

PRESS RELEASES

- FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION -

Silica to Continue as Partner for Renesas

Munich - 7th April, 2003 -- Silica will continue as a partner for Renesas Technology Europe, following the launch of the joint venture between Hitachi, Ltd and Mitsubishi Electronics Corporation on the 1st April, 2003. Under the agreement, Silica will provide comprehensive and seamless technical, logistical and commercial support for the new company's market-leading range of microcontrollers, microprocessors, memory, ASIC, logic and power devices.

"The addition of Renesas to the Silica linecard has significant benefits for our customers," said Miguel Fernandez, President of Silica. "In particular, it ensures they will enjoy seamless support for existing Hitachi components now manufactured and marketed by Renesas. It also opens the door to the exciting possibilities offered by the new company's ambitious product development plans. Our commitment to providing expert, board-level design assistance means that the widest possible number of system developers will be able to exploit the potential of Renesas technology quickly and efficiently."

"Silica's customer-lead business philosophy and exclusive focus on the semiconductor market reflects the Renesas approach, creating an ideal distribution channel for the Renesas product range," Fernandez added. "Our ability to deliver exceptional standards of design support is crucial in terms of generating new business opportunities. This will help to ensure that Renesas' commitment to technological leadership is translated into vital competitive advantages for Renesas, Silica and our customers."



Silica provides comprehensive support for Renesas's market-leading range of microcontrollers, microprocessors, memory, ASIC, logic and power devices, including this new ultra-low-power, 32-bit SuperH RISC microprocessor, the SH7705, pictured.

Matthew Trowbridge, CEO for Renesas Technology Europe, said: "Renesas Technology will bring even stronger opportunities for those distributors having a customer-lead business philosophy focusing on the semiconductor market."

Renesas Technology Europe is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renesas Technology Corp., one of the largest semiconductor companies in the world. The European operations are headquartered in Bourne End, near Maidenhead in the UK, with major centres in Dusseldorf and Munich in Germany. In all, the company has operations in 12 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, providing sales, marketing and engineering support, and has associated manufacturing facilities in Alsdorf and Landshut in Germany.

Renesas Technology Corp. designs and manufactures highly integrated semiconductor system solutions for mobile, network, automotive, industrial and digital home electronics markets. Established on April 1, 2003 as a joint venture between Hitachi, Ltd. and Mitsubishi Electronics Corporation and headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Renesas is one of the largest semiconductor companies in the world. It is the number one microcontroller supplier globally and its other product lines include system-on-chip devices, Smart Card ICs, mixed signal products, flash memories and SRAMs. The company's website is located at www.renesas.com.

Silica, a division of Avnet Electronics Marketing EMEA (Europe, Middle-East, Africa), is a highly specialised semiconductor distributor. Silica has sales & marketing offices throughout Europe and provides a broad portfolio of semiconductor products and solutions from world leading suppliers to all market segments in the electronics industry. The company's Web site is located at www.silica.com.

Serving customers in 63 countries, Avnet Electronics Marketing is the largest operating group of Phoenix, Ariz.-based Avnet, Inc. (NYSE:AVT). Avnet Electronics Marketing markets, inventories and adds value to electronic components and provides world-class supply-chain management and engineering design services. Avnet, with fiscal year 2002 sales of \$ 8.9 billion (year ended June 28, 2002), is the world's largest distributor of semiconductors, interconnect, passive and electromechanical components, embedded subsystems and enterprise computing products from leading manufacturers.

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