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**FASTRAX Announces New iTrax Multiplatform Family of OEM GPS Receivers**

*Common Hardware Form Factor Cuts Time-to-Market and Lowers Design Costs, Allowing Customers to Select Modules based on SiRF, Sony or u-Nav Chipset Depending on Application Requirements*



[Fastrax Ltd](#) (distributor: Glyn High-Tech Distribution), a leading provider of open and portable OEM GPS Software Development environments and programmable OEM GPS receivers, has announced recently the new iTrax Multiplatform family of OEM GPS receivers. The iTrax Multiplatform approach is the first in the industry to provide a common form factor between multiple OEM GPS receiver models with different chipsets.

The iTrax Multiplatform family includes the iTrax300, iTrax130 and iTrax03-S receivers, powered by SiRFstar III, Sony CXD2985 and u-Nav uN2110 chipsets, respectively. The increased range of choices allows consumer

electronics manufacturers and OEMs to select the optimum receiver for each application, product and market segment.

All iTrax Multiplatform receivers offer high sensitivity and superb navigation performance even in difficult urban canyon environments. User-configurable power management makes iTrax Multiplatform receivers ideally suited to battery-operated systems requiring low power and small sleep state current drain.

Optimum time to market is achieved by the use of a common form factor, development environment, testing tools and technical documentation. Additionally, a single hardware design reduces development, manufacturing and logistics costs.

The new iTrax Multiplatform concept is a unique offering in the OEM GPS industry, allowing customers to use the same hardware form factor and design tools in products tailored for widely differing market segments. The Multiplatform concept brings substantial time and cost savings for leading high-volume companies whose business depends on the fast time-to-market of cost-effective new products, according to Fastrax.

Key features of the iTrax Multiplatform product family:

1. Includes Fastrax iTrax300, iTrax130 and iTrax03-S receivers
2. Tiny form factor: 16.2 mm x 18.8 mm x 2.3 mm
3. High sensitivity down to -157 dBm
4. Low power consumption down to 34 mA
5. Common connectivity
6. NMEA and binary protocols
7. Two serial ports
8. 1PPS output
9. GPIO available for custom purposes
10. Other peripherals include SPI bus, MMC bus, Capture Timer input, Pulse Measurement input, A/D converter depending on the module

For further application flexibility, the iTrax130 and iTrax03-S receivers support the Fastrax iSuite Software Development Kit. Fastrax iSuite technology may be used to rapidly modify receiver features and functionality and to add user application code to run onboard iTrax receivers. Adding support for wireless modems, Bluetooth devices, mass storage devices, LCD displays and keyboards is possible with minimum effort and without expensive extra components.



### **MICRONAS Offers Alternative to Micro-Switches with Low-Cost Hall Sensor Family**



[Micronas](#), a leading supplier of innovative application-specific IC system solutions for consumer and automotive electronics, presents the new Hall sensor family HAL® 2xy. The new sensors are designed for accurate contactless detection of positions and speed in automotive, industrial and consumer applications.

"The HAL 2xy family is low-priced, robust and highly accurate and has the potential to replace the micro-switch", says Micronas. "Hall-effect sensors are immune to mechanical abrasion. They have a longer life-time because they are not prone to environmental contaminants such as vibration, shock, dirt, humidity and high

temperatures. We have integrated protection features to allow these Hall sensors to function with unstable voltage supplies. Furthermore, they are extremely resistant to high-frequency electromagnetic fields and guarantee a high ESD resistance. The HAL 2xy offers reverse polarity and overvoltage protection for all pins."

The new Hall sensor family is designed for applications in which position detection is required. In the automotive sector, the HAL 2xy is used for position detection of power windows, sliding roofs, hatchback, foot pedal, fan control and many more applications. Industrial application examples include flow measurement, end-position detection and rotational speed measurement. In white goods, the HAL 2xy is ideal for position detection tasks, for example in washing machines and the new induction cookers.

With its integrated active "chopper-offset compensation" Micronas avoids offset errors in the measurement signal. Changes in temperature, for example, can cause mechanical stress on the chip, which in turn will influence future measurement results. Similarly, further assembly steps at the client's manufacturing site can cause such stress. The "chopper-offset compensation" process developed by Micronas compensates for these effects, thus the Hall sensors are able to perform accurate measurements with long-term stability over a wide temperature range.

The HAL 2xy is available in TO 92UA and SOT 89B packages, both suitable for overmolding, and operates at temperatures between -40°C and +125° C. Samples will be available in third quarter 2006 from Glyn High-Tech Distribution.



### **MAXWELL TECHNOLOGIES Introduces Compact Ultracapacitor Cells for Automotive and Industrial Applications**



[Maxwell Technologies](#), available through Glyn High-Tech Distribution, has introduced Power-type versions of its BOOSTCAP "D-Cell" ultracapacitor cells, packs and modules to provide high-performance, "life-of-the system" alternatives to batteries for automotive electrical power network stabilization and industrial applications.

The new, flashlight or torch battery size, BCAP0310 P250 310-farad cell and compact, fully integrated, six-cell 15-volt packs and modules provide simple, low-cost, backup power solutions to avoid malfunctions that occur when

multiple simultaneous electrical power demands cause a “voltage sag” that can upset microprocessors that manage electrical subsystems in modern vehicles, says Maxwell.

Representative industrial applications include power on demand for robotic systems, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), telecommunication power buffering and back-up, aircraft door and air bag actuation, and solar energy system augmentation.

With more than 60 million new cars rolling off assembly lines around the world each year, and the proliferation of power-consuming luxury and safety features in current and future vehicles, automotive power network stabilization represents an immediate and very sizeable opportunity for ultracapacitor-based solutions, so we continue to move aggressively to capitalize on Maxwell’s position as the global technology leader, says Maxwell.

BCAP0310 P250 is the latest addition to company’s line of Power-type ultracapacitor products whose versatility and high performance make them a compelling alternative to battery-based solutions for hybrid drive systems, idle stop-start, all-electric braking and steering and other applications in addition to power network stabilization.



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