2G and 3G Small-cell Platform Can Provide a Complete Base Station on a Single PCB

Cambridge Consultants launched Sidewinder, said to be the smallest commercially available 2G and 3G small-cell platform. Suitable for use in mobile phone communications and professional radio, Sidewinder is software configurable between GSM/GPRS/EDGE, WCDMA/HSPA+ and other SDR applications, providing adaptability for cellular base stations. The novel radio design enables it to operate at any carrier frequency from 375 MHz to 4 GHz and with a channel bandwidth from 200 kHz to 28 MHz. Available off the shelf, the platform supports GSM link ranges up to and in excess of 43 yards indoors, and 218 yards outdoors. Sidewinder can be provided either as hardware supplied directly from Cambridge Consultants, or as a reference design that can be manufactured by licensees. It is compatible with the company's Centaur GSM/EDGE PHY software reference and WCDMA software from Picochip. Alternatively it can also be provided in combination with the Centaur GSM PHY as a complete development platform.

Sidewinder's flexibility is based upon two novel technologies. On the front end, Sidewinder makes use of the flexible radio device from Lime Microsystems Limited. Connected to this is Picochip's latest PC312 Femtocell Baseband SoC, delivering high performance DSP and an ARM application processor combined with low power consumption, making it suitable for some battery-powered applications. Sidewinder can also be easily integrated into base station or mobile units for police, emergency services and other professional radio users.

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