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Tour de France 2016 - VJ Technologies Rolls In System for “Mechanical Doping” Testing

Bohemia, NY, July 28, 2016 – We hear about athletes doping to enhance physical performance, but today the concerns are that this has morphed into a new method of cheating in elite cycling – Mechanical Doping. Just as one can enhance the body’s performance by blood doping and the use of illicit performance enhancing drugs, competitive performance can now be enhanced by the use of a hidden motor which provides additional power to the wheels at critical times.

In January 2016, the governing body of world cycling, Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), made the first discovery of technological fraud in elite cycle racing when a bicycle containing a concealed motor was found using small hand-held magnetic resonance instruments.

This year at the Tour de France, the world’s largest and most prestigious cycle race, the UCI decided to significantly enhance the deterrence of technological fraud by hiring VJ Group’s VJ Technologies, the world leader in innovative x-ray solutions, to develop and provide an in-field inspection solution that would absolutely identify any illegal components concealed within the frames or wheels of the bicycles.

The innovative solution had to be rapidly deployable and able to withstand the challenging environments, high winds, hail and torrential rain often encountered in the high mountains of the Pyrenees and Alps and elsewhere on the grueling 23 day stage race of over 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles).

The Innovative Solution comprised a VJ Technologies designed and manufactured portable x-ray source, large area digital detector, and their world leading Vi3™ image acquisition, processing and archival software, integrated within a small trailer that was towed by a car.

The exceptional ability of the VJ Technologies inspection team to integrate seamlessly with the UCI race officials, the French police, and most importantly to gain the cooperation and enthusiastic support of the racing teams was as essential to success as the technical solution.

At the conclusion of the race, Mark Barfield, Director Technique of the UCI said, “It was great to work with VJ technologies and it certainly helped address the concerns felt by some [at the Tour de France]. They did an amazing job and I look forward to working with them again in the future.”

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Aside from its presence at this year's Tour de France, VJ Technologies offers a unique array of in-field inspection and mobile x-ray inspection services which cater towards any specific need, product, or time. VJT provides customized solutions for:

- In-use Underground Pipeline & Utilities
- Radioactive Waste characterization
- Product Development & Mass Production Inspection
- In-Facility Large Equipment Inspection
- Equipment failures / Forensic inspections

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About VJ Technologies

Custom imaging software and hardware products, solutions and services for industry and government.

Founded in 1987, VJ Technologies is a leading global provider of x-ray inspection solutions. We apply our radioscopic digital imaging expertise to government agencies and nondestructive testing (NDT) markets throughout the world.

VJT develops and manufactures a complete line of automated, manual, and turnkey X-ray inspection systems. Primary market sectors include: aerospace, automotive, electronics, remediation, nuclear, oil & gas, and pipe & weld applications. VJT x-ray inspection systems are used for radioscopic inspection of products and assemblies to detect defects or foreign matter, reducing cost and time while increasing quality and safety.

VJT delivers a competitive advantage over other companies through our network of global offices. In the 21st century, VJT continues to nurture emerging technologies and provide innovative solutions for global customers.