**Bridging The Digital Divide: Digitizing Radiographic Film**

Michael Beaugrand, PACSESS Organization, CEO  
Jonathan Steele, President of PACSESS North America Inc  
5655 N Greeley Ave Portland OR 97217 United States

†E-mail: beaugrandm@me.com

**Abstract**

NDT is changing the business climate: Digitizing in the Inspections Market means crossing the digital divide: Computed Radiography (CR) and Digital Radiography (DR) continue a slow, yet inevitable, penetration of the NDT market segment. Simultaneously, Industrial X-ray Film sales worldwide continue on an upward spiral. How can both worlds be integrated and what strategies are available today. A look at potential strategies, solutions and workflows.

**Keywords:** filmdigitizer, digital radiography. VIDAR, PACSESS, DICONDE

**1 CONTENT**

Computed Radiography (CR) and Digital Radiography (DR) continue a slow, yet inevitable, penetration of the NDT market segment. Simultaneously, Industrial X-ray Film sales worldwide continue on an upward spiral.

**WHY?**

1. **X-ray/Radiographic film verifies/confirms other NDT methods** Exposing radiographic film is easier and familiar Digitizing Industrial film using S/W designed for NDT builds the bridge to Computed Radiography/Digital Radiography (CR/DR)

2. **Industrial film** stored in temperature-controlled warehouses have logistical / financial concerns – INCLUDING digitizing tens of thousands of legacy industrial films, many containing classified data

3. **Safeguarding data** held hostage in film is a fiduciary responsibility  
   - Investment time and cost  
   - Elephant in the warehouses: SAFEGUARDING - at what cost?
4. **Disposing** of industrial films has restrictions: Industry / corporate legal regs; State & Federal regulations. Time & effort = expense of digitizing data, deciding which film to scrap

**Industrial Radiographic Film:**

**Opportunity:**

X-ray films are digitized, end-users converting film-to-digital workflow, trust results – speed up CR/DR investment. New films immediately digitized, maintained for periods, or recycled and silver halide recovered.

**Execution:**

1. Digitizing radiographic film, sending digital files to Inspectors

2. Interpretation / reporting, sharing files, back-up copies, file-sharing - customers see benefits & cost saving

**Business Models**

**FACT:**

- **Computed Radiography & Digital Radiography (CR/DR) = future evolving now.**
  (CR/DR workflow process ).

- **Real-time exposure X-ray film – digitized for inspection**

- **Vaults / warehouses** of industrial films beg the question:
  What about converting industrial films to digital?

**The bridge:** Hundreds of thousands of industrial films in long-term storage may be eliminated, large potential silver halide recovery, eliminating storage cost.

**Proof:** **Hundreds of industrial Film Digitizers deployed worldwide today.**
- FACT: MEDICAL segment: 40,000+ medical film digitizers deployed worldwide in the past 20 years. Ongoing ROW

- FACT: Inspections industry waking up to digitizing = removal of X-ray film and safe storage in digital format.

- Digitizing industrial film builds TRUST in digital process, digital workflow - as happened with Medical.

CITE: MEDICAL digital model - 20 years -

DIGITIZING X-ray film IS the bridge for INSPECTION SERVICES