Final Agency Determination for the
Avante International Technology, Inc.’s
Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF Voter Verified Paper Record System

In my capacity as the Chief Election Official for the State of New Jersey, and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:48-2, I have reviewed the Title 19 Voting Machine Examination Committee (the “Committee”) Report dated August 8, 2007 (the “Committee Report”) on the Voter Verified Paper Record System (“VVPRS”) for the Avante International Technology, Inc.’s (“Avante”) Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF voting machine, and make the following final determination:

I accept and adopt the Committee’s recommendation that the VVPRS for the Avante Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF voting machine not be certified for use in New Jersey in its current state, and, therefore, I decline to certify the Avante Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF VVPRS as of this date.

I have also determined that for the Avante Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF VVPRS to be further considered for certification, modifications must be made to address the shortcomings identified, and recommendations made, in the Committee Report. I offer the following clarification. On page six of its Report, the Committee indicates that it is unclear from the State’s Criteria for Voter-Verified Paper Record for Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines (the “Criteria”) whether some sort of data encryption is required. Cryptographic capability is required and such capability must be approved by the U.S. Government’s Cryptographic Module Validation Program, unless otherwise stated in Sections V.D, V.D.1, or V.D.2 of the Criteria.

If Avante modifies the Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF VVPRS to address the recommendations made, and shortcomings noted, in the Committee Report (as clarified herein), the Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF voting machine with VVPRS must be resubmitted for review and testing by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (“NJIT”) and any other testing facility, including voting system laboratories accredited by the United States Election Assistance Commission (“EAC”), deemed necessary by the State.

To expedite the review and testing process, Avante must provide to the State the following materials on or before August 15, 2007:
• A detailed, written summary of the modifications it intends to make to the Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF voting machine with VVPRS to address the shortcomings noted, and recommendations made, in the Committee Report (as clarified herein). This summary must indicate which deficiency a particular modification addresses and whether the modification involves altering software, source code, hardware, firmware, or any other component of the voting system or VVPRS.

• A written statement indicating whether the source code, firmware, software, hardware, or any other component used to operate the Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF with VVPRS is currently being tested by a voting system laboratory accredited by the EAC; and, if so, whether this testing involves modifications that address the recommendations made, and shortcomings noted, in the Committee Report (as clarified herein). If such testing is being conducted, Avante must indicate when it reasonably anticipates such testing to conclude. If no such testing is being conducted, Avante must indicate whether it intends to submit any component or part of the Vote-Trakker EVC 308-FF with VVPRS to testing by an EAC accredited voting system laboratory.

Anne Milgram
Attorney General of New Jersey

Dated: August 10, 2009