BLI HONORS FALL 2005 "PICKS OF THE YEAR"

Panasonic Panafax UF-8000

Outstanding High-Volume Fax-Centric Multifunctional Imaging System, Fall 2005

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BLI has given a Fall 2005 "Pick of the Year" award for "Outstanding High-Volume Fax-Centric Multifunctional Imaging System" to the Panasonic Panafax UF-8000 because of its superior output quality and good productivity and ease of use. An outstanding overall performer, this 19-ppm, laser-based device, which received BLI's "Highly Recommended" rating, offers standard walk-up faxing, convenience copying and PC and network print capabilities, as well as optional Internet faxing and network faxing and scanning. "Priced below the average for competitive products, the Panasonic Panafax UF-8000 is a reliable, feature-rich multifunctional device that is easy to use and can help users to be more productive," said Pete Emory, BLI's manager of laboratory testing.

"The Panafax UF-8000's print and copy output are a cut above that of the majority of units tested," said Emory. Output quality in both modes received either an "Excellent" or "Very Good" rating in all categories evaluated. In addition, in the fax scan-to-memory speed test, the device surpassed all but a few other high-volume models. The Panafax UF-8000 also proved to be a productive unit. "Only a handful of other models tested can claim a faster first-page print time," said Emory, who noted that the Panafax UF-8000's is twice as fast as the average. Moreover, the device's first-copy time is faster than the majority of units tested.

The Panafax UF-8000, which has a suggested retail price of $2,245, performed well as a printer and scanner. Tested with the optional PCL driver, the device comes with a GDI driver and 32 MB of dedicated print memory. Secure mailbox printing is available when the optional

SD memory card is installed. Network scanning, enabled via the bundled Document Management System software, supports authentication, which requires users to enter a network user name and password to access the scan-to-e-mail function.

Dedicated keys on the control panel for copy, print and network scan and e-mail/Internet fax functions and a QWERTY keypad that simplifies the entry of e-mail addresses make the Panafax UF-8000 convenient to use. Also contributing to the unit's good ease of use are a quick name search feature and support for

LDAP, which enables direct access over the network from the control panel to e-mail addresses and fax numbers residing on the corporate mail server.

In addition to a 33.6-Kbps modem with JBIG compression, the Panafax UF-8000 provides 12 MB of standard fax memory that can be increased to 512 MB (the highest maximum memory capacity for current units), 280 autodial destinations that can be increased to 1,000 when the optional SD memory card is installed, a choice of languages for the display and duplex faxing, printing and copying.

ABOUT BLI'S PICKS OF THE YEAR

Twice a year with its "Pick of the Year" awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests.

BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete and includes an extensive durability test, during which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum recommended monthly volume. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, which is a critical factor for buyers and IT directors, given that virtually all of the products are designed for use on networks.

In addition to assessing reliability, in terms of the number of service calls and PM (preventive maintenance) calls required, as well as misfeed frequency, BLI's comprehensive evaluation includes an assessment of copy and print quality, productivity, ease of use and economy, as well as connectivity issues such as feedback to workstations, administrative utilities, print drivers, multitasking and scanning solutions. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's "Recommended" or "Highly Recommended" seal and a BLI "Certificate of Reliability" and qualifies as a "Pick" award contender. Consequently, a BLI "Pick of the Year" is a hard-earned award that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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