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DOCUMENT IMAGING PRODUCTS 2005: BLI'S PICKS OF THE YEAR

Sharp AR-M455N/AR-M455U IMAGER

*Outstanding Segment 4 Multifunctional
Imaging System, Spring 2005*

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Combining one of the best performances in lab testing of Segment 4 multifunctional products with one of the lowest prices in its speed range, the Sharp AR-M455N IMAGER is clearly one of the best choices in its range and has been named a Spring 2005 BLI "Pick of the Year" for "Outstanding Segment 4 Multifunctional Imaging System."

In addition to producing 253,000 impressions with only one service call and seven misfeeds, for a misfeed rate of one per 36,143 impressions, the AR-M455N IMAGER (\$11,460, base price) earned high scores in all other aspects of performance, offering very good output quality, good productivity, excellent ease of setup and use, robust administrative utilities, outstanding multitasking and scan functionality that is a favorite of BLI technicians. The unit's document feeder, which adds a second scan head, allows simultaneous scanning of both sides of duplexed documents, eliminating the need for the originals to be reversed. This contributes to overall efficiency and document feeding efficiency that are among the highest for competitive units tested in 2:2 copy mode. "The AR-M455N IMAGER is also near the top of its class for performance in BLI's job stream print efficiency test," said Pete Emory, BLI manager of lab testing.

BLI test technicians also praised the varied and detailed feedback the unit offers to desktop users, which contributes to its excellent overall ease of use. The unit was also cited for the numerous standard and optional security features available to safeguard copied, scanned, printed and stored documents. BLI highly recommends the AR-M455N IMAGER for offices in need of a multifunctional product for monthly volumes of up to 100,000 impressions.

Offering standard copy and network print, as well as optional fax (including walk-up and PC fax) and network scan capabilities, including Internet fax, the Sharp AR-M455N IMAGER is available in three configurations, each with a different paper capacity. The AR-M455U IMAGER is a configuration that offers network printing as an option.



Sharp AR-M455N

ABOUT BLI'S PICKS OF THE YEAR

Twice a year with its "Pick of the Year" awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests.

BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete and includes an extensive durability test, during which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum recommended monthly volume. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, which is a critical factor for buyers and IT directors, given that virtually all of the products are designed for use on networks.

In addition to assessing reliability, in terms of the number of service calls and PM (preventive maintenance) calls required, as well as misfeed frequency, BLI's comprehensive evaluation includes an assessment of copy and print quality, productivity, ease of use and economy, as well as connectivity issues such as feedback to workstations, administrative utilities, print drivers, multitasking and scanning solutions. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's "Recommended" or "Highly Recommended" seal and a BLI "Certificate of Reliability" and qualifies as a "Pick" award contender. Consequently, a BLI "Pick of the Year" is a hard-earned award that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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