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SCANSOFT INC
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCANSOFT TO INITIATE SHARE REPURCHASE OF UP TO \$25 MILLION FOLLOWING CLOSE
OF SPEECHWORKS ACQUISITION

PEABODY, MASS., AUGUST 6, 2003 - ScanSoft, Inc. (NASDAQ: SSFT), a leading supplier of imaging, speech and language solutions, today announced it will initiate a share repurchase program to begin immediately following the closing of the SpeechWorks (NASDAQ: SPWX) acquisition and will continue for a period of twelve months, but may be suspended or discontinued at any time. ScanSoft intends to repurchase up to \$25 million of its common stock, but will not repurchase more than 20 percent of the number of shares issued to SpeechWorks stockholders in the proposed merger. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined by ScanSoft's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors.

"This is an initial step in an ongoing commitment from ScanSoft to offset the dilutive effect of employee options and other uses of stock that have been important to the company's growth," said Paul Ricci, ScanSoft chairman and CEO. "Furthermore, this action affirms our commitment to increasing shareholder value and reflects confidence in the strength of our global business, growing cash flows and expanded market positions."

ABOUT SCANSOFT, INC.

ScanSoft, Inc. (NASDAQ: SSFT) is a leading supplier of imaging, speech and language solutions that are used to automate a wide range of manual processes - saving time, increasing worker productivity and improving customer service. For more information regarding ScanSoft products and technologies, please visit www.ScanSoft.com.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT

ScanSoft filed a registration statement on Form S-4 in connection with the proposed merger, and ScanSoft and SpeechWorks filed with the SEC and mailed to their respective stockholders a joint proxy statement/prospectus in connection with the proposed merger. Investors and security holders are urged to read the

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joint proxy statement/prospectus because it contains important information about ScanSoft, SpeechWorks and the proposed merger. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the joint proxy statement/prospectus at the

Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at