FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

nextScan is a company dedicated to providing innovative software and hardware solutions for the scanning of microfilm and microfiche. We design, develop, manufacture and market high speed 16/35mm roll film scanners and production microfiche scanners utilizing the latest technology available. Our goal is to offer a suite of products that simplifies film and fiche scanning, employing high speed technology while incorporating creative hardware and software innovations to maximize image quality.

We thought we would put together a list of "frequently asked questions" that have been asked by people over the years, to provide more insight as to who we are and products and enhancements that we now offer to the film and fiche scanning marketplace.

1. **How long has nextScan been in business?**

   nextScan was founded in 2002 by Kurt Breish. Besides being President and CEO of the company, Kurt is the technical driving force behind our company and retains the title of CTO. He has been designing and developing film scanners for over 20 years and has been instrumental in the development of the high end film and fiche scanning market.

2. **Does NextScan build all of its scanners?**

   Our corporate offices are located in Meridian, ID which is a suburb of Boise, ID. All of our scanners are manufactured at this location.

3. **Do you have your own hardware engineers?**

   We have on staff hardware engineers that are very strong in mechanical and electrical expertise. Our unique "Loop System" in the transport mechanism of our Eclipse scanners is an example of their innovative approach to providing stable film scanners. nextScan's Loop System is patented, and eliminates any image distortion. Another example of nextScan hardware engineer staff ingenuity is our patent pending LuminTec™ light line illumination system that is incorporated into nextScan scanners, providing even better image quality with less power consumption.

4. **Do you have software engineers on staff?**

   Our Fusion and NextStar software was written by our own software people. We have a team of software engineers dedicated to creating and maintaining our applications, and to develop innovative new software that brings even more efficiencies to the scanning of microfilm and microfiche. In our opinion, it is important to have software engineers on staff so that we can respond to customer demand and changes in the marketplace quickly and accurately. Additionally, nextScan engineers are available to do software customization on a contract basis.

5. **How are the NextScan scanners sold?**

   In the United States we have a sales staff that sells directly to all end users. This group has a combined experience of 50+ years in the microfilm/fiche scanning business, enabling nextScan to bring the best scanning solutions for your business. Outside of the United States we have extensively trained resellers that meet our high standards to both sell and service all of our products.

6. **What scanners do you offer for scanning 16/35mm roll film?**

   We offer 2 options for scanning 16/35mm roll film. Our entry level scan system is called FlexScan. This scanner can scan a roll of 16mm film at 200 DPI resolution in 13 minutes. In addition to its exceptional speed, FlexScan utilizes fiber optics to ensure that the whole scan area has even lighting to maximize image quality. FlexScan has been designed as a 2-in-1 solution for users that have not only a roll film scanner requirement, but also the need for a fiche scanner.

   The second option is our Eclipse series of 16/35mm roll film scanners. This is our production level roll film scanner that, depending on the model, allows the user to scan an entire roll of 16mm film at 200 DPI in 5 minutes. This is possible because we have upgraded the quality and speed of the camera, added a high precision lens and developed a new, patent pending light illumination system within the Eclipse called LuminTec™. As a result, we are able to scan at very high speeds without sacrificing image quality.

   More information can be found on our data sheets and we would welcome the opportunity to talk to you further about either of these scanner models.

7. **What scanners do you offer for scanning Microfiche and/or Jackets?**

   We offer 2 options for scanning Step & Repeat fiche, film jackets, COM, AB Dick and Microx fiche. Our entry level scan system is called FlexScan. This versatile scanner uses interchangeable carriers for scanning different fiche and roll film formats. Besides scanning all the various forms of fiche, we also offer a Jumbo Fiche Carrier that makes it possible to scan aperture cards and/or oversized fiche.

The second option is our Titan Fiche Scanner. Like all of our scanners, this product has been designed to work 24/7 and is truly the cost solution for microfiche scanning. The scanner is totally automatic and has a load hopper that can hold up to 1,000 fiche (a stack of up to 5”). It is by far the fastest fiche scanner on the market and image quality is at its best due to a new high speed camera; a high precision lens and a new light line illumination system called LuminTec.

We have data sheets that further explain all the features of these scanners and we welcome any and all of your questions.

8. What is this NextStar Software?

NextStar software was envisioned and written by nextScan software engineers. NextStar solves many of the inconsistencies of microfilm and microfiche. Not only are there wide variations in density and contrast of the images, but depending on the storage conditions of the film, deterioration of the film or fiche is also a concern. What NextStar does is scan a roll of film in gray scale, edge-to-edge and end-to-end, and captures all the images in what we call a “ribbon file”. Put simply, all the images on that roll are captured and eliminate the need to rescan the film – no images are lost.

We then offer a set of tools in the NextStar Audit/QC module that allow you to clean up the images - such as rotate, deskew, mirror, despeckle, crop and apply filters to improve the quality of the image. Additionally, you choose the output format and directory structure you would like the images output to. Some of the output formats supported are TIFF Group 4, Uncompressed TIFF, JPEG, JPEG 2000, PDF and PDF/A.

Once Audit is complete the next operation within NextStar outputs all images as seen in the auditor. In a production environment these functions of Scan, Audit, and Output are all overlapped functions, and allow the scanner to run at full rated speed. nextScan is the only company that can achieve this throughput in a production environment. Other copycat solutions that appear similar do not allow simultaneous Scan, Audit and Output, and therefore limit real production throughput. nextScan was the creator of Ribbon scanning technology and we have the most experience with this technology and best production solutions available.

In the US and Canada, NextStar software comes standard with all nextScan scanners. It is also available internationally in many countries.

9. Why should I buy from nextScan?

Since 2002, nextScan has been very successful in selling film and fiche scanners throughout the world. We have the reputation of being the best in offering

innovative and creative hardware/software to the world, incorporating the very latest in technological developments in all of our products. All our hardware, software, technical support, sales and marketing is done by us only. nextScan is made up of a group of individuals that collectively have the experience, knowledge and commitment required to maintain a very specific level of excellence. Our job is to provide the best cost solution for scanning all forms of microfilm and microfiche. For additional background on the company and its technology, please visit the “About Us” page of the nextScan website.

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