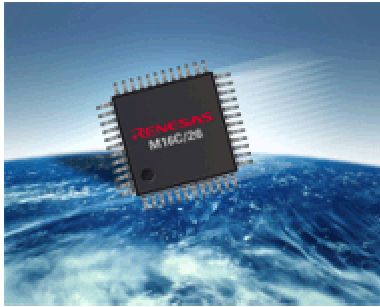


PRESS RELEASES

- FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION -

Silica extends agreement with Renesas Technology



Munich 14th January, 2004 -- Silica has extended its distribution agreement with Renesas Technology Europe Ltd.. As a result, the specialist semiconductor distributor now supports the entire Renesas Technology portfolio, which includes a host of market-leading microcontrollers, microprocessors, memory, ASIC, logic and power devices.

Commenting on the new agreement, Tesfay Embaye, Vice President Technical Marketing for Silica, said:

"This marks a major development in terms of Silica's product offering and further strengthens our relationship with Renesas Technology.

In addition to our existing range, we can now offer our customers all those former Mitsubishi devices that are now marketed by Renesas Technology. These components are completely new to Silica and, in particular, the addition of the M16C platform significantly enhances our microcontroller portfolio. Covering 8, 16 and 32-bit technology, these components are ideally suited to the type of industrial and automotive applications that Silica is committed to supporting."

Embaye continued: "By bringing together the resources of Hitachi and Mitsubishi, Renesas Technology is in the perfect position to set new standards for performance and value in a number of key semiconductor markets. Silica's team of FAEs has been fully trained by Renesas Technology on the entire product range, ensuring that system developers will enjoy not just a single source of supply, but also the in-depth technical support that is essential for realising successful product design within the shortest possible timeframe."

Renesas Technology Corp. was formed on April 1st 2003. Since that date, Silica has supported all those devices that were previously supplied by Hitachi. Under the new extended agreement, which covers Austria, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the UK and the Benelux countries, Silica supports the entire Renesas Technology product range.

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, automotive and PC/Audio Visual markets. Established on April 1, 2003 as a joint venture between Hitachi, Ltd. and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Renesas Technology is one of the largest semiconductor companies in the world and world leading microcontroller supplier globally. Besides microcontrollers, Renesas Technology offers system-on-chip devices, Smart Card ICs, mixed-signal products, flash memories, SRAMs and more. <http://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 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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