

Processor Helps Audio Manufacturers Deliver High-end Performance, Affordability



Intersil Corporation introduced its new

D2Audio DAE-3HT 12-channel digital sound processor and amplifier controller. Designed specifically to bring high quality audio to price sensitive sound bars and Blu-ray home theater systems, the DAE-3HT accepts up to eight digital input channels and supports up to 12 PWM output signals for driving Class-D power stages. Packaged in a 72-pin QFN, the SoC offers system interface flexibility with four I2S inputs, one I2S output, S/PDIF input/output, I2C port, and SPI port. In addition, the processor is compatible with Audio Canvas III, Intersil's design tool built specifically for developing custom audio path configurations, including support for D2Audio SoundSuite audio path enhancements and virtualizations. The 12 PWM outputs each provide overall exceptional audio performance driving both powered and line outputs.

Intersil D2Audio will be demonstrating its Digital Audio Engine sound processor and amplifier technologies during the International CES 2012.

The DAE-3HT arrives as new data from the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) reports that "nine out of ten consumers say sound quality is the most important component of an audio experience." The report states that the "appeal of high quality audio electronics extends beyond the audio enthusiast (34%) to consumers with a moderate interest in audio (39%) saying they are willing to pay more for high quality audio electronics devices."

Delivering that great audio experience without the cost typically associated with high-end audio is what the DAE-3HT does best. For example, according to the CEA, "57% of sound bar owners and 58% of DVD owners said their products do not provide high quality audio." But when using the DAE-3HT, audio quality of sound bars excels as exemplified in the recently published Sound & Vision's 2011 Sound Bar Shootout where the only product that received a perfect 10 in performance was the D2Audio technology-based Boston Acoustics' TVEe Model 30.

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