

Lifetouch Research & Development Position Description

Job Title: **Research Associate**

Department: Corporate R&D

Location: Lifetouch Technology Center
7401 Bush Lake Road
Suite B
Edina, MN 55439

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Corporate Director of Research
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Purpose of Position:

To provide technical support for research and development projects related to the application of digital imaging technology in the photographic and publishing related businesses of Lifetouch.

Scope:

Support research and development projects aimed at enabling a variety of applications of digital imaging systems. Primary emphasis will be placed on exploring the use of digital image processing and image compression technologies required in imaging systems applications that include digital capture, image transmission, image storage and retrieval, and digital softcopy and hardcopy output.

Responsibilities:

Identify and monitor new digital image processing and image compression approaches that could enhance the color image quality and throughput of digital photography and high-speed digital production systems.

Enable the selection and testing of specific image processing and image compression algorithms in terms of quantitative parameters related to relative speed of operation, color image quality improvements, limitations on content and size of images, creation of imaging artifacts, ease of use, etc.

Guide and support the integration of image processing algorithms and approaches in new and existing digital imaging system software applications.

Work with associates representing research, engineering, and manufacturing functions within several Lifetouch divisions to initiate and support testing of selected systems in designated Lifetouch locations.

Work with Corporate R&D team to support other technology projects related to imaging systems and software development as the need arises.

Minimum Qualifications:

MS in Electrical Engineering, Optical Engineering, Physics, or related technology area with emphasis on applications of image processing technology to support the development of digital imaging systems.

3-5 years of experience with image processing software running on personal computers using Microsoft, UNIX (Linux), or Macintosh based operating systems.

Working knowledge of C/C++ and some specialized mathematical and scientific software packages (i.e. MATLAB)

Ability to document technical approaches and provide training to support initial field testing of complex systems.

Ability to work in a team environment responsible for the technical support of new business opportunities using digital imaging systems technology.

Previous experience in the use of digital image capture systems, digital printing systems, and software in digital imaging applications.

Ability to travel to a limited number of sites to support initial field testing of systems and transition of systems to operating divisions.