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## **TestPro Receives Order for Vacuum Tube Test Systems**

**Huntsville, AL – Monday, January 10, 2005.** TestPro announced today that the company has received an order for a Vacuum Tube Test System. According to James Bell, TestPro's National Sales Manager, TestPro may be the first company in the last 20 years to report building a vacuum tube test system.

For those of you that were born during the transistor age and later, vacuum tubes were once used in everything from televisions and radios to early spacecraft and airplanes during the 1950's and 1960's. Vacuum tubes were those glass objects that glowed cherry red when you peered into the back of a television or radio. Vacuum tubes brought guys like Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley and David Brinkley into our living rooms for the evening news in a time before CNN and Fox. In the 1960's, Bell Labs introduced the transistor, which was arguably the most important discovery of the 20th century. Soon transistors sent vacuum tubes into virtual extinction with the exception of a few very specialized applications.

Today, vacuum tubes are called Planar Triodes, and are built with a very different technology than the 1950 and 1960 models, but still function in much the same way. Today's triodes are powerful, compact and lightweight. They excel at being efficient in pulse applications and can deliver higher peak power for the same input than other types of devices. They are typically used in applications such as microwave cavities used for aircraft transponders, distance measuring equipment, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment, and aircraft radar altimeters and as such remain a viable product.

Today, TestPro Systems has been tapped to develop new test equipment to replace test systems that were last built in the early 1960's. TestPro Systems has teamed with National Instruments to incorporate Lab View as part of the new computerized test platform, and will use other NI products in order to help bring Planar Triode testing into the 21st Century.

### **About TestPro Systems**

TestPro Systems is located in Huntsville, AL, and services the North American market for in-circuit and functional test systems. For more information about TestPro, visit us on the web at [www.testprosystems.com](http://www.testprosystems.com), or contact Jim Bell at 256-705-5563.