

Paragon Software Aids Alaska Option and Pemco Technologies Alliance

(Holly Springs, NC—August 9, 2007) For Alaska Option, an EFT network, and Pemco Technologies, a payments processor of in-house credit and debit transactions, the customer comes first. Alaska Option has offered cost-effective, state-of-the-art automated teller machine (ATM) and point-of-sale (POS) transaction and settlement services to financial institutions and financial service providers for over 20 years and provided 100% availability to financial institutions in 2006. Pemco Technologies has a solid reputation built on award-winning system reliability, quality transaction processing, innovative solutions and extraordinary service. Recently Alaska Option and Pemco Technologies formed an alliance to offer enhanced services to their customers.

The alliance between Alaska Option and Pemco Technologies leverages the strengths of each organization. Alaska Option customers will be able to take advantage of Pemco Technologies' fraud management services. Pemco Technologies customers will realize cost-savings through the ATM services that Alaska Option is providing.

To transition the ATM services to Alaska Option, both Pemco Technologies and Alaska Option needed a solution that would enable them to develop and test ATM configuration files and to simulate and test ATM transaction processing. After a careful evaluation, they chose Paragon's ATMulator Plus.

Both organizations are long time users of Paragon products. Since 2001, Pemco Technologies has used Paragon's ATMulator Plus and FASTest for ATMs to simulate and test its connection to member ATMs and in 2005 licensed Paragon's FASTest for ISO to simulate and test its connections with multiple switches. Since 2000, Alaska Option has used Paragon's FASTest for ISO for unit, regression and pre-certification testing and recently licensed Paragon's ATMulator Plus.

Some of the challenges in transitioning ATM servicing from Pemco Technologies to Alaska Option involve transferring the ATM configuration files and testing to make sure that all of the ATM services are supported. "Pemco Technologies used ATMulator Plus to build their configuration files. We were then able to walk them through the states and screens changes necessary to export to our host system," says Megan Poulson, Technical Services Manager for Alaska Option. "This made the conversion process much quicker and easier for us."

Teri Ikehara, Director of IT for Pemco Technologies, agrees that Paragon applications are particularly useful. "We use ATMulator Plus and FASTest," she said. "There are some things we can test with ATMulator Plus that we can't do on a real ATM." Teri added, "Using these tools, we build our states and screens here as we always have. Since Alaska Option uses the same tools, it's easy to just hand our states and screens off to them for upload."

In addition to using ATMulator Plus, both organizations are using Paragon's FASTest for ISO to test their connections with each other. They also use FASTest for ISO to test Pemco Technologies' neural-net processing for the Alaska Option switch.

Paragon's Professional Services staff aided in training the organizations and made modifications to facilitate the transfer of the configuration files. "Not only did Paragon provide the software that we needed, they also provided invaluable services and expertise to make the configuration file change process smoother," adds Ikehara. "Paragon is a valuable partner and our relationship has always been great."

About Paragon Application Systems

Paragon Application Systems is a leading global provider of ePayment simulation, configuration and testing software tools to the financial industry. More than 380 financial institutions in over 70 countries use Paragon tools to improve quality and reduce time-to-market. Paragon's broad customer base includes major interchanges, processors, leading software providers, banks and credit unions. Visit Paragon Application Systems at www.paragonedge.com.

About Alaska Option

Alaska Option is a full-service EFT network offering automated teller machine (ATM) and point-of-sale (POS) transaction switching and settlement services to financial institutions and financial service providers in Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest. Over 98% of the debit cards (ATM, Visa Check, and MasterMoney) issued within the state of Alaska bear the Alaska Option logo. Over 350 ATMs are deployed in Alaska, Hawaii and Washington by customer institutions.

About Pemco Technologies

Pemco Technologies provides innovative payment solutions to the financial industry including credit signature processing; debit signature processing; PIN-based processing; ATM services; cardholder award programs; fraud management, detection, and prevention; and gift card programs. Award-winning reliability and renowned customer service have made Pemco one of the nation's top payment solutions companies.