

The State of Texas



Information Technology Division
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711-2887

Phone: 512-463-5609
Fax: 512-463-5678
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
www.sos.state.tx.us

Geoffrey S. Connor
Secretary of State

TO: Ann McGeehan
Elections Division Director

FROM: Glenn Glover
Voting System Examiner

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A voting systems certification examination was held at the Omni Hotel in Austin, Texas on Thursday, January 6, 2005. ES&S, Inc. submitted the following election system components and version numbers to the certification examiners for review and certification:

ES&S AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal	1.0.121
AutoMARK Information Management System	1.0.2

ES&S began their presentation with a review of issues related to the May 2004 examination then introduced the ES&S AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal (VAT). The VAT is essentially an "electronic pen" that darkens the oval circles next to the selected candidates' name on an actual paper ballot, manually inserted into the VAT by the voter.

The VAT is programmed before the election using the AutoMARK Information Management System (AIMS). AIMS programs the jurisdictional election contests into the VAT system which displays the races and candidates onto the VAT screen.

The voter is presented with a screen listing of candidates (which reflects the races on the paper ballot). After the voter selects their candidate on the VAT and accepts the vote summary of their selections, the VAT darkens the corresponding ovals on the paper ballot then ejects the inserted paper ballot which the voter extracts. The voter can visually verify that the VAT machine darkened the oval next to their selected candidates' name. The paper ballot can then be scanned into an ES&S Optical Scan tabulator or another vendor's Optical Scan tabulator. It is important to note that the VAT and AIM system has no tabulation capability.

Based on the presentation, use and review of the examination materials, I recommend that the ES&S AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal 1.0.121 and AutoMARK Information Management System 1.0.2 be certified for use in Texas.