



## **CANON AND SHARP AWARDED BLI'S HIGHEST HONOURS**

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December 21, 2006 – Having tested hundreds of products from every vendor, Buyers Laboratory Inc., the leading global provider of test reports on document imaging products, has announced the winners of its most coveted awards today. Canon was honoured for having the "Most Outstanding Monochrome MFP Line of the Year" and Sharp received the honour for having the "Most Outstanding Business Colour MFP Line of the Year."

BLI's "Line of the Year" title is awarded once a year to the vendor whose product line, as tested in BLI's rigorous two-month laboratory evaluation, is determined to be the best overall based on its cumulative test results. Among the many factors considered are reliability, output quality, control panel design, ease of use, productivity, administrative utilities and feedback to workstations. Also considered is the breadth of each vendor's line.



*Most Outstanding Colour MFP  
Line of the Year, 2006*

**Sharp Corporation**

*Most Outstanding Monochrome MFP  
Line of the Year, 2006*

**Canon Inc.**

### **Sharp Hits Grand Slam with MX Series**

Commenting on Sharp's award, BLI Lab Manager Pete Emory said, "Over the past few years, BLI has tested colour models with colour speeds ranging up to 50ppm and black speeds ranging up to 68ppm. While a number have been stand-out performers, not until this year, with Sharp's MX Series, has an entire colour product line from one vendor spanned such a wide range of segments and offered such consistently outstanding performance. That is why this year Sharp has been awarded a 'Line of the Year' award for its business colour MFP product line."

In the past year, BLI has tested nearly every member of the Sharp's MX Series, ranging from the MX-2300N, with speeds of 23ppm in colour and black, to the MX-6200N, with a speed of 41ppm in colour and 62ppm in black. Racking up extremely high ratings in nearly every category, every model earned BLI's "Highly Recommended" rating and was named a "Pick of the Year."

"It is certainly an honour to receive this award from BLI," said Denis Kerr, Deputy Managing Director for Sharp Corporation of Australia. "In a business world that constantly demands more efficient and secure ways of working, Sharp Corporation has again revolutionised the office environment with its new range of Digital Full Colour Multifunctional systems. Designed to deliver professional results quickly and cost effectively for

both large and mid size office situations, SHARP's MX range promises secure, multifunction colour technology boasting a host of state of the art functions."

"Sharp devices deliver an outstanding range of business critical features and are innovative, easy to use, well designed and represent excellent value for money, as indicated in the testing and subsequent awards presented by BLI."

#### **Canon on Top for Fifth Time Since 2000**

On the strength of its monochrome imageRUNNER product line, which continues to improve with each new generation, Canon receives BLI's "Most Outstanding Monochrome MFP Line of the Year" award for 2006 year after having been named "Line of the Year" most recently for 2004 and then again for an unprecedented three years in a row for 2000, 2001 and 2002.

"Canon's five Line of the Year wins since 2000 is proof of what we have found in our one-of-a-kind laboratory testing-that its imageRUNNER line is extremely consistent in terms of the quality of its performance," said BLI Managing Editor Daria Hoffman. "Unlike with some vendors' product lines, which may be very strong in some segments, but not as strong in others, Canon imageRUNNERS are at the top of their classes, from Segment 1 to Segment 6," added Hoffman.

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#### **About Buyers Laboratory**

For 45 years, Buyers Laboratory has been the leading independent office-equipment testing lab and business consumer advocate. In addition to publishing the industry's most comprehensive and accurate test reports on office document imaging devices, each representing months of exhaustive hands-on testing in BLI's 10,000-square-foot lab, the company has been the leading source for extensive databases of specifications and pricing on copiers, printers, fax machines and multifunctional products.

The company's databases cover more than 10,000 products and have a long-standing reputation for being the industry's most trustworthy and complete. They are available to BLI subscribers online via the company's bliQ competitive information service. This encyclopedic resource also provides quick and easy access to BLI's First Look Reports, Field Test Reports, Lab Test Reports, Solutions Reports, Digital Imaging Review and Business Consumer's Advisor newsletters and OEM library.

In addition to the testing of office equipment for its subscribers, Buyers Laboratory provides a vast array of confidential for-hire private testing services that includes document imaging device beta and pre-launch testing, performance certification testing, consumables testing (such as paper, toner, ink, photoconductors and print controllers) and print media testing (including virgin and recycled papers). For more information, please visit [www.buyerslab.com](http://www.buyerslab.com), call 852 8200-4502 or email [asiansupport@buyerslab.com](mailto:asiansupport@buyerslab.com)