Zigbee Offers More Options

San Ramon, Calif. – Feb. 17, 2010 – The ZigBee® Alliance, a global ecosystem of companies creating wireless solutions for use in energy management, residential, commercial and consumer electronics applications, today announced it is now offering certification for ZigBee platforms designed to operate in the regional sub-1 GHz unlicensed frequencies. The move ensures original equipment manufacturers a source of tested platforms for use in sub-1 GHz applications.

More semiconductor manufacturers and Alliance members are seeing a growing market for a range of ZigBee device options using the proven ZigBee specification. The Alliance recently completed its first series of multi-vendor interoperability tests for sub-1 GHz platforms. These platforms will become the Golden Units against which all other platforms seeking certification will be compared. They offer the same underlying functions and robust capabilities as existing ZigBee Compliant Platforms operating at 2.4 GHz.

“Adding sub-1 GHz ZigBee compliant platforms meets rising market demands for frequency choice, ” said Tom Herbst, engineering director at Cisco Systems. “Having these new ZigBee platforms will give product manufacturers more opportunities, and encouragement, to use ZigBee in many inventive ways.”

Atmel Corporation, Exegin Technologies and ZMDI are leading this effort in conjunction with ZigBee Alliance’s accredited test houses, National Technical Systems, TRaC Global and TÜV Rheinland.

“The sub-1 GHz platforms will give our customers more choices to create customized ZigBee solutions,” said Magnus Pedersen, marketing director of Microcontroller Wireless Solutions at Atmel. “We expect these new ZigBee platforms to be an important part of our growing list of ZigBee solutions.”

The ZigBee specification has always supported sub-1 GHz platforms, but offering certification of platforms built to the specification requires at least three independent implementations for initial testing and validation. This rigorous certification requirement ensures that Alliance members only deliver interoperable solutions to the marketplace.

“The ZigBee Alliance is committed to offering product manufacturers with certified interoperable solutions,” said Bob Heile, chairman of the ZigBee Alliance. “Our certification process clearly demonstrates to product manufacturers that platforms from different vendors, operating in the same European and U.S. sub-1 GHz frequencies, will interoperate.”

ZigBee is the global wireless language connecting dramatically different devices to work together and enhance everyday life. The ZigBee Alliance is a non-profit association of more than 340 members driving development of ZigBee wireless

technology. The Alliance promotes world-wide adoption of ZigBee as the leading wirelessly networked, sensing and control standard for use in consumer electronic, energy, home, commercial and industrial areas. For more information, visit: www.ZigBee.org [1].

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