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The logo for FilmLight, featuring the word "FilmLight" in a white, sans-serif font against a black rectangular background.

Thomson and FilmLight to Showcase Software Grading Control for Spirit at NAB

Las Vegas, 12th April 2008 - At the National Association of Broadcasters Convention in Las Vegas, Thomson Grass Valley and **FilmLight** will conduct a groundbreaking demonstration in which **FilmLight**'s Baselight colour grading system will control a Thomson Grass Valley Spirit as a telecine controller. It will mark the first time ever that a software-based colour corrector will fully control a telecine system.

The demonstration, which will be seen on the Thomson Grass Valley booth (SL2120), will involve a Baselight HD connected to a Spirit 4K scanner. However the technology, incorporated into version 3.3 of **FilmLight**'s Baselight software, can be employed with any Baselight system and with any model of the Thomson Spirit product line, including Spirit HD, Spirit 2K, Spirit 4K, the Shadow telecine and the classic Spirit DataCine.

"This demonstration is the result of a breakthrough effort by Thomson Grass Valley and **FilmLight** and is a moment of great significance for the post-production industry," stated **FilmLight** Director Steve Chapman. "It marks the point when software-based colour grading has not only caught up to, but in fact surpassed, hardware-based grading. It shows that the future belongs to software solutions exemplified by Baselight."

The new technology allows Baselight, via its Blackboard control panel, to emulate a hardware grading system in a traditional linear workflow, and to perform such functions as primary and secondary colour correction, grain management or other film stock dependant settings – all performed in the Spirit scanner using the Spirit's industry-renowned signal processing. It also gives Baselight the ability to control Spirit for ingest while operating in a nonlinear environment. Hybrid modes of operation are also possible.

"Today's post-production industry is changing rapidly, and a telecine or film scanner has to integrate perfectly into the wider workflow to make it a productive and profitable workhorse," added Jeff Rosica, senior vice president of Thomson's Broadcast & Professional Solutions business unit. "By integrating our products with other equipment rather than demanding further investments, we are helping our customers innovate and stay competitive."

The development has broad implications for all post production workflows that include a colour grading component, but it promises to have a particularly strong impact on post for high-end commercials.

At NAB2008 Thomson will have on show the 100th new generation Spirit since its introduction in 2004 as the successor for the classic Spirit DataCine. The co-operation with **FilmLight** and its Baselight colour corrector is a result of continuing development to ensure that the Spirit family can cover the whole range of market requirements to deliver film images to any source at any time in the fastest way possible.

About FilmLight

FilmLight is a manufacturer of film scanning, colour grading and colour management systems that are helping to transform film and video post production and setting new standards for quality, reliability and performance. The company's products are in use every day by leading post production facilities around the globe as essential components in their digital intermediate, commercials and video production pipelines. Fuelled by some of the industry's brightest minds, FilmLight is committed to delivering innovative tools that allow creative professionals to work at the forefront of the digital media revolution. Founded in 2001, FilmLight is headquartered in London, where its research, design and manufacturing operations are centred. Sales and support are conducted through regional service centres located in London, Los Angeles, Chicago, Sydney, Auckland and Singapore, and through qualified partners worldwide. For more information visit www.filmLight.ltd.uk

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About Thomson

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For information about Grass Valley products from Thomson please visit www.thomsongrassvalley.com.

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