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Blackhawk™ Announces Advanced Hardware Debugging Tool for Texas Instruments DSPs.

XDS560™ Trace exposes the most difficult to find real-time intermittent bugs and allows users to save valuable time diagnosing high-performance embedded applications

Mount Laurel, N.J. (March 19, 2007) – Blackhawk™, a leader in the design of digital signal processor (DSP) hardware and software development tools, announced today that it has started shipping TI's XDS560™ Trace module, a non-intrusive, hardware-based trace tool offering unparalleled visibility and advanced capabilities for debugging the complex problems that arise in high-performance, real-time embedded applications, as well as for fine-tuning code performance and cache optimization of multi-channel applications.

The XDS560 Trace module includes the Blackhawk high-speed XDS560 USB JTAG Emulator and TI's Trace pod cable assembly with high-density (HD), 60-pin header connector. Specialized watch-points based on hardware-based state machines enable complex, real-time Advanced Event Triggers to start and stop data capture. Real-time visibility and a high-speed interface provide developers with the detailed forensics they require to determine where and why complex, intermittent problems occur. Trace non-intrusively extends real-time visibility of registers and counters, requires no special drivers, and is fully supported by TI's Code Composer Studio™ Integrated Development Environment.

"When TI asked developers what frustrated them most, the leading answer was how much time they spent finding complex, context-sensitive real-time bugs in their code," said Stephen Lau, emulation technology product manager, TI. "We designed this trace technology so developers could quickly identify and resolve these types of errors as well as maximize application performance."

XDS560 Trace specifically addresses the problem of isolating and fixing real-time bugs that occur in an application that continues to run for some time before the error manifests itself, often masking the root cause behind potentially millions of lines of code. Many trace systems can only track tens to thousands of program branches, limiting the usefulness of trace capture. The XDS560 Trace solves this issue through the ability to trace back over millions of program branches, guaranteeing that the root cause will be captured within the trace buffer.

"Our development team worked closely with the TI development team to overcome unique and sometimes difficult design and production hurdles in order to bring this highly advanced product to market," said Brian Nix, president, EWA Technologies, Inc., the parent company of Blackhawk.

Advanced Debugging and Profiling Capabilities

Real-time bugs are typically extremely complex and difficult to track down. Because they appear intermittently and are extremely sensitive to the overall system context, they can appear almost invisible to developers. Bugs of this nature include race conditions, crashes, scheduling conflicts, runaway code and false interrupts. Typically developers will use a watchpoint to detect that an error has occurred. However, without a comprehensive execution history, little information is available as to which line of code caused the error or why.

Pricing and Availability

The Blackhawk XDS560 Trace is available for immediate delivery, at a SRP of $9,995, through TI's worldwide distribution channels and from a worldwide network of industry resellers. Please visit www.blackhawk-dsp.com/resellers.aspx for a complete list.

About Texas Instruments Third Party Program

Blackhawk is a member of the TI DSP Third Party Network, a worldwide organization of independent companies that offer products and services supporting TI DSPs. TI third parties provide expertise across a variety of applications, including audio, control, telecom, video and imaging and wireless communications. Third party products and services include a broad range of application software, development hardware and software, and consulting services that support original equipment manufacturers' efforts to bring differentiated products to the market quickly. For more information about the TI DSP Third Party Network, please visit http://www.ti.com/3p.

About Blackhawk

Blackhawk™ is a brand of EWA Technologies, Inc., of Herndon, Virginia, that designs and builds hardware and software for the rapid development of DSP-based applications for a wide variety of vertical markets. Blackhawk™ is a TI DSP Third Party member and the first to develop a USB-based JTAG emulator for TI DSPs. For more information on Blackhawk, please visit http://www.blackhawk-dsp.com

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