



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Qualiflow's New PDA Software Helps Improve Fab Productivity with Faster Digital MFC Troubleshooting**

**Montpellier, France** – November 5, 2002 — Qualiflow, a leading supplier of products for ultra-high-purity gas control, has developed software for personal digital assistants (PDAs) that can help reduce tool downtime and improve productivity by accelerating digital mass flow controller (MFC) troubleshooting. The company's new Atomizer software for PDAs enables engineers to monitor and control any Qualiflow digital MFC. Beta versions of the software are currently available for the Palm Pilot and Pocket PC.

The current method for checking and adjusting most digital MFCs involves connecting a laptop to a tool station. With Atomizer, engineers can perform these functions on Qualiflow digital controllers far more frequently because lightweight PDAs can be carried around the fab constantly, unlike more cumbersome laptops. Furthermore, in infrared mode, PDAs with Atomizer do not require a physical connection to the tool, making information on MFCs available almost instantly.

“The Atomizer represents a prime example of Qualiflow's commitment to improving fab efficiency and tool uptime through innovation in advanced gas control systems,” said Claude Jacquemin, Qualiflow chairman. “Atomizer can help process and equipment engineers to significantly expedite the identification and correction of digital MFC malfunctions, as compared with more traditional approaches. With fab time costing more than \$100,000 an hour, prompt controller troubleshooting can save a great deal of time and money by reducing tool downtime.”

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While much of today's equipment operates in digital mode, older generations of equipment operate in analog mode. To accommodate both, Atomizer can be switched between digital and analog modes. In digital mode, the software allows users to monitor and adjust a digital MFC's flow rate, valve and set point. In analog mode, Atomizer generally only monitors those parameters.

A single PDA installed with Atomizer can be used to oversee multiple digital MFCs. The software displays each controller's serial number and the name of the gas it moderates.

For greater flexibility, Atomizer can connect with digital MFCs through two different hardware interfaces: infrared for wireless communication and a serial port for wired communication.

**About QUALIFLOW**

QUALIFLOW is a world-leading supplier of innovative solutions for ultra-high-purity gas control. Based in Montpellier, France, QUALIFLOW was formed in 1997 as the result of the spin-off of ASM International's component and gas systems line of business.

With sales figures of almost 19.3 M€ in 2001, QUALIFLOW plans to become the global leader in gas components. The company has approximately 110 employees worldwide and maintains a network of technical centers in Montpellier; Tokyo, Japan; and Fremont, California. QUALIFLOW is traded under the code 7786 on the Paris Stock Exchange's Nouveau Marché.

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