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Small Form Factor SIG Adopts VIA's Pico-ITX™ Specification

VIA transfers Pico-ITX™ to the SIG to standardize it and broaden its market

Santa Clara, CA. March 24, 2008 – The Small Form Factor Special Interest Group (SFF-SIG), which is leading a broad industry effort to create and promote standards for tiny computer and controller boards and modules, announced today that VIA Technologies, Inc. has agreed to transfer the Pico-ITX™ specification to the SIG for the purpose of creating an official governing standard. In return, the SFF-SIG will draft a formal specification document and promote it with the goal of broadening the number of suppliers and customers who build and purchase Pico-ITX-compatible single board computers (SBCs). The SFF-SIG intends to publish a specification within the next few months.

As a worldwide organization that seeks to identify and standardize appropriate small form factor technologies and building blocks, SFF-SIG sees Pico-ITX as an ideal platform for the new ultra mobility CPUs and chipsets, highlighting the key benefits of smaller size, reduced power consumption, and greater reliability over larger legacy products.

"Based on the positive customer interest and feedback so far, we see a good opportunity to rapidly build the market for Pico-ITX by working with the SFF-SIG to standardize it," said Daniel Wu, vice president, VIA Technologies, Inc. "Pico-ITX was developed to meet the evolving needs of the rapidly-expanding embedded industry, and its adoption by the SFF-SIG will enable more concerted development of the specification and its infrastructure."

"Adopting Pico-ITX is the first step toward creating a unified embedded platform for ultra mobility silicon," said Colin McCracken, president, Small Form Factor SIG. "Our next order of business is to define the SUMIT™ expansion interface. OEMs have requested both high-speed and low-speed serial buses for space efficiency, with an emphasis on low power and easy connectivity. We are working with chipset vendors to determine how ultra mobility silicon can best meet these needs over a ten year time horizon."

Companies interested in contributing to the development of the Pico-ITX specification, or in defining other SBCs and computer-on-modules for the new ultra mobility CPUs and chipsets should contact the SFF-SIG at: info@sff-sig.org.

About the Small Form Factor SIG
The Small Form Factor Special Interest Group is an international organization devoted to identifying, creating, and promoting standards that help electronics system and device manufacturers and integrators move to small form factor technologies and building blocks in their products, and protect such investments. Benefits of small form factor products include smaller size, reduced power consumption (eco-friendly, "green" products), and greater reliability compared to larger legacy products.

The SIG's philosophy is to embrace the latest technologies, as well as maintain legacy compatibility and enable smooth transition solutions to next-generation interfaces. New technologies available to long-lifecycle system and device manufacturers include lower power and highly integrated processors, chipsets, and memory based on 90nm, 65nm, and 45nm processes, higher density connectors with improvements for ruggedness, compact storage devices, and space-efficient signal interfaces.

Companies that can benefit from SFF-SIG membership include board suppliers with existing small form factor specifications that they can shepherd through the SIG's adoption and standardization process, or companies who want to participate in the development of important new standards that shape the evolution of electronics systems, or who are planning to develop their own small form factor boards. OEMs and

integrators who simply need to stay abreast of off-the-shelf board technologies or who want to have more control of their own destiny regarding boards are also welcome. Discussing trends with some of the sharpest minds in the industry can spark ideas that benefit individual members with their own product roadmaps.

There are two membership categories for the SFF-SIG. Voting members are involved in promoting, supporting, and developing specifications for small form factor boards, components, and systems. In addition, voting members review specifications that are submitted to the SFF-SIG for adoption. Non-voting members provide inputs directly to internal specification development, and can view these specifications prior to publication, but do not cast approval votes.

For more information about the SFF SIG, please visit www.sff-sig.org or e-mail info@sff-sig.org.

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