

PRESS RELEASES

- FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION -

Silica announces UK distribution agreement with Microsoft®



Stevenage July 3rd, 2003 Silica, the specialist semiconductor distribution arm of Avnet Electronics Marketing in Europe, has signed a distribution agreement with Microsoft, authorising Silica to offer the full range of Windows® operating systems for embedded applications in the UK. Silica already distributes Windows systems in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

Gerard Braybrooke, Silica's Regional Vice President, North Europe, commented: "For the first time in the UK, we are able to provide our customers with the world's leading operating systems.

In particular, Windows solutions represent the ideal partner for our existing portfolio of 32-bit microcontrollers, and further strengthen our ability to help customers create successful embedded designs in the shortest possible timeframe."

Andre Goodison, Silica's UK Technical Director, added: "The Windows family, of course, enjoys the in-depth technical support that characterises Silica's approach to distribution. Our specialist field applications engineers are already fully trained by Microsoft, ensuring that designers receive expert assistance at every stage of product development, encompassing not just the microcontroller, but the operating system as well."

For Microsoft, Doug Follett, EMEA Channel Manager, Device Solutions Sales Group, said: "It is great to be working with one of the leading distribution channels for embedded solutions in the UK. Silica offers designers an impressive range of complementary services for the Microsoft portfolio and will undoubtedly generate new design-in opportunities for embedded Windows solutions."

Founded in 1974, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software any time, any place and on any device.

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 68 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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