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Gumstix, Inc. announces RoHS compliant, Bluetooth™ Communications On their basix motherboards

Palo Alto, Calif., Dec 21, 2006 – Gumstix, Inc, maker of the world's smallest full function miniature computers, today announced the availability of RoHS-compliant Bluetooth Communications on their basix™ motherboards using the new Infineon® PBA31038 module. This marks the first availability in the world of a very small motherboard with this RoHS-compliant (lead-free and halogen-free) Bluetooth module from Infineon.

“We are implementing an AMR (automated meter reading) solution for electricity and water metering that features tamper proofing and management”, said Eric Scorgie, CEO of Enertech in South Africa. “Using these RoHS-compliant basix motherboards with Bluetooth in the heart of our design ensures our capability to market our devices in the EU without compliance concerns”.

The new PBA31308 module, based on the Infineon PMB8753 chip that is already in production, is reported to be faster than the current PBA31307 and be able to perform at up to 921,600 baud. This module gives Bluetooth 2.0 + Enhanced Data Rate (2 Mbps and 3 Mbps) Single Chip HCI solution to these new versions of the basix motherboards with Bluetooth.

Craig Hughes, the CTO of Gumstix said “the identified software changes from the current Infineon Bluetooth module to the new RoHS compliant Bluetooth module are only related to how the module initializes the device and sets the communications baud rate to 921,600 bps. It's completely invisible to userspace applications”.

On this new PBA31308 module, the factory default baud rate is 115,200 baud. To manage this, Infineon has advised of the following two HCI+ commands to adjust the baud rate: Infineon_Set_UART_Baud_Rate and Infineon_Write_BD_Data. Both HCI+ commands will change the default startup baud rate to new baud rate.

On the previous basix motherboard with the PBA31307 module, no such functions exist. A programmer has to re-program the firmware in order to set the baud rate and many other variables, all at the same time. As each of those other variables are highly sensitive to having the wrong data input, errors on the PBA31307-based basix motherboard were much more likely to occur than with the new PBA31308-based basix motherboard where the new HCI+ commands make this process of setting the baud rate much easier for a programmer.



Infineon is a leading supplier of Bluetooth devices with a dedicated Bluetooth product portfolio of single-chip semiconductor solutions and modules. The EU Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances No.2002/9, which is called "The RoHS Directive", affects the selection of components and the manufacturing processes for Gumstix products.

As a result of this RoHS directive in the EU, Gumstix has been converting all motherboards and expansion boards to be RoHS compliant since the spring of 2006. Now, all Gumstix customers worldwide are planned to be receiving only RoHS-compliant Gumstix products.

At 20mm x 80mm, the basix 400xm-bt motherboard has 64MB of Ram and 16MB of flash memory, Bluetooth wireless connectivity and runs an Intel PXA255 with XScale™ at 400MHz. The basix 400xm-bt motherboard starts at \$162 USD each, for orders of 1,000 units or more.

The basix 400xm-bt motherboards are available for purchase on-line at www.gumstix.com.

About Gumstix, Inc.

Gumstix develops and sells full function miniature computers. Built on an open source platform, the gumstix product lines support the growing network and wireless devices markets. Highly functional motherboards and expansion boards form the basis of the gumstix solutions as well as the netstix™ and waysmall™ computers.

Customers of Gumstix include global multinationals, public companies, private enterprises and leading educational institutions in more than sixty countries around the world. Gumstix products are also popular with hobbyists and robotics experts.

Based near Palo Alto, California, Gumstix is privately owned and operated.
For more information visit www.gumstix.com.

About Energy Electronic Technology SA (Pty) LTD T/A Enertech SA

Enertech as an innovator brings a new dimension to basic service delivery in Municipalities, Utilities and Metro's all over the world. Enertech was founded in 2003. Its focus has been to solve the engineering and monitoring challenges associated with electronic energy, water, telecommunication and internet measurement and management. Enertech's unique value to its customers is its ability to overcome the seemingly insurmountable barriers of accurate measurement of electricity and water supply and moreover, the efficient revenue management and control of consumption.

The Enertech company brand is bound to be recognized throughout the Electricity, Water, Telecommunication (GSM) and Internet Supply industry for innovative, high-performance technology and world-class engineering and back office support.

Based near Johannesburg, South Africa, Enertech is privately owned and operated.
For more information visit <http://www.enertech.co.za>