



NEWS RELEASE

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VPX Base Standard Ratified

VITA Specification Addresses Demanding Needs of Critical Embedded Systems Computing Platforms

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, October 30, 2007 — VITA, the trade association dedicated to fostering American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited, open system architectures in critical embedded system applications today announced the ratification by ANSI of the VPX base standard under ANSI/VITA 46.0-2007 and the VMEbus Signal Mapping for VPX under ANSI/VITA 46.1-2007. The VPX base standard sets the framework for the entire VPX suite of dot standards by defining the physical features of VPX. The VMEbus signal mapping provides a legacy migration pathway for previous generations of VMEbus technology to merge with the latest generation under VPX. VPX is the latest backplane standard from VITA targeted to specifically address the needs of critical embedded system including industrial control, medical, and aerospace applications. Various VME manufacturers worked together to shape VPX to meet the backplane I/O, processing and power distribution requirements of the critical embedded systems markets.

The formation of the VPX working groups to develop the specification suite was originally announced at the VITA Bus & Board conference in January of 2004. Working groups were formed to develop the multiple standards that make up the entire VPX suite. VPX consists of a base specification and sub-specifications to accommodate multiple high performance switch fabric protocols that can operate in a VPX configuration. These switch fabric protocols include, but are not limited to; serial RapidIO, PCI Express and Gigabit Ethernet.

“VPX certainly meets and exceeds the original goal of the standard to provide high-speed signals for both serial switch fabrics and high-speed I/O, as well as legacy VME protocols, for the spectrum of critical embedded systems”, stated Jing Kwok, chief engineer, modular solutions, of Curtiss-

Wright Controls Embedded Computing. “VPX provides at least twice the number of high-speed ports over other alternatives. The specification also greatly expands the high-speed user I/O capacity and provides a broader ability to map high-speed user I/O or fabric connections to the backplane.” Jing recently took over as chairman of the VPX working groups from Stewart Dewar who has moved on to other endeavors. Stewart provided outstanding leadership during the development of the VPX specifications.

VITA members have been rolling out a wide variety of products from backplanes and chassis to 3U and 6U boards of various types in support of the VPX specification. Several developers have already announced the use of VPX in their next generation product designs.

In many respects, the VPX standard represents a convergence of many outstanding ideas around the next generation of VME. For example, some earlier proposals address only commercial environments or only 6U form factors. The VPX standard addresses both the 6U and 3U form factors, the latter of which is becoming more important as integrated components enable system sizes to shrink. By explicitly including critical embedded system environments in its charter, the VPX working groups were able to address important issues such as stress testing, vibration testing, and compatibility with conduction-cooling and liquid-cooling techniques. The VPX module format will provide system integrators with a platform capable of leveraging new switch fabric standards, ultimately enabling systems with higher performance and lower cost.

The standards documents are available from VITA. Logos, roadmaps and other images are available upon request.

About VITA

Founded in 1984, VITA is an incorporated, non-profit organization of suppliers and users who share a common market interest in critical embedded systems. VITA champions open system architectures. Its activities are international in scope, technical, promotional and user-centric. VITA aims to increase total market size for its members, expand market exposure for suppliers, and deliver timely technical information. VITA has ANSI and IEC accreditation to develop standards (VME, VXS, VPX, XMC, etc) for embedded systems used in a myriad of critical applications and harsh environments. For further information, visit www.vita.com .

Source: VITA