described in this document. Please note that this is an advanced notification, a formal notification along with this software release is expected to be available July 2013.

About ISI

Integral Solutions International (referred to as ISI) is a privately held California based US Corporation. ISI was established in September 1995 and is the leading manufacturer of Quasi-Static testers for GMR, TMR and Perpendicular Heads. This includes a line of Quasi-Static (QST) Testers, ESD and Temperature Stress Testers. ISI’s product line of testers consists of Row Bar QST, Slider QST, HGA, HSA, HDA, and Tape Head QST. Optional components include the ESD MR Head Stress System and Temperature Controller System.

ISI provides worldwide customer support from the United States, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Hong-Kong, and the Philippines.