



Altarix—ARCOM's New Specification Productivity Tool—More Tools for the Specifier

Salt Lake City, Utah (March 25, 2011)—ARCOM recently announced its revolutionary Altarix™ product, a new productivity tool in its SpecWare® suite of specification software.

Built into the sleek Altarix interface are two unique panels that appear with the specification section editor: **SpecAgent** and **SpecTools**.

Altarix's SpecAgent Panel provides a wide variety of resources needed by specifiers with the specification sections they are working on, including:

- Manufacturer's contact information and links to websites
- Product information, photos, catalogs, and data sheets
- List of referenced standards and links to standards organizations
- Lists of relevant references
- Product comparison tables

Altarix's SpecTools Panel provides features to help improve specification writing, review, and editing efficiency:

Question and Answer (Q&A) Tools—Altarix incorporates ARCOM's popular question and answer editing capabilities from the Linx Automated Editor, with several enhancements:

- Altarix guides the user through a series of questions and answers, and automatically edits the specification text, deleting text and related text that do not apply, throughout the specification section.
- Altarix allows the user to mark the text for deletion (rather than deleting the text) by showing deleted text as grayed out and in strikeout so the specifier can review edits and reverse deletions.
- Altarix remembers where the user stopped in the last Q&A session.
- Altarix automatically tracks how many questions were answered and how many still need to be answered, and displays this information at the end of each Q&A session
- Altarix allows the user to print the questions and answers at any time during the Q&A session—either as a record of decisions, or for filling out by another project team member. The Q&A list can be exported to Word.

Navigation Tool—Navigating around specification sections can sometimes be difficult. Altarix includes a built-in tool that allows users to quickly jump to any article and first level paragraph, thereby improving editing efficiency. As specifiers add custom articles, Altarix also automatically adds them to the navigation list—in the correct location.

Notes Tool—ARCOM recognizes that spec writers typically need to make notes while writing and editing specification sections. These notes are often reminders to check on items that need



clarification, or notes to other project team members. Altarix makes creating and managing project notes easy by allowing users to:

- Add multiple project notes to any article or paragraph
- Find project notes in the specification text through a notes icon
- View project notes in the Notes Panel Bar
- Graphically indicate whether project notes are resolved or not
- Navigate to the location in the text where a note applies by clicking on the note in the Notes Panel Bar

Status Panel Bar—Altarix is the first software that helps specifiers to keep track of the completion progress of specification writing efforts. Initially, specifiers will be able to track the percentage completion of each section, as well as the last date a section was updated and by whom. This information is aggregated to the project level so one can see overall project completion. Specifiers can also view all sections in the Completion Progress report and export it to Word.

“Altarix’s SpecTools are the latest evolution in providing the tools that design professionals need to easily and quickly create project manuals,” stated Christopher Bushnell, ARCOM’s President and CEO. “Along with the built-in SpecAgent resources and the MasterSpec Supporting Documents, Altarix provides unparalleled productivity enhancements right at your fingertips.”

About ARCOM

ARCOM is the developer of SpecWare® and SpecAgent®. SpecWare is a suite of specification productivity software tools that dramatically simplifies specification creation and use. SpecAgent is a web-based resource designed to work with MasterSpec that streamlines the process of building product research and manufacturer selection.

ARCOM publishes MasterSpec for The American Institute of Architects (AIA) for use by architects, engineers, landscape architects, and design professionals. MasterSpec can be used to create construction specifications for all project sizes, complexity, and delivery.

ARCOM is a Salt Lake City-based firm with an additional office in Alexandria, Virginia. The company employs more than 40 full-time specification development professionals: researchers, specification writers and editors, software developers, technical support staff, and customer service professionals.

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