



RICON CORP.  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ricon Corp. Completes OCTA Retrofit Project**

**(Panorama City, CA, January 22, 2004) Ricon Corp.**, today announced, it has completed the retrofit of sixty-eight Gillig Phantom high-floor buses with their Metropolitan™ model wheelchair lift for the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA). Originally awarded in June of 2003, this contract represented Ricon's first opportunity to provide its customers with full vehicle integration at this scale and performed entirely in-house.

During the OCTA project, Ricon's facility handled 5 units at any one time. The project's intent was to replace the OEM Mobil-Tech wheelchair lift with Ricon's newly designed Metropolitan™. The process included removing the old lift, making the necessary modifications to accept the new lift, installing the Metropolitan, and installing a new Vapor pneumatic door operator. Special attention was given to ensure compliance to original OEM structural standards, while maintaining OCTA's fleet aesthetics.

"This was an excellent opportunity to show the industry what we are capable of." Said Bill Baldwin, Ricon Corp. President and CEO. "Providing our customers with whole solution project management increases their efficiencies and expands our reach within the transportation industry. We are extremely pleased that we were able to meet all of OCTA's needs and proud that the project was completed nearly a month ahead of schedule."

Ricon will continue to actively pursue additional retrofit contracts with other transit authorities and has already begun work with Torrance Transit for twenty-one Gillig Phantom high-floor busses and a second contract with OCTA for fifty-eight New Flyer D40 high-floor busses.

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#### **ABOUT RICON CORP.**

Headquartered in Los Angeles, Ricon has over 32 years of experience and is the world leader in the design, manufacture, and installation of wheelchair lifts and ramps for personal, commercial, and heavy transit vehicles. Operating from a modern, 225,000 square foot facility, Ricon is the largest manufacturer of its kind in the world.

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