New DAB module includes iPod docking capability

London, 12th April, 2007 – Frontier Silicon today announced availability of a reference design that enables audio manufacturers to quickly produce low-cost DAB/FM radios with iPod docking capability. The Jupiter 3 (FS4023) platform is based on Frontier Silicon's Venice 5 (FS2025) DAB/FM module which now has an integrated docking interface for communication and control of iPods, something that was previously only achievable using a separate microcontroller and DAB module. Jupiter 3 can be used as-is or as a starting point to speed development of custom OEM products, and its modular-based approach simplifies the design and manufacturing process, making it easy to produce compact DAB/FM radios with iPod docking that could retail for as little as £35.

"Through Jupiter 3, we are helping our customers to rapidly bring exciting new combined DAB and iPod docking products to the market," said Steve Evans, VP sales and marketing for digital audio at Frontier Silicon. "In tapping into the iPod phenomenon, we are expecting Jupiter 3 to significantly boost the market roll-out of Venice 5, which is already beating forecasts with first volume customer orders received shipping this month and over 20 new volume products based on the module scheduled for release by the middle of the year. With the quantity and quality of the projects that we are working on, we have confidence that we will ship over one million pieces of Venice 5 to our customers in its first 12 months of production," added Evans.

The Venice series is the world's best selling family of DAB modules with over four million already deployed in digital radios worldwide. Venice 5 is the current entry-level DAB/FM module, featuring a small footprint, battery life of over 170 hours[1], and customisable software allowing manufacturers to deliver rapid product differentiation. The extensive 640 Kbytes of on-chip memory available on its baseband chip (Kino 2) enables valued added functions like FM, clocks, alarms, and timers to be implemented without the need for additional external memory.

[1] Battery life calculated using six D cells

Frontier's customers for DAB solutions include Pure Digital, the brand leader for DAB radios, as well as Roberts Radio, Sony, Philips, Denon, Onkyo and Yamaha. Independent analysts[2] estimate that Frontier provided 75% of the DAB solutions shipped during 2006.

End

Editor's note:

About Frontier Silicon Limited

Frontier Silicon is the leading supplier of digital and RF integrated circuits and modules for mobile digital TV and digital audio products. Established in 2001 as a privately funded fabless semiconductor company, it has over 200 employees and is headquartered in Watford, England, with design centres in Cambridge and Dublin, and branch offices and technical support representatives in Hong Kong, China, Korea and Japan. Products include audio processors for digital radio and network streaming, and receiver solutions for mobile TV, supporting multiple broadcast standards including DVB-H, DVB-T, T-DMB and DAB-IP.

Customers include Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Bang & Olufsen, Bush, Denon, Goodmans, Grundig, Hitachi, JVC, Onkyo, Philips, PURE Digital, Roberts Radio, Sanyo, TEAC and Yamaha.

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[2] Report title: Semiconductors & Equipment. Frontier Silicon Private Placement Report by Lehman Brothers. Issued: October 13, 2006. Authors: Navdeep Sheera and Olubunmi Asaolu.