
Subject: Re: Kodak buys RSI!!

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Pete Riley (uk2@linuxfan.com) is going to get us into it when he writes:

> What's the word on the street? This is news to me. A couple of questions:

>

> 1. Why does Kodak want RSI?

I'm guessing they will find it much easier to sell their imaging hardware if they have decent software to go with it. We all know that hardware is pretty much, well, hardware without something to make those numbers sing. :-)

> 2. Given the answer to 1., what does this *really* mean for the future of

> IDL?

Who knows? I'm pretty sure no one at RSI knows, and Kodak probably doesn't have any idea. I'm guessing that Kodak is probably more interested in ENVI than they are in IDL, but I suspect they probably realize that their customers will want both. A nice menu-based system with lots of built-in tools for image analysis and visualization, but a language too for the researchers who prefer to roll their own.

I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see IDL and ENVI become two sides of the same coin, with similar capability and functionality, but with two different ways of working with the imaging data. I think we are probably safe in assuming IDL will become less a tool for all people, and will become more focused on image processing. That's a boon for the imaging folks, surely, but may mean something else to folks less interested in imaging.

And I wouldn't be at all surprised to see tools like VIP and ION dropped pretty quickly. I just don't see how they fit into "Kodak" at all.

> I wonder whether we can get a refund on our maintainance contracts?

Why don't you wait until after you get IDL 5.4. I figure that will be around at least for a little while. :-)

Cheers,

David

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