



Home Networks

A Monthly Newsletter

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Markets with highest broadband penetration of households, 2007 and 2012

Country	2007	2012
South Korea	93%	97%
Netherlands	74%	82%
Hong Kong	76%	81%
Canada	65%	79%
United States	54%	77%
Japan	54%	77%
Switzerland	69%	76%
Singapore	57%	75%
United Kingdom	58%	74%
Taiwan	59%	74%
France	58%	73%
Australia	52%	72%
Sweden	58%	69%
Spain	54%	68%
Germany	49%	68%
Belgium	55%	66%
New Zealand	43%	64%

Source: Gartner (July 2008)

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CONTRACTS

Westell awarded next-generation home gateway business at Verizon

Westell Technologies announced that they have been selected by Verizon to provide high-performance broadband

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home routers that upgrade the speed and capabilities of FiOS services.

Westell's UltraLine Series3 Gateway, with its WireSpeed routing technology and dual-core processor, allows Verizon to take advantage of the capacity of their fiber-to-the-home network while enabling new applications like media sharing, home monitoring, and home control.

The UltraLine Series3 model 9100 combines residential gateway and digital home controller functions to enable the delivery of a comprehensive set of broadband services. Its routing technology, dual-core architecture, and an advanced data processing engine ensure that content passing through the device is delivered at the maximum available speed and without affecting other embedded services or management functions.

Verizon will deploy a version of the product that includes MoCA technology to provide speeds of more than 100Mbps to networked devices over existing coaxial cable in the home.

An award winner at the 2008 International Consumer Electronics Show, Westell's UltraLine Series3 offers the ability to deliver new and unique in-home services. Applications can include home environmental controls, home monitoring with plug-and-play equipment, or media sharing among digital media players, set-top boxes, and networked game consoles.

"We are particularly thrilled by this announcement," said Tim Pillow, Westell chief marketing officer. "This business award, along with Verizon's selection of our VDSL gateway for multi-dwelling applications, places Westell at the heart of the FiOS-connected home with our flagship product. Verizon is a highly valued customer and partner; we look forward to serving them well."

Volume shipments of Westell's UltraLine Series3 Gateway to Verizon are expected to begin in August of 2008.

iControl Networks selects Telit M2M technology to enhance its next-generation Home Security solution

Telit Wireless Solutions Inc., the US-based machine-to-machine (M2M) mobile technology arm of Telit Communications PLC, and iControl Networks, the first provider of consumer-focused "Home Security 2.0" solutions, will incorporate Telit's cellular technology into iControl's interactive Home Security solution. Telit's M2M module with antijamming features adds cellular back-up capabilities to iControl's platform, offering home-protection companies and service providers a complete next-generation home security solution.

By using Telit's GE864-QUAD GSM/GPRS module, iControl's Home Security 2.0 solution will now also offer reliable cellular backup. Telit's M2M module will be integrated into iControl's iHub technology, a home security router that plugs into the home network and wirelessly connects to security panels, IP cameras, sensors, and Z-Wave-based home control devices (such as lighting, door locks, thermostats, etc.). The iControl solution provides both Web and mobile access to customers' home security systems, enabling traditional security monitoring with advanced functionality such as remote access to video, home control, and security panel operations from the Web and mobile phone. With Telit's M2M module, consumers will experience uninterrupted connectivity to their homes when their homes' phone and broadband connections are down.

In addition, the module supports cellular communications to a central monitoring station if the phone and broadband connections are unable to send emergency alert information from the home security system. Telit's Jamming Detection & Report feature ensures that both the consumer and the central monitoring station are alerted when the cellular signal is threatened by a jamming device or other network disturbance.

“We are very excited to offer our service provider partners an interactive home security solution that provides enhanced peace-of-mind to their customers,” said Reza Raji, founder, president, and COO of iControl Networks. “Through our partnership with Telit, we have developed a home security solution with an ‘always-on’ connection — even in the event of malfunction or cut in the telephone line or broadband service. Telit’s superior cellular backup module with its anti-jamming technology is ideal for iControl’s next-generation Home Security 2.0 solution.”

“iControl recognized the demand for an unwired connection and enhanced its solution by integrating our cellular module,” said Roger Dewey, president of Telit Wireless Solutions — Americas. “Home intruders will no longer be able to just snip a cord to disconnect a home security system, they will have to contend with the nearly universal coverage of a cellular network.”

The Telit module will relay data to the home security provider via GPRS when the wired telephone line or broadband connection is lost. Production versions of iControl’s iHub home security router with Telit module are now shipping to partner home-security, broadband, and telecommunications providers in the United States and Canada.

PARTNERSHIPS

NEC strengthens its femtocell solution with Motive

NEC Corporation announced that its subsidiary, NEC Europe, has established a strategic partnership with Motive Inc., a provider of service management solutions for broadband and mobile data services. The partnership will see Motive’s service management software integrated into NEC’s Femtocell Access Point Management System. The Femtocell Access Point Management system forms a key element of the NEC Femtocell Solution delivering a plug-in-forget installation and provisioning of the

Access Points by the end users. This is seen as a key driver for mass deployment of the Femtocell technology by operators worldwide. The NEC Access Point Management system is under trials with several operators around the world as part of the end-to-end trials of the NEC Femtocell Solution. This expansion of NEC’s partner ecosystem will further cement NEC’s position as the foremost femtocell innovator globally.

A femtocell is a compact, low-power plug-and-play consumer device that provides localized 3G coverage and capacity, while using the subscriber’s broadband connection for connectivity to the mobile service provider’s network. Femtocells allow service providers to improve 3G coverage into homes, office buildings, and other facilities in a cost-effective manner that relieves network congestion and improves quality of service, ultimately increasing customer retention. Subscribers will benefit from an improved experience and access to new tariffs and services.

Anil Kohli, director, Femtocell program, NEC Europe, commented, “While operators are beginning to drive femtocell commercialisation forward, industry collaboration continues to be essential. NEC is committed to enhancing its leadership in this area with the skills and knowledge of trusted, well-positioned partners. Motive’s service management software and expertise provides the ideal complement to NEC’s Femtocell Solution. NEC is playing an instrumental role in driving femtocell innovation, development and standardisation, and has a number of major operator trials underway globally.”

“The near-term growth of fixed-mobile converged (FMC) services requires the existence of reliable home networks,” said Bryce Judd, Motive’s head of global channels and business development. “Mobile and broadband operators are looking for solutions to provide the best platform to offer and manage FMC services to subscribers. Motive’s Femtocell

Management solution is a great example of how providers can manage complex next-generation services today. We are excited to have been chosen as NEC's partner for this important new initiative."

As members of the Femto Forum, the independent industry association that supports femtocell deployment worldwide, NEC and Motive are both actively involved in the development of femtocell standardization.

BUSINESS

K-micro joins HomePNA board of directors

HomePNA announced that Kawasaki Microelectronics America Inc. (K-micro), has joined the HomePNA board of directors. K-micro joins AT&T Labs, CopperGate Communications, Motorola, Cisco, Sunrise Telecom, and 2Wire in leading the alliance and promoting the global multimedia home networking standard.

"We are pleased to have K-micro, a major ASIC semiconductor vendor with strong expertise in analog front end and RF integration, join our leadership team," said Rich Nesin, president of HomePNA. "K-micro is a recognized expert in chip-level IP and their extensive experience will help advance the HomePNA specification and promote its deployment in the rapidly growing home networking market."

"K-micro has been proactively involved in the home networking market and an active member of HomePNA for years," said Joseph Choghi, director of marketing for K-micro. "We are excited to be joining the board where we can add value to HomePNA's standardization, implementation and marketing initiatives for this rapidly growing and challenging market."

HomePNA 3.1 technology is a high-performance home networking standard today — delivering up to 320 Megabits per second data transmission. In addition, HomePNA delivers a high-quality guaranteed QoS-enabled video experience to viewers while enabling

service providers to reduce installation costs, use remote management and diagnostics to reduce operational expenses, and even reduce end-user costs through unified billing.

Each week, 20,000 homes add HomePNA-based networks through more than a dozen service providers worldwide.

CopperGate takes new multiuse ARC license to develop home networking products

ARC International, a provider of consumer intellectual property (IP) to OEM and semiconductor companies, has announced a new license agreement with CopperGate Communications. CopperGate's products enable consumers to use existing coaxial and phone lines in the home to network, share, and play multimedia content via entertainment devices such as HD-enabled IPTVs and multiroom DVRs. CopperGate will use its new ARC license to create high-performance, next-generation chipsets targeting the "existing wire" home networking and multidwelling unit (MDU) broadband access markets.

The home entertainment services market has evolved from the single-service option of the past decade to a market in which service providers offer combined voice, video, and Internet access packages to consumers. CopperGate is at the forefront of this market shift, commercializing technology developed with multi-company consortiums that support and standardize these new triple-play services using existing-wire home networking solutions.

"Consumers and operators crave bandwidth for home entertainment applications like triple-play and this agreement makes it easy for CopperGate to deliver the performance they require," said Gabi Hilevitz, chief executive officer of CopperGate. "With the latest ARC technology, CopperGate will continue to be the performance leader-staying ahead of growing customer needs by enabling gateways, optical network terminals and set-top boxes to easily network over existing wires."

Bill Jackson, ARC's vice president of marketing, added, "The prevailing business model for IP licensing is to purchase by the project. In a fast moving, competitive market environment, the model is sorely out of date. This new agreement provides CopperGate a long-term, corporate-wide licensing arrangement that allows them to concentrate on their core technology development while ARC concurrently enhances the licensed IP."

Creative Vistas' Cancable division changes operating name to Dependable HomeTech

Creative Vistas Inc., a provider of advanced video security and surveillance solutions as well as broadband-related services, announced that it has rebranded its Cancable Inc. subsidiary to Dependable HomeTech (DHT). The new name reflects the unit's latest product and service mix as well as its rapid expansion beyond its historic Canadian base into the US market.

DHT provides a full range of technical and sales services to cable and broadband providers and their customers. These include installation, repairs, computer networking, outsourced sales, and technical support. It also offers online services to residential customers, including a PC and home networking support systems and Dependable HomeTech Digital Vault, a complete online storage and backup component to DHT services. For more information on DHT products and services, go to www.mydh.com.

DHT currently serves customers of Ontario, Canada's, two largest cable operators, Rogers Cable and Cogeco. Beginning in 2008, it also has entered into several major US cable markets, servicing customers in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge metropolitan areas of Louisiana and in and around Charlotte, North Carolina.

"This new designation, Dependable HomeTech, represents much more than a new brand," said Dominic Burns, CEO of Creative

Vistas. "It points to the multinational nature of Creative Vistas' growth strategy, as well as its leadership in the broadband-related services for the residential market. Our customers in Canada, the U.S. and other nations will enjoy the benefits of the first-rate customer service that built Cancable's reputation in Canada. They will also have access to exciting new products and services, such as Digital Vault, that join our Company's advanced networking software technologies to DHT's first-in-class customer interface. It's a winning combination."

For further information on Creative Vistas, please visit www.creativevistasinc.com.

Creative Vistas launches Web site to showcase new Dependable HomeTech products and services

Creative Vistas Inc., a provider of broadband-related services as well as advanced video security and surveillance solutions, announced that its Dependable HomeTech (DHT) division has launched its new Web site, www.mydh.com. The site presents DHT's products and services in a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate format.

Current offerings shown on the site include a PC and home networking support system that allows consumers to connect directly with DHT's highly skilled computer professionals. It offers not only a choice of support options but also a range of payment plans to suit the individual client.

"The launch of www.mydh.com is an important step in the emergence of Dependable HomeTech as a major new brand in the booming market for online multimedia and storage solutions," said Dominic Burns, CEO of Creative Vistas. "The site gives consumers easy access to the products and services that make Dependable HomeTech a leader in broadband-related and networked based services."

Also on the site is information about Dependable HomeTech Digital Vault, a complete online storage, sharing and backup component

to DHT services. With this service, users can safely, simply, and securely store their digital valuables — photos, videos, documents — online, and then choose to share specific items or entire albums with friends and family as easily as sending an email. As an added value, the Backup Manager component of the service allows clients to back up their computer manually or automatically at whatever frequency they choose.

Not only can users enjoy the benefits of secure storage and ease of use, as well as being able to access their vault anytime from anywhere in the world, they also have the opportunity of checking out the service at no initial cost. Up to 500MB of storage is free, just for creating a Dependable HomeTech account. Additional storage is available at \$4.99 a month for each 5GB increment.

Formerly known as Cancable Inc., Dependable HomeTech (DHT) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Creative Vistas Inc. (www.creativevistasinc.com). Dependable HomeTech was founded in 1997 with Rogers Cable Inc. and Cogeco Cable as its first customers. DHT now serves eight major cable markets in Ontario and three major cable service areas in the US. With over 700 employees, it has positioned itself as a leader in digital home technology. With a wide range of commercial and residential technical support, customer service-driven help desk solutions, and continued new products and services in digital technology, it continues to offer high-level professional installation and support to meet all its clients' needs.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Cortina Systems to acquire Storm Semiconductor, expanding its infrastructure systems to the digital home

Cortina Systems Inc., a provider of intelligent communication solutions, announced a definitive agreement to acquire Storm

Semiconductor Inc., a privately held semiconductor company specializing in embedded network processing, triple-play services, and storage solutions for both small/midsized businesses (SMB) and home networks. The combination of Cortina's infrastructure footprint and Storm's networking solutions for distributing digital multimedia content will create seamless connectivity from service providers to consumers.

"The vast improvements in corporate and access networks over the last decade have been the driving force behind the global economy. Consumers are at the forefront of the next wave of economic expansion," said Amir Nayyerhabibi, president and CEO, Cortina Systems Inc. "Storm's SMB and home networking technologies along with Cortina's vast footprint in the networking infrastructure will forge the next generation of consumer social networking, multimedia, and digital home connectivity."

"With massive multimedia data streaming into our lives, there is tremendous need for available and abundant bandwidth within the home. Cortina already delivers best-in-class solutions from the core to the access networks, Storm's technology will enable world-class infrastructure technology for the home," said Dr. Stewart Wu, president and CEO of Storm Semiconductor Inc. "Cortina's mission is to 'link people globally,' and with Storm's technologies, we bring the network closer to the consumers."

NEW PRODUCTS

Macrovision strengthens Connected Platform solution with support for DLNA 1.5 Guidelines

It is getting faster and easier for consumer electronics (CE) manufacturers to create devices that can find, store, and play digital media in the home. Macrovision Solutions Corporation launched the latest version of its Connected Platform, a comprehensive solution

for discovering, managing, and enjoying digital media on a variety of connected CE devices. With this solution, CE manufacturers can enable full support for Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA) Interoperability Guidelines version 1.5, enabling them to easily implement the latest industry standards in consumer devices such as set-top boxes (STB) and digital televisions.

“By 2010, some 500 million devices will be connected to home networks worldwide and because of this, consumer expectations regarding features and functionality will increase dramatically,” said Colin Dixon, broadband media practice manager at industry analyst firm The Diffusion Group. “Device interoperability, in particular, will be a key demand from consumers wanting more for their CE dollars. A standards-based connectivity solution, like the Macrovision Connected Platform, will be instrumental in addressing this need.”

New features of the Connected Platform include the ability to securely transmit and play back high-definition video over a home network with full DVD-style controls using the DLNA 1.5 link layer protection (LLP) standard. The solution also incorporates DTCP-IP 1.2 support to promote secure transmission of premium content throughout a single home network and a simple DLNA API that enables developers to quickly deploy DLNA-compliant digital media players. Specifically for STBs, the Connected Platform provides the key technologies for CableLabs tru2way Home Networking Protocol, as well as the European and Japanese TV broadcasting standards.

“The Macrovision Connected Platform builds on our company commitment to enable the digital entertainment experience where consumers can easily share and enjoy their digital media across many different devices throughout their homes,” said Steve Shannon, executive vice president, product management, Macrovision. “By providing ongoing open standards for certification and innovation, Macrovision is fueling the interoperability of

millions of DLNA-, UPnP- and DTCP-IP-certified devices and leading the efforts in the development of a fully integrated digital living room.”

The Macrovision Connected Platform consists of a source code software development kit (SDK), player and server software applications and a customizable, easy-to-navigate user interface. Operating system- and chip-agnostic, the solution allows CE device manufacturers to select which components and feature add-ons they want, while benefiting from the ability to develop a first-rate consumer electronic device.

Additional capabilities of the Connected Platform solution include easy integration with third-party applications, such as media recognition and content management tools, and support for multiple codecs. The Connected Platform is available as a full turnkey solution or as individual components, including the UI framework, and has been ported to a variety of common chipsets.

Samsung’s MediaLive HDTV accessory brings digital content from the PC to the big screen

Samsung Electronics America Inc. lets consumers view PC content on a Samsung HDTV with the retail launch of the company’s MediaLive adaptor. Samsung’s MediaLive delivers digital content (including HD content) in real time from Windows Media Center on a PC running Windows Vista Home Premium or Windows Vista Ultimate operating systems to the screen of a Samsung HDTV via a wireless or wired home network. From photos, music, feature films, home movies, and live and recorded TV programs, Samsung’s MediaLive is the ideal plug-and-play complement to most 2008-model Samsung HDTVs.

“The PC is quickly becoming the hub for entertainment in the home and Samsung’s MediaLive gives consumers the freedom to enjoy and manage movies, photos, and music

on the bigger screen of an HDTV,” said John Revie, vice president of visual display marketing at Samsung Electronics America. “Samsung’s MediaLive opens up a constantly expanding world of content for consumers, adding yet another connectivity option to the latest Samsung HDTVs.”

Easily connected to an existing wireless or wired Internet connection, Samsung’s MediaLive allows PCs running Windows Vista or Windows Vista Home Premium to stream a personal movie, photo, music, and video collection to any 2008-model Samsung HDTV in the home with an HDMI-CEC connection. With the ability to display content at up to Full HD resolution and support for a range of video, audio, and image codecs such as AC3, H.264, JPEG, MPEG2, MPEG4, WMA, and WMV, consumers will be able to enjoy a variety of video and audio files using Samsung’s MediaLive. Instead of crowding around a 15-inch PC monitor to share their latest music or movies, users can transfer the same PC content in real time and share it on a 50-inch HDTV with a group of friends. One PC can stream content to up to five Samsung MediaLive boxes connected to a TV through a home network, providing total access to entertainment from most 2008-model Samsung HDTVs in the home.

Beyond streaming personal entertainment, Samsung’s MediaLive gives consumers access to a wide range of entertainment options, including online services such as Vongo, MovieLink, Showtime TV, XM Radio, and FOX Sports, as well as the ability to browse through top news stories from Reuters and NPR. Additionally, in the US, Windows Media Center features the Internet TV beta program, which offers access to viral videos, news stories, movie trailers, sports clips, cast interviews, movie concerts and more. For access to live and recorded TV through the Samsung MediaLive, a simple TV tuner can be connected to the PC, turning it into a powerful DVR with the ability to watch and record favorite

television shows and movies. In conjunction with FOX Sports, consumers are able to access SportsLounge to quickly view up-to-date sports scores, statistics, and schedules — a perfect tool for any fantasy sports fan.

“Microsoft is pleased to be working with an industry leader such as Samsung, which shares our commitment to expanding TV entertainment options through Windows Media Center,” said Ron Pessner, general manager of the Connected TV Division at Microsoft Corp. “We’re seeing the industry recognize the value of delivering these types of integrated solutions that allow consumers to extend pictures, music and more from their Windows Vista Home Premium- or Ultimate-based PC to the TV.”

Employing the simple-to-navigate user interface and integrated electronic program guide of Windows Media Center, content browsing and playback is easily controlled using the arrow and enter buttons available on either the included MediaLive Simple Remote or the Samsung HDTV’s remote control.

Using the included mounting bracket, the compact device can be easily mounted to the rear of select Samsung flat-panel TVs for a clutter-free home theater setup. Operational commands are sent to the MediaLive via the HDMI-CEC port for a high-quality, single-cable connection to the HDTV. The device connects to a PC via an RJ45 connected LAN cable, or wirelessly through a built-in 802.11 a/b/g/n receiver.

The Samsung MediaLive will be available in August 2008.

D-Link now shipping first DivX Connected high-definition media player in US

DivX Inc., a digital media company, and D-Link, an end-to-end networking solutions provider for consumer and business, announced the availability of the first DivX Connected device in the US, with distribution in Canadian markets soon to follow. The D-Link MediaLounge DSM-330 enables the seamless streaming of music,

photos, Internet services, and high-definition video from PCs to the television.

“As more and more people embrace the DivX platform, we recognize the growing demand for a media player that supports all the capabilities that the DivX interface has to offer,” said Chris Wong, director of product management, D-Link Systems Inc. “There is increasing market demand for solutions that bridge the gap between the PC and television and we are proud to be the first to work with DivX in bringing DivX Connected to North America.”

“The DivX Connected platform enables an entirely new way to experience digital media and represents our continued mission to improve the way in which consumers engage their digital entertainment,” said Patrice Lagrange, senior vice president, products, DivX Inc. “DivX Connected offers a vibrant solution to the expansive gap between PC and living room entertainment, and DivX is pleased to work with D-Link in bringing this revolutionary platform to the U.S.”

DivX Connected is a powerful, open media platform that allows consumers to experience and control PC-based digital media on a television using a remote control and is capable of being embedded within many consumer electronics devices, including digital televisions, set-top boxes, Blu-ray DVD players, and more. The platform’s easy-to-use SDKs allow users to customize the look and feel of their media experience and even create plug-ins to a world of Internet services such as Google Maps, Last.fm, Facebook, and many more.

Key Features of the DSM-330 include the following:

- Fast, intuitive remote-controlled TV interface;
- Highly responsive remote-control lets you access trick modes: skip forward 30 seconds, skip back 10 seconds, and virtual chapter points;

- Connects to television using HDMI (cable included), component (cable included), composite, S-Video, or SCART;
- Connects to home network via 802.11g Wi-Fi or Ethernet cable;
- Supported video formats include DivX (including DivX VoD files), Xvid, and WMV9 (transcoded on PC);
- Supported image formats include JPEG, JPEG 2000, and BMP (non-compressed);
- Supported audio formats include MP3, WMA (transcoded on PC), M3U, M3U8, and PLS;
- WEP, WPA and WPA2 wireless security supported

For more information on DivX Connected, see www.divx.com/connected. For more information on the D-Link DSM-330, see www.dlink.com/DSM-330.

The D-Link DSM-330 is available through D-Link’s network of retail outlets, value-added resellers, solution providers and distributors, or at the company’s online store, www.dlinkshop.com, for the manufacturer’s suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$299.99.

Sigma Designs announces CoAir UWB chipset with integrated wireless, coax and Gigabit Ethernet

Sigma Designs, a provider of digital media processing and wireless system-on-chip (SoC) solutions for consumer electronics, announced CoAir, the industry’s first ultrawideband (UWB) and WiMedia standard-based chipset with combined wireless, coax, and Ethernet capabilities.

Developed for worldwide service providers, telcos, and consumer electronics manufacturers, Sigma’s CoAir chipset is the only technology available today that can simultaneously deliver multiple independent streams of video and data over coax cable, Ethernet cable, and wirelessly without

compromising quality of service and throughput. It is a high-performance “wireless” and “no new wires” solution that can stream abundant content wirelessly and over existing coax and Ethernet wires for additional whole home coverage, up to 330 feet.

Based on the WiMedia standard, the CoAir chipset can achieve data rates up to 480Mbps with UWB wireless for in-room video streaming. At the same time, CoAir has the capability to transfer data/video using UWB-over-coax with data rates also up to 480Mbps for room-to-room communications. And finally, Gigabit Ethernet can also be operated simultaneously to support Ethernet-enabled devices.

“Our CoAir chipset is a breakthrough; the next-generation technology developed for the needs of worldwide service providers, telcos and consumer electronics manufacturers that are looking to make home networking and wireless connectivity easy to achieve and affordable to their customers,” said Hung Nguyen, general manager and VP, Sigma Designs Wireless Products Division. “In addition, CoAir is the industry’s first truly versatile solution with triple communications power packed inside a chipset that supports high bandwidth, speed and Quality of Service needed for new services like Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) and Video-on-demand (VOD), all at the lowest cost of deployment possible.”

Sigma’s CoAir is an all CMOS solution that consists of an RF chip (Sigma’s B7CW101) and a baseband chip (Sigma’s B7CC401). The RF chip supports three antennas for a robust and reliable wireless link. The baseband integrates the OFDM PHY baseband, MAC — both based on the WiMedia Alliance standard — and a high-performance 32-bit RISC processor. The chipset supports input/output ports for antennas, coaxial cable and Ethernet cable (CAT5). The chipset is also powered by the Transparent, Ubiquitous and Synchronous Cables & Air Network (TUSCAN), a patent-

pending technology developed by Sigma Designs.

PicoChip drives femtocell market with second generation single-chip baseband processor family

PicoChip has launched the PC3xx family, a new range of system-on-chip baseband processors specifically targeted at the fast-growing femtocell market. These second-generation devices incorporate picoChip’s field-proven modem software in a highly integrated form, enabling femtocell manufacturers to substantially reduce bill-of-materials while increasing performance. This cost reduction is a critical enabler for high-volume consumer femtocell deployment.

The picoChip PC302, the first member of the family, is a single-chip solution for HSPA femtocells compliant to TR25.820 and the newly standardized lu-h interface. Supporting up to four users for residential and SME femtocell access points and with data rates of 14.4/5.7Mbps in downlink and uplink, respectively, the PC302 enables the lowest bill-of-materials and lowest power for a femtocell available today. The PC3xx family also offers an upgrade path to more users (picocells), higher performance (Release 7 with HSPA+ and MIMO), and other air interfaces such as LTE.

“With this second generation of devices, picoChip will deliver a highly integrated yet flexible and cost sensitive solution for the femtocell market. Cost optimization is critical in this market and by moving to 65nm we deliver on that with the PC3xx family.

We have some great customers, industry leaders and Tier One OEMs through to consumer electronics companies and ODMs: with the proven quality and robustness of our code, the PC302 will be supporting them in ramping to volume very fast, shipping to support the femtocell market as it accelerates in 2009,” said Guillaume d’Eyssautier president and CEO, picoChip.

“PicoChip has established itself as the de facto standard baseband silicon solution for the emerging femtocell industry, thanks to the ability of its platform to support — and adapt to — multiple market demands and technologies,” noted Peter Jarich, research director with Current Analysis. “Of course, flexibility comes at a cost. The optimized products being announced address those concerns, signalling picoChip’s commitment to operator demands and product innovation.”

Fabricated in 65nm technology, the picoChip PC302 device is a complete femtocell solution, supporting up to 14.4Mbps HSDPA together with 5.7Mbps HSUPA for four connected terminals.

It integrates a 3GPP NodeB modem, RNC stack, Radio Resource Management, cryptographic engine, high-speed accelerators, synchronization, network listen functionality and peripherals.

The picoArray-based multicore architecture also enables the flexibility for in-field upgrade and delivers spare processing power for customer-specific enhancements and additional home networking functions.

Layer 1 functionality is provided for release 6 WCDMA, while RNC stacks optimized for the PC302 support standard network architectures including the newly announced luh interface to femtocell gateways or SIP/IMS. In addition to 3GPP TR25.820, the PC302 includes functionality for 2G and 3G network-monitoring functions for cell planning and handoff (sometimes described as “cognitive radio” or Self Organizing Networks (SON)) functions and Dynamic Spectrum Management. Enhanced security features are supported for authentication, location detection, encryption, and the prevention of DoS attacks.

In addition to HSPA, picoChip also has solutions for femtocells for WiMAX, cdma2000/EvDO, and TD-SCDMA, while support for LTE (“Home eNode B”), cdma2000, and GSM/GPRS/EDGE is in development. These other

standards are based on picoChip’s proven multicore DSP platform.

STANDARDS

IEEE P1901 powerline proposal nears confirmation threshold in first vote incorporating HomePlug technology

The HomePlug Powerline Alliance announced that the IEEE P1901 Working Group’s first confirmation vote for an IEEE powerline communications standard came very close recently to the necessary 75 percent approval to attain confirmation as a draft standard. The working group scheduled a second confirmation vote to occur at its next meeting in Madrid in September.

“The HomePlug Powerline Alliance and the entire powerline communications industry recognizes the critical importance of converging around standards,” said Rob Ranck, president of the HomePlug Powerline Alliance. “Global standards help further accelerate market growth, and the HomePlug Powerline Alliance and its member companies will continue to work diligently toward achieving baseline status for the IEEE P1901 standard.”

Prior to the recent confirmation vote, the joint HomePlug and Panasonic proposals were refined to include input from a number of other IEEE members. The near confirmation of these proposals is the result of more than eight months of intense effort among technical representatives from over 50 companies and organizations, ensuring that this standard will best serve the powerline communications industry as a whole.

In preparation for September’s meeting, various participating organizations and member companies will continue to collaborate to resolve the small number of remaining issues. It is expected that the proposal will be confirmed and become the draft standard for P1901.

In anticipation of successful confirmation, the HomePlug Powerline Alliance has begun

activities for the P1901 Compliance and Interoperability program to certify members' products and award the logo in 2009.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Gartner says 17 countries to surpass 60 percent broadband penetration into the home by 2012

Worldwide consumer broadband connections will grow from 323 million connections in 2007 to 499 million in 2012, according to Gartner Inc. Worldwide consumer broadband connections penetrated 18 percent of households in 2007, and by 2012, households with a broadband connection will reach 25 percent.

Five countries exceeded 60 percent broadband penetration into the home in 2007; this is expected to grow to 17 countries by 2012. The five countries with broadband penetration into the home above 60 percent are Canada, Netherlands, Switzerland, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

"Depending on the specific market conditions, availability of Internet-enabled devices and the continued impact of broadband on consumer lifestyles, we expect some markets will have a broadband ceiling at 80 percent penetration or greater," said Amanda Sabia, principal research analyst at Gartner.

The high penetration rates seen in countries such as South Korea, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands demonstrate what is possible under the right conditions. The small, denser countries, or countries with government-backed spending for broadband infrastructure, have an advantage. As a result, by 2012, these countries will have maintained their lead in broadband penetration rates.

"Broadband penetration will increase, especially in the geographically larger markets, as current broadband providers continue to deploy their services, as newer technologies (wireless broadband, such as WiMAX) attract

subscribers, and as users experience firsthand how speed enhances their Internet sessions," Ms. Sabia said.

When looking at household penetration for emerging versus mature markets, the overall growth is skewed. Not only will the digital divide continue between the emerging and mature markets, it will widen by 13 percentage points.

The top three markets of South Korea, the Netherlands and Hong Kong are already heavily penetrated so the change in penetration rates is minimal compared with markets such as the United States, Japan, Czech Republic, New Zealand and Australia. These markets will exhibit a swelling of broadband penetration by more than 20 percentage points. Growth in broadband adoption is dependent on specific market conditions, availability of Internet-enabled devices and the continued impact of broadband on consumer lifestyles.

"Consumers in heavily penetrated markets are already addicted to broadband, thus the future in these markets is less concerned with increasing subscriber numbers, and more with addressing what new applications and/or content will be transmitted over this pipe," Ms. Sabia said. "Newer ventures in these markets are primarily entertainment (such as Internet video content and games), Internet Protocol television (IPTV) and home networking, which will bring these devices and services into one integrated system within the home."

Gartner defines mature markets as the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Germany and the rest of Western Europe, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore and New Zealand. Gartner defines emerging markets as Malaysia, China, Thailand, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the rest of Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa.

Additional information is available in the Gartner report "Dataquest Insight: Consumer

Broadband, Global Penetration Rates and Growth Prospects.”

This report is available on Gartner’s Web site at <http://www.gartner.com>

As online video enters the living room, user interfaces begin the transition to Web-based technologies

While the rest of the consumer electronics and pay-TV worlds are still stuck in more-traditional native code environments, the push for online video and social communities in the living room has resulted in ever-increasing interest in HTML and other Web-based technologies on consumer TVs.

ABI Research sees a strong push by some in the consumer electronics industry to explore the integration of HTML and browser engines into existing user interface platforms, and the use of the browser as a primary rendering engine for user interfaces. ABI also sees growth in the living room consumer-usable browser segment, where the primary use-case would be Web surfing in the living room or on a portable consumer electronic device.

- How will the user interface for Internet connected consumer electronics devices use Web and other UI platforms?
- What are the major competing user interface platform technologies for Internet-connected consumer electronics?
- How do Java and Flash fit into the world of Web-enabled consumer electronics?

“Web-Based Living Room User Interface Overview” forms part of the ABI Research’s “Home Networking Research Service,” which examines the different standards involved, and explores vendors’ efforts to integrate Web-based technologies into various user interfaces, as well as tracking the increasing adoption of Web browsers for consumer living room Web surfing.

Home network technologies will coexist, not compete, says ABI Research

Consumer electronics products no longer exist in a vacuum: increasingly they are linked to each other via a number of short-range radio technologies. CE vendors, faced with a series of overlapping use-cases, network areas, standards, and technologies, need to understand the applications best suited to each, and how they relate to each other.

Fortunately, short-range networking technologies are settling into more-or-less clearly defined roles and will by and large coexist with and complement each other rather than competing. “Technologies such as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, UWB, 60 GHz, and ZigBee will not compete within the home,” said ABI Research senior analyst Douglas McEuen, “but will be used in coordination, overlapping and coexisting for full wireless network coverage.

“Each of these technologies has a sweet spot or specialty,” he continued. “Bluetooth will be the driving technology in the PAN (personal area network) and may see some success in remote controls, especially for gaming. Wi-Fi will be the key technology for wireless LAN (local area network). UWB and 60 GHz respectively will be specialized for home office peripherals, and for wireless HDMI (uncompressed video sent from a set-top box to a high-definition TV). ZigBee stands apart, as a home automation technology.”

There are a few competitive counter-trends worth noting. Recently, Intel and OZMO Devices announced a program that uses standard Wi-Fi protocols to handle PAN tasks such as syncing notebooks with various PC peripherals and wireless consumer electronics. The RF4CE (Radio Frequency for Consumer Electronics) industry consortium has been formed recently to develop a new protocol for radio frequency remote controls that would compete with Bluetooth to replace IR remote controls for audiovisual equipment. However, these are the exceptions that prove the rule.

'Global — Utilities Broadband — Trends & Analyses' highlights how obstacles still continue to hinder the BPL industry

Research and Markets announced the addition of the "Global — Utilities Broadband — Trends & Analyses" report to their offering.

Several obstacles still continue to hinder the BPL industry. For several years, the lack of an international standard has held the industry back, and questions remain regarding the technical viability of BPL. On a positive note, there is progress in terms of standardization — in late 2007, a joint IEEE standards proposal was submitted by the HomePlug Powerline Alliance and Panasonic. However, the mainly low-risk-taking utilities involved in this market have become unwilling to take on the telcos in the broadband market. Instead, they are more interested in looking at the use BPL for smart-grid applications and demand-side management services. BPL also offers benefits in home networking due to its ubiquity. This report provides an analysis of the market, including an overview of the current and future market, a SWOT analysis, and discussion on latest developments and trends. Further information on smart grids can be found in separate reports.

For more information, please visit http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/ebf47e/global_utilities.

East Coast or West Coast, upper-middle-class households are the target for Internet-connected TV devices, according to MultiMedia Intelligence

The target connected digital living room consumer household has household income between \$100,000 and \$150,000, according to recent research by MultiMedia Intelligence. These upper-middle-class households would ideally have children and be located in a metropolitan area on the East or West Coast.

Based on a sample of over 25,000 respondents with English- and Spanish-speaking adults in the US, the research asserts

that targeting specific consumer household characteristics is a key success factor among companies targeting the Internet-connected digital living room. Current consumers with home networks and consumers using Internet-based video provide tremendous insights into the target consumer segments for next-generation connected consumer electronics devices.

The age of Internet video and music is here. However, nearly all Internet media is still the domain of PCs. "Some consumer segments, such as youth and early adopters, see the PC as an acceptable platform for media consumption," according to Mark Kirstein, president of MultiMedia Intelligence.

"However, a much broader market becomes available when Internet video and music can reach the entertainment-centric platforms of connected TVs, DVD players, set top boxes, video game consoles and audio equipment."

MultiMedia Intelligence also found the following:

- Companies are making an effort to bridge Internet content to the TV. Apple, Netflix, Amazon, and Vudu are among the companies combining online digital media services with dedicated digital media adapters to bridge the Internet into the connected living room. These digital media adapters, along with a variety of Internet-enabled consumer electronics, will build upon the existing base of computing-centric home networks to establish a media-driven connected home.

- Older households, those with a head of household age 60 to 69, are among the fastest-growing segments adopting data home networking. The number of US households in this category saw a compound annual growth rate of 29 percent between 2004 and 2007.

- Growth in notebook computing has become a major catalyst for data-centric home networking. Consumers who access the Internet from home with notebook PCs are more than

twice as likely to have a home network than the average household.

The research, "The Connected Home: Identifying the Target Consumer for Internet-Connected TV Devices and Home Networks" characterizes the target consumer for Internet-connected consumer electronics by analyzing US consumer households with home networking and those using TV-quality Internet video. The report includes the following:

- Demographic forecasts for media-rich home networks, which incorporate Internet-enabled TV devices such as digital TVs, DVD players, set-top boxes, video game consoles, and audio equipment;
- Forecasts of US shipments of Internet Protocol (IP)-enabled consumer electronics devices by type;
- Consumer primary data characterizing the demographic and psychographic profile of consumer households with a computing home network;

- Correlations with characteristics such as broadband use, multiple PC ownership, notebook PC ownership, and use of other mobile devices.

The report combines industry research with consumer research to provide unique segmentation, market sizing, and forecasts.

This research is a result of MultiMedia Intelligence's strategic partnership with Experian. The partnership combines MultiMedia Intelligence's industry expertise, market sizing, and forecasting models and databases with Experian's in-depth data on consumer behavior, psychographics, lifestyles, opinions, and attitudes.

Together, MultiMedia Intelligence and Experian deliver industry-first market segmentation, insights, and forecasts based on combined superior supply-side and demand-side views of the markets, never before offered in this data-driven, data-hungry market.

For more information, visit www.MultiMediaIntelligence.com.

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