

PRESS RELEASES

- FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION -

OKI offers new opportunities for Silica Benelux

Breda 28th January, 2004 -- Specialist semiconductor distributor Silica has extended its distribution agreement with OKI Electric Europe. The new agreement covers the Netherlands and Belgium and encompasses OKI's full range of advanced semiconductor solutions. Silica already distributes OKI semiconductor products in France and Italy.

Commenting on the agreement, Jos van Hartingsveldt, managing director of Silica Benelux, said: "The OKI product range is already generating significant interest amongst our customers. Highlights of the OKI range include LCD drivers and speech generation modules, as well as an extensive family of general purpose ARM7-based 32-bit RISC microcontrollers, which will allow Silica to address a host of new applications."

Hartingsveldt continued: "We will of course be providing expert, board-level technical assistance for the complete OKI range, enabling designers of applications such as industrial control systems, single board computers and mobile technology to get new products to market quickly and efficiently."

Theo Oberpichler, distribution sales manager for OKI Electric Europe, said: "Silica represents an excellent distribution partner for OKI. It will undoubtedly provide first class design-in support for our products, helping to develop our business in Europe and ensuring that OKI customers can exploit fully the advantages of OKI technology."

Building on OKI's century-long commitment to network solutions technologies and markets, OKI Electric Europe designs and markets a broad line of advanced integrated circuits for telecommunications, network, automotive, computer, and digital consumer products. OKI's product lines include ARM core microcontrollers, telecommunications, networking, speech synthesis, ASIC microcontroller, and memory devices, offered in a variety of creative packages. Founded in 1973 and headquartered in Neuss, Germany, OKI has ISO-9000 certified manufacturing facilities in Japan and Thailand. Information on OKI Electric Europe and its products is available through its Web site at <http://www.okisemi.com/eu>.

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 services. Avnet, with fiscal year 2003 sales of \$ 9 billion (year ended June 27, 2003), 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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