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General Motors Selects SPC TimeSaver Systems

May 21, 1992, Cincinnati, OH: General Motors Corporation recently announced that Zontec's SPC TimeSaver is on the short list of statistical process control (SPC) systems it recommends for its plants and suppliers. The announcement came after GM completed an extensive two year study of fifty-eight SPC software systems. These systems were from vendors who responded to a 1990 survey from GM.

According to Charles D. Groff, chairman of GM's Manufacturing Information Systems - Statistical Analysis subcommittee, the purpose of the study was to identify a small number of systems that could best meet their requirements for on-line SPC. They sought systems that workers on the plant floor could use to monitor key product and process features for out-of-control conditions.

The main objective of on-line SPC is to catch the "special causes" of out-of-control conditions as soon as they occur. Therefore, GM looked for software which updates control charts as the data enters the system. They also wanted a system that detects out-of-control conditions as they occur, and that has alarms to alert users when these conditions exist.

The software had to be user-friendly, with straightforward screens and a minimum use of keystrokes. It had to offer a variety of control charts for both variable and attribute data, as well as histograms, capability studies, and pareto charts. It also had to accept data through keyboards, gages, or other data collection devices. And it had to allow the system administrators to limit user access to some functions and to customize each file's setup as needed.

After studying the questionnaires, the committee narrowed their list to fourteen "semi-finalists" they wanted to take a closer look at. From these systems, they identified SPC TimeSaver as a Personal Computer (PC) and Local Area Network (LAN) based SPC software system that best fit their requirements.

When notified of the decision, Warren Ha, president of Zontec, said "We realize the thorough and complete analysis that went into this decision and are very proud to have been chosen by GM. We're looking forward to working with GM for many years to come."

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