

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
In Computer Science
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March 12, 2005

Mr. Robert Resuali
Automark Technical Systems, LLC
200 West 22nd Street, Suite 220
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Mr. Resuali:

Recently, I had an opportunity to thoroughly examine the ES&S AutoMARK(TM) Voter-Assist Terminal. This device is unique in that it not only provides a nonvisual interface to a secret ballot, thereby allowing the blind voter to select and verify candidates without sighted assistance, but it also affords independent access to scanned paper ballots--a highly unique feature in today's talking voting machine market.

As a blind person who has advocated for nonvisual access to computers and other devices for more than 30 years, I am very impressed by the features incorporated into the ES&S AutoMARK system.

1. The ES&S AutoMARK uses synthetic speech to provide nonvisual access to the ballot, and it has the ability to speed up or slow down the speech generated. The default setting is understandable to everyone--even a person who has never listened to synthetic speech before. For blind people like me who use computers every day, it is a pleasure to be able to speed up the speech to a level that enables us to get through the business of voting in a timely and efficient manner.
2. The controls on the front of the ES&S AutoMARK unit are easily identifiable by touch. A person may need a few minutes to become acquainted with the function of each control, but once that is done, ES&S AutoMARK is fairly easy to operate.
3. ES&S AutoMARK's ability to scan, print, and verify the optically-scanned paper ballot using synthetic speech is unique. I have found no other system on the market that can do this, and I am familiar with just about every talking voting system there is in the United States.
4. ES&S AutoMARK's ability to support standard headphones allows the blind voter to use his/her own device for private listening. This is highly desirable.

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In conclusion, I would say that the ES&S AutoMARK system provides nonvisual access to the voting process, and I would highly recommend its use in all elections: local, state, and national.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Chong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Curtis Chong, President
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND in Computer Science