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For Immediate Release

3M Awarded Patent for Connector Arrangement in Wrist Strap Monitors

AUSTIN, Texas – Dec. 19, 2006 – Inventors at 3M's Soquel, Calif., facility, home of recently acquired Credence Technologies, have been awarded a U.S. patent for the connector arrangement in wrist strap monitors that offers significant advantage in static-controlled environments.

United States Patent 7,118,380 was awarded to Vladimir Kraz of Santa Cruz, Calif., and Fatjon Gurga of San Jose, Calif. The patent describes a replaceable connector assembly, otherwise known as a jack, in a static control wrist strap monitor. In this instance, when the jack eventually fails, it can be replaced by unplugging the old jack (or jack assembly) and plugging in a new one. In most instances today, the worn-out jack has to be unsoldered and a new one must be re-soldered in its place. The new invention saves customers time and money while improving product reliability.

By removing the soldering process, jack replacement takes only a few minutes. The elimination of soldering in the replacement process is particularly important in cleanroom environments. Previously, items had to be removed from their cleanroom environment to be repaired.

Innovative monitors by the recently acquired Credence Technologies, now a part of 3M, successfully employ this technique. Those monitors include products such as 3M brand WS Aware brand continuous workstation monitor, used for the most critical environments, and the new 3M brand Iron Man brand Plus for electronics assembly.

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