

Press Kit



Specialists in digital vision and high added-value image processing

- ⇒ **digitization of written cultural heritage resources**
 - ⇒ **control of industrial production**
- ⇒ **development of innovative digital vision solutions**

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I – The i2S Group

i2S is a French company - now an international group - that is an **acknowledged technological leader in the digital vision and image processing markets**.

The company was founded in February 1979 in Bordeaux by two engineers, Alain RICROS and Jean-Louis BLOUIN. Jean-Pierre G rault (former Senior Vice President of Xerox Europe) joined the company in 2006 as a shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

i2S is organized into three divisions:

- **i2S DigiBook: digitization of written cultural heritage resources**

i2S DigiBook designs, manufactures and markets a complete range of scanners for the digitization of old books, bound documents and archives, using powerful software packages for automatic image restoration. DigiBook products are marketed through an international network of cooperative distributors (see section II).

- **i2S LineScan: control of industrial production**

i2S LineScan designs, manufactures and installs turnkey surface inspection systems. **i2S's LineScan** systems, based on the FLAWSCAN proprietary technology, continuously monitor the manufacturing of continuous web or sheet materials such as non-woven products, plastic films and glass in real time, 24 hours a day, with linear cameras. The FLAWSCAN technology makes it possible to detect and classify flaws on the order of a tenth of a millimeter over widths of several meters running at more than 1000 meters per minute. With its agencies in China and the USA, **i2S LineScan** installs and maintains its equipment throughout the world. All of the FLAWSCAN products can be equipped with a system for automatic surveillance and remote maintenance via Internet (see section III).

- **i2S Vision: the development of innovative digital vision solutions**

i2S Vision is the French specialist for digital vision and industrial cameras. For more than 25 years now, **i2S Vision** has been designing and manufacturing on-board cameras for use in extreme conditions, such as those used for the discovery of the TITANIC, for the monitoring of the ignition of the engines of the ARIANE rocket, for AIRBUS test flights, and intelligent autonomous cameras such as the Photo Finish cameras for the Olympic Games. **i2S Vision** is the institutional business partner of major firms such as Sony, Dalsa, Matrox. It distributes and integrates their products in functional sub-units and holds a leading position on its market in France. **i2S Vision** is also a strategic business partner for the international manufacturers and large technology groups by which it is recognized for the high quality of its image acquisition and processing technologies and for the quality of its service. **i2S Vision** benefits from excellent premises near the "Route des Lasers"¹ and an efficient local infrastructure that allows it to meet all industrial quality requirements. **i2S Vision** is a member of the Optique Laser competitiveness pole, the Richelieu Committee, Optics Valley and the French Vision Club.

¹ Through various cooperation projects, the Route des Lasers® competitiveness pole set itself the objective of becoming a global economic pole for industrial laser applications.

Key figures and information

- **Sales, R&D, Profitability:** in 2006, the i2S Group sales were 12.3 million euros (Exports represented 40% of turnover). In order to maintain its technological leader position, i2S invests more than 10% of its total sales in R&D every year (5% in its own R&D, 6% in shared or collaborative R&D programs). As an indication of its commitment to profitable growth, the i2S Group had 10% Ebitda in 2006.
- **More than 3,000 clients**
- **International Presence:** the main production unit, the administrative offices and the main office are based in Pessac, in the Bordeaux region. i2S also has a sales office in Paris, a subsidiary in Orange (Connecticut – USA) and an agency in Shanghai (China).
- **Number of employees:** i2S now has about fifty employees in France, the great majority of them engineers, as well as six employees abroad (3 in Orange and 3 in Shanghai).
- **Business partners:** over the years, i2S has developed an international network of well-known industrial business partners (Manufacturers, Cooperative Distributors, Systems Integrators, Service Providers) and research laboratories (LABRI, INSA of Lyons, L3i of La Rochelle, Institut de la Cognitique of Bordeaux, etc.). It is a sponsor of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Optique of Paris and has been actively involved in associations such as ADEISO, OPTICS VALLEY and the Richelieu Committee.
- **An innovative corporate culture:** for more than twenty years now, the Company has been distinguishing itself as a pioneer in digital vision and image processing solutions in extreme conditions. It is now involved in:
 - the "Route des Lasers" competitiveness pole, leader for the "TerraBook" project and member of the ALPHA association that oversees it,
 - European projects of the 5th RDFP, VISREC (Vision Assisted Machine for Recycling Applications) and FINDER (Fast Intelligence Defect Recognition System),
 - the Franco-German project QUAERO targeting the organization of an industrial sector for the development of new systems for the management of multimedia content for general public or professional applications.

Between 1983 and 2003, the i2S Company submitted 19 patent applications and now holds five active patents. In light of the numerous French and European research and development projects, the Company will increase the number of its patent applications in the year ahead.

- **Rapid international development:** thanks to its acknowledged technological know-how in France, the Company is now developing its business internationally based on its two subsidiaries in the USA and China, as well as its rapidly-growing network of distributors. The two entities, i2S DigiBook and i2S LineScan now generate 75% and 90% of their profits respectively through exports.

- 20 years of striking innovations:



1985: Discovery of the Titanic with IFREMER & COMEX

1996: 1st Color Photo Finish Atlanta Olympics with Oméga



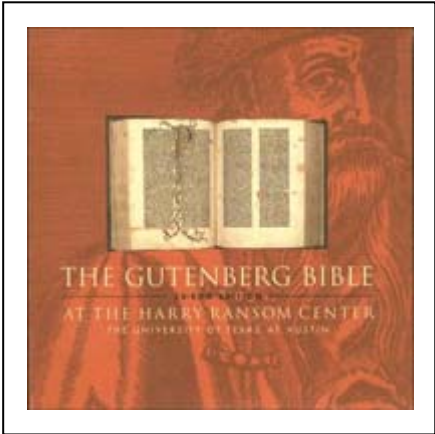
2006: World championship on track, Bordeaux with Swiss Timing



2006: 1st Goal HD Finish with Canal+



2000: 1st Gutenberg Bible digitized with Xerox & Gutenberg 21st century Association. Nomination Smithsonian Institute "Computer & Media" Award 2001



2005: Ariane IV, flight 164 with Dassault



2004: 1st European book digitization center. AMALFI Project at Lawalcq with IBM-InfoTechnique



II - i2S DigiBook

World leader in the market for the digitizing of old books, bound documents and archives.

The DigiBook division, established in 1995, has developed unique technological know-how which allowed it within the space of a few years to become the world leader for the digitization of books and bound documents with a complete range of scanners and a very sophisticated international distribution network. Its latest innovations involve the development of a scanning head that is unique in the world that allows for the high-definition electronic capture of documents with no additional artificial lighting.

Its installed base includes no less than 300 installed and operational client sites with:

- More than twenty National Libraries: Scotland, Spain, France, Finland, Italy, United States (Library of Congress), Wales, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, etc.
- More than thirty University Libraries, including Göttingen, Louis Pasteur, the Sorbonne, Stanford, UCLA, Texas AM, etc.
- More than ten national archive centers such as the General Archives of the Kingdom of Belgium or the NARA in the USA, and the largest automatic digitizing center in Europe (La Walck- France).

i2S DigiBook is part of a technological and investment consortium with the Swiss company ASSY-4DigitalBooks. It has already won a substantial share of the digitization market within the emerging segment of systems with automatic page turners.

Today, **i2S** has established itself as a **key partner for projects for the digitization of cultural heritage resources**².

The i2S DigiBook products

i2S scanners are used by the main service providers in France and in Europe (including Jouve, Safig, Archimaine, Arkhênum and Infotechnique in France).

All of the i2S scanners and the programs they use are sold in France and in Belgium by the Spigraph Company, as well as by a network of 25 other cooperative distributors around the world.

The products are offered in three ranges:

- **The Digitizing Line range**
- **The CopiBook range**
- **The Suprascan range**

And also two softwares:

- **Book Restorer™** - an image processing software
- **Pdf4Books** – an image compression software

² Of the National Library of France, the European Digital Library - Europeana, Quaero, etc.

1- The Digitizing Line range



The Digitizing Line range, from the Franco-Swiss consortium i2S – 4DigitalBooks (ASSY), includes three types of scanners with different functionalities and capacities: the Digitizing Line 1500 (1500 pages/hour), the 1800 (1800 pages/hour) and the newest one, the 3000 (3000 pages/hour). **The Digitizing Line 3000** belongs to the **new generation of Digitizing Line automated scanners**. Following in the footsteps of the 1st generation of the range (Digitizing Line 1500 and 1800), this product has, in addition to enhanced productivity, a digitizing technology that is unique in the world and patented, drawn from i2S's R&D,

which allows it to work with **ambient lighting** if necessary.

All of the scanner models offered by i2S-4DigitalBooks (ASSY) are network standard and can integrate **character recognition (OCR conversion) and indexing** software. Working with service companies, i2S DigiBook can thus offer comprehensive solutions, acting as real "digitizing factories."

As a concrete illustration of its know-how and unique technological superiority, the i2S – 4DigitalBooks (ASSY) consortium took part in the establishment, with the InfoTechnique Company, of the **largest European digitization center**, located in France in **La Walck** (Bas Rhin). This center – unique in the field – is dedicated to the digitization of archive documents (Amalfi project). It has **4 Digitizing Lines** working in 3 eight-hour shifts, and can digitize close to 25 million pages / year (the equivalent of 125,000 books per year).

Furthermore, in conjunction with the Jouve Company, i2S has just won the first tender offer for the project for the digitization of the French National Library, the first foundation of the major **European Digital Library** project started in March 2005.

2- The CopiBook range



CopiBook tabletop scanners allow for the **digitization of bound documents up to A2 format**. They can work **in an environment of office lighting** (absence of embedded lighting). The various models of CopiBook are authentic, **compact and entirely autonomous** digitizing stations (Giga-Ethernet output). They offer an excellent compromise in terms of resolution, digitizing time, print quality and price.

The CopiBook range is growing and the CopiBook **BW+** has just joined the CopiBook **RGB** and CopiBook **BW** (greyscale). The BW+ version has the same characteristics as its little brother the BW (**several simple adjustments**: automatic formatting, resolution, auto focus, automatic exposure time, lighting correction - **innovative automatic capture**

modes: no click, no pedal - **powerful image improvement algorithms**) but also has the **glass plate and the motorized book cradle**, which already equip the color model.

Twenty copies of CopiBook were recently **ordered by the General Archives of the Kingdom of Belgium**. Of the responses to this European tender offer, the bid of i2S and its distributor Spigraph was the one that most perfectly met the needs expressed. The CopiBook stations will allow the **General Archives of the Kingdom of Belgium** to digitize and copy old collections, which will then be made available to the general public. In parallel, the digitized resources will be put on line on the Intranet of the **General Archives of the Kingdom of Belgium**.

3- The Suprascan range

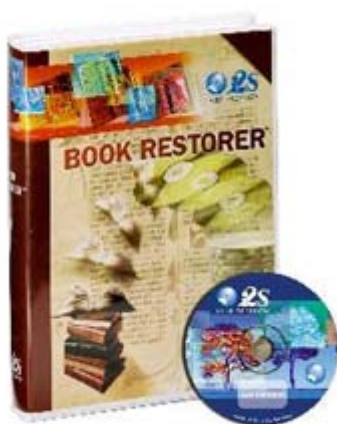


Suprascan is an upgradeable range of scanners, greyscale or color, A1 or A0 format, ensuring a perfect balance between technology and users' needs. The same mechanical system can be equipped with different interchangeable scanner heads, thereby allowing for digitizing over a broader resolution range, from 200 to more than 800 dpi optical as a function of the digitized format and the model.

Suprascan scanners have a user-friendly operator interface, allowing for adjustments of the camera as a function of the desired format and resolution, the visual control and the archiving of the digitized images.

Numerous accessories, such as the book holding scale and the 120° book support, further improve the digitization quality and the user's comfort, while preserving the integrity of the documents.

4- Book Restorer™



The Book Restorer™ software is a user-friendly tool entirely dedicated to digitized documents. It is used for the consultation, restoration, safeguarding and publication of digitized works in their entirety.

Book Restorer™ is used by libraries, archives and service providers. It improves the quality of digitized images for consultation in the best conditions.

It includes many functions for digitized documents such as geometric correction of flaws due to the curve of books, lighting correction and even the erasing of finger marks.

The Book Restorer™ software is accompanied by three external modules – BKR Automation, BKR Watcher and BKR Control. These modules are used to automate Book Restorer™ processing tasks, off-line or in continuous digitizing flow, as well as quality control for the restorations done.

5- Pdf4Books

Pdf4Books is a compression software that reduces the file size of scanned documents (color and grey scale) and converts them into PDF® files with OCR. File size are reduced without compromising image quality.

This new technology is notably an invaluable tool for distributing high resolution images of scanned documents on the Internet.

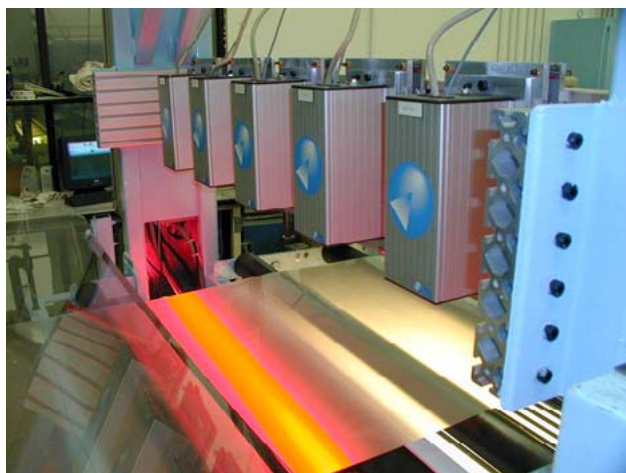
III - i2S LineScan

An international success in the market for continuous web and sheet production inspection dedicated to flat glass, plastic film and non-woven products.

At a time of globalization of markets, industrial production lines are being asked to produce greater quantities of merchandise at faster and faster speeds. At these speeds, it can become difficult or impossible to detect the smallest flaws. That is exactly where the added value of i2S LineScan's Flawscan systems comes in.

i2S LineScan has developed a whole range of surface inspection systems entirely dedicated to the detection and identification of flaws. Flawscan systems systematically detect all product flaws, even with units running at the highest speeds.

By automating the detection and the visualization of flaws, they guarantee optimal production control and thereby provide unprecedented improvements in productivity.



Through its presence abroad, and particularly its two subsidiaries based in China and the United States, i2S LineScan's installed base includes no less than 100 surface inspection systems throughout the world. i2S LineScan supplies dedicated inspection systems in the most varied industrial fields: plastics (inspection of high added-value plastic film: GE Plastic - USA), non-woven products (inspection of non-woven materials in the health and medical fields: Tredegar - USA, Dayuan - China, Yaolong - China), paper (100% printing control:

Bobst - Switzerland), glass (flat glass inspection: AFG - USA), etc... Over a period of less than two years, more than 15 Chinese manufacturers chose LineScan systems for the inspection of the production lines.



**In China since 2003,
representing 50% of the
installed sites of the division.**

IV - i2S Vision

French leader for high added-value digital vision and image processing



Vision components

i2S VISION designs, manufactures and markets vision components and image processing systems for industrial, medical and scientific applications. For more than 27 years now, its expertise, knowledge of high technology, its know-how with cameras and its distribution partnerships with large international firms have allowed it to consolidate a leader position on the robotic vision market in France.

i2S VISION develops innovative, high added-value imaging solutions with its clients, especially in the agro-food, medical and biology sectors, in the aeronautics and aerospace sectors for airborne applications and in the safety and transport sectors.



Tracking camera

In the field of video in extreme conditions, i2S VISION is a designer of **on-board cameras**:

- First images of the Titanic thanks to acoustic transmission,
- Real time video monitoring of the opening and the separation of the fairing of the Ariane 5 rocket from two cameras, videotransmission and ground recording, and **dedicated intelligent cameras**:
- Photo-finish cameras for events and international sports races,
- Aircraft tracking cameras with radar guidance.
- "But Finish" (goal) System developed for Canal



Robot for evaluation of the freshness of fish

In the field of **food safety, i2S VISION** designs and develops **industrialized vision systems** specializing in **measurement** and **quality control**, in association with related technologies:

- Autonomous vision system dedicated to the classification of beef carcasses developed for an OEM
- Vision system and electronic nose developed in partnership with a La Rochelle university laboratory for the evaluation of the freshness of fish unloaded for auction.

i2S VISION, with its highly-qualified teams and experienced project managers, handles projects requiring multiple skills, such as **the making of test benches and systems**:

- 2D/3D optoelectronic measurement benches for the aeronautics, aerospace and defense sectors.
- Collaborative research projects within the framework of the "Route des Lasers" competitiveness pole and European projects (5th RDPF)

Based on the i2S applied research center, the **Innovation Division**, this entity has progressively become one of the leaders in high-tech digital vision and image processing in France.

i2S VISION is at its clients' disposal to jointly define the imaging solutions adapted to their needs and markets, from basic components to sophisticated vision systems.



Opto-electronic integration



Photo-finish for horse races



Space flight monitoring



Research Project



But Finish Canal+

V- i2S' Directors



Jean-Pierre Gérard is Chairman of the i2S SA Board of Directors. He is an engineering graduate of ENSCT and he received a Doctorate in the Physical Sciences of solids and an MBA Marketing-Finance. He successfully carried out an international career focusing on operational management within groups specializing in information technologies, distribution and services. He was formerly Managing Director of Xerox France, Senior VP of Xerox Europe, and then Managing Director of the Guilbert Group (former Pinault Printemps Redoute Group). He is the President of the KM&P Company and a member of the Board of Directors of several companies.

He has developed several acknowledged industrial innovations, with prizes awarded by the Smithsonian Institute: Award in 1999 with Xerox and the Libri Company (Germany), nomination in 2001 with Xerox, the Gutenberg 21st century association and i2S (Washington DC, US, Media & Computer World Awards). He is very involved in culture and writing and is the author of several books on the impact of new information and communication technologies on writing and the dissemination of knowledge ("L'écrit, le savoir et le numérique" – Atlas, "Le monde du livre en question" – Actes Sud). He is the co-founder and current vice-president of the Gutenberg 21st century association.



Jean-Louis Blouin is an INSA engineering graduate with a DESS diploma in Corporate Management from IAE Bordeaux, and an Executive MBA from CPA LYONS. Jean Louis BLOUIN is the Managing Director and Co-Founder of i2S. He is also the President of Aquitaine Inter Group, a company specializing in electro-optical test benches, and is on the Board of ASSY, of which i2S is a shareholder.

Along with his business activities, he is Vice President of the Electronics Branch of the ADEISO (Association for the Development of Electronics and Computer Science in Aquitaine), Vice President of the Institut de la COGNITIVE at the University of Bordeaux II, Founding Member and Secretary of the ALPHA Association (Supervision of the "Route des Lasers" competitiveness pole), a Member of the

Board of Directors of UIMM Gironde Lande, where he leads a working group on Industrial Strategies, Member of the Aquitaine Amorçage Commitments Committee (regional business creation fund), Member of the Board of Directors of the AFPI (Association for Professional Training for Industry), Member of the CRRDT (Regional Consultative Committee for Technological Research and Development) and more recently President of the Jury of the OSEO ANVAR National Business Creation Competition.

He is well-known in the field of strategic innovation and is an instructor at the Grand Sud-Ouest Business Center (CPA Toulouse Executive Management).



Alain Ricros is Chairman of the i2S SA Oversight Committee, of which he is the co-founder with Jean Louis Blouin. He is an ENSERG engineering graduate with a Master's in Economics and a diploma from IAE Bordeaux. He began his career as a software development engineer at Aérospatiale (now EADS). Along with his business activities, he is on the boards of various regional High Tech companies and is the sponsor for several start-ups. Since November 29, 2005, he has been the chairman of the ACI (Aquitaine Création Investissement) - Regional Risk Capital Company founded in 1998 at the initiative of the Aquitaine Regional

Council, with capital from both public (Aquitaine Regional Council, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations) and private funds (Financial establishments, Companies). He is a tireless traveler and a man of dialogue. He encouraged i2S to get a foothold in China and then in the USA and is in charge of international development for the company and major international partnerships.