



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bob Covey
Qualstar Corp.
805.583.7744
covey@qualstar.com

Steve Friedberg
MMI Communications
610.518.7474
stevefriedberg1@earthlink.net

QUALSTAR ANNOUNCES SAIT TAPE LIBRARIES

***TLS-5000 Series stores more than 340 terabytes
in less than eight square feet***

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20, 2003 — Qualstar® Corporation (Nasdaq: QBAK), a leading manufacturer of automated tape storage solutions, today announced the TLS-5000 Series of tape libraries using Sony Corporation's new SAIT-1 tape drives. The libraries are designed to meet the data storage needs of medium sized to large enterprises, enabling them to store more than 340 terabytes (using data compression) of data in less than eight square feet of floor space.

The new library family will debut at the AIT Forum conference being held this week in San Francisco, where Qualstar, the market leader in AIT-equipped automated tape library shipments will participate.

Qualstar's new TLS-5000 Series comprises four models, underscoring the company's focus on delivering *Simply Reliable*SM tape libraries. Equipped with up to eight SAIT-1 drives, the TLS-58264 model holds up to 132 terabytes (native) of data in less than eight square feet of scarce IT floor space. The TLS-5000/SAIT combination gives companies a powerful solution to rapidly backup, restore and archive their corporate-critical information. Sony's first SAIT technology drive stores 500 gigabytes (native) on a single half-inch tape cartridge, making it the industry's highest capacity tape drive. The SAIT-1 also features a very high sustained data transfer rate of up to 108 gigabytes (native) per hour, to meet the dual challenge of shrinking backup windows and ever-expanding data storage needs.

more

“More companies are demanding greater value in deploying new mission-critical back-up applications, and SAIT provides the right combination of leadership capacity, performance and reliability to meet these requirements,” said Steve Baker, vice president of marketing for the tape storage division of Sony Electronics’ Business Systems and Solutions Company. “As one of the market leaders, Qualstar’s TLS-5000 libraries, equipped with SAIT-1 drives, represent a significant new capability to meet these mission-critical enterprise demands.”

The TLS-5000 Series features include:

- Four models spanning 17 - 132 terabytes
- Over 1.1 terabytes per hour
- Direct-attach and SANSmartSM configurations for easy connectivity
- Q-LinkTM, web-based remote library manager

“We integrate Sony’s AIT technology in our libraries because it provides the reliability, productivity and value that our customers need,” said Bob Covey, Qualstar’s vice president of marketing. “The new SAIT-1 drive will give our TLS-5000 library customers the ability to cost-effectively store incredible amounts of information in a very small amount of floor space. These libraries have also been designed for easy upgradability to help companies extend the benefits of their investment for years to come.”

Qualstar’s TLS-5000 Series of automated tape storage libraries with SAIT-1 drives is scheduled for shipment beginning in April. Suggested retail pricing starts around \$30,000, and will be available exclusively through Qualstar’s worldwide network of authorized resellers.

About Qualstar Corporation

Qualstar is a leading manufacturer of automated tape libraries used for backup, archival storage, data protection, disaster recovery and storage management systems. Its libraries are known throughout the world for their rugged, *Simply Reliable* design yielding years of trouble-free operation. Qualstar tape libraries are sold, installed, and supported worldwide by selected Original Equipment Manufacturers, Value Added Resellers, and Systems Integrators. Qualstar Corporation is publicly traded on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange under the symbol QBAK. More information is available at www.qualstar.com or by phone at 805-583-7744.

more

Forward Looking Statement

Statements in this press release concerning the future business, operating results and financial condition of the Company are “forward-looking” statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are based upon management’s current expectations and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual performance and results to differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could affect the Company’s actual results include unexpected shortages of critical components, unexpected product design or quality problems, and adverse changes in market demand for tape libraries or Qualstar’s products. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Further information on these and other potential factors that could affect the Company’s financial results or condition are included in Qualstar’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

###