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# News Release

For Immediate Release

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## **Coastal Title Company Completes Fourth Title Plant Using halFILE Imaging System**

Coastal Title Company has established a solid foothold along the Texas Gulf Coast with locations in Jackson County, Wharton County, and Calhoun County. Now the company has completed its fourth title plant in Goliad County using halFILE Title Plant and Imaging Software.

The late Glynn McDonald moved to Jackson County in 1985, and began practicing law in Edna. His wife, Carol, joined the firm in 1991. Soon after moving to Edna, McDonald purchased Edna Abstract Company, a sovereignty-based card plant. By 1991, Glynn had a vision of using technology to build title companies in surrounding counties. Enlisting the expertise of **hal Systems Corporation** in Dallas, Texas, McDonald began to make that vision a reality.

Using halFILE for DOS, a document storage and retrieval software package from hal Systems Corporation, McDonald began scanning the Jackson County courthouse records. He assembled a technical team and instituted procedures for scanning, indexing and archiving the recorded instruments on a go-forward basis. Once the Jackson County system was in place, he looked for opportunities to expand.

In 1993, McDonald's team moved into the Calhoun County Courthouse in Port Lavaca. Using two scanners, technicians scanned documents at the courthouse and transferred images by tape back to the Edna office. The indexing team reviewed the images on large-screen computer monitors and input information about each document into index fields. Once a batch of documents were indexed, the images were transferred to optical storage. The halFILE Search engine could then search the plant's database for any combination of key words and display an image of the original document from optical disk.

A Texas title company must maintain a searchable geographical database going back at least 25 years. The Calhoun County plant was licensed by the state in 1994, and Coastal Title Company was formed.

*“Without halFILE’s technology,” says Carol McDonald, “it would have taken us years to build even a single 25-year plant in another county. Using halFILE, Coastal Title has been able to build and operate sovereignty-based plants in several counties in a relatively short time.”*

### ***Moving on to Wharton County***

From Port Lavaca, McDonald's document team moved quickly into Wharton County. With over a million documents to be scanned, Wharton County was the company's most ambitious project. Using the Bell+Howell 6338 duplex scanner and halFILE, a scanning technician could scan between 5,000 and 12,000 pages per day. Meanwhile, each Abstractor could index about 300 documents, or 1,200 pages, per day. Coastal Title Company became the first member of hal System's "[Million Image Club](#)," an exclusive award given to companies that scan over one million images using halFILE. The Wharton title plant was licensed in 1995.

Although halFILE for DOS was able to handle the volume of recorded documents, McDonald wanted to take advantage of newer Windows technology. He again turned to hal Systems Corporation and halFILE for Windows when he began Coastal Title's fourth plant in Goliad County.

***“The available technology has improved tremendously since we built the Jackson County plant,” says Carol. “Goliad was built entirely on Windows, so no conversion was necessary. halFILE’s indexing and search functions take full advantage of the graphical interface, and our hardware imaging requirements have been greatly simplified.”***

halFILE for Windows is a robust, scalable document and imaging management system providing scanning, indexing, archiving, searching and e-mail functions. Using Windows95, 3.x and WindowsNT operating systems, halFILE for Windows provides flexible and powerful database support. User-definable indexes are built through data entry, bar coding or data extraction from external databases. These key words are stored in an ODBC-compliant database such as Microsoft's WindowsNT SQL Server.

Now, using halFILE for Windows, the Goliad County plant is complete. The Jackson and Calhoun County plants have since been converted to Windows95 and are run from WindowsNT SQL Servers in Edna and Port Lavaca. The Wharton County plant was converted to Windows in 1998. With four title plants along the Texas Gulf Coast, Coastal Title Company is an innovative force in the Texas title industry.

***“halFILE is the cutting edge in an industry that is changing fast,” says Carol McDonald. “The title companies that survive into the next century will be those that can deliver their information and services more quickly and accurately than their competitors. Coastal Title Company will continue to depend on hal Systems Corporation to keep us out in front.”***

hal Systems Corporation ([www.halfile.com](http://www.halfile.com)) has been providing software solutions for over 25 years and imaging solutions for the past 10 years. halFILE is installed at over 150 companies across the country in a variety of organizations including title, government, healthcare, insurance and financial institutions.