



PRESS RELEASE

Media contacts:

Nancy Schumann
Advanced Hardware Architectures
509-334-1000
nschuman@aha.com

Carol Pawlak
McClenahan Bruer Communications
206-842-9859
carol@mcbru.com

Advanced Hardware Architectures Licenses IBM's ALDC Technology and Introduces New Compression ICs

Pullman, Wash. — Feb. 20, 2001 — Advanced Hardware Architectures (AHA) has licensed IBM's Adaptive Lossless Data Compression (ALDC) core technology in an agreement signed by the two companies. With the agreement, AHA is now the only supplier of ALDC standalone integrated circuits (ICs). AHA is also announcing two new ALDC data compression products to be used in tape storage, networking and telecommunications applications.

AHA developed the new products with IBM technology to address the requirements of both companies' customers, allowing AHA to meet the needs of the entire ALDC market. "We've been working closely with IBM, which provided its core technology to help us support its former customers," said Dr. Patrick Owsley, AHA's president and chief executive officer. "By consolidating the business, we've created a commercially viable niche for our ALDC products."

The new products are single-chip lossless compression and decompression integrated circuits. The devices compress, decompress or pass data through. Flexible interfaces connect directly with various microprocessors and DMA devices used in tape drive systems. The AHA3580 also interfaces with SCSI and fiber controllers. Each device also contains content addressable memory eliminating the external SRAMs typically required for dictionary storage. The AHA3540 is capable of a 40 Megabytes/sec uncompressed data rate, the AHA3580 is at 80 Megabytes/sec.

ALDC technology is patent protected and must be purchased or licensed from those companies who hold the patents, including both IBM and AHA.

About ALDC

Unlike lossy compression, which permanently eliminates material that cannot be detected by eyes or ears, Adaptive Lossless Data Compression enables the exact reproduction of the original data, ensuring that the decompressed data output is exactly the same as the uncompressed data input. ALDC is used when there is no prior knowledge of the data it is encoding and must adapt to the format of the data as it encodes. The ALDC algorithm is a variant of the LZ1 (Lempel-Ziv 1) class of data compression algorithms.

Price and Availability

ALDC IC prototypes are available now, with volume quantities shipping in Q2 2001. The AHA3540 cost is \$20 and the AHA3580 cost is less than \$30 in quantities of 10,000.

About AHA

Advanced Hardware Architectures develops and markets superior integrated circuits and intellectual property core technology for communications systems architects worldwide. AHA provides flexible, cost-effective solutions for today's growing bandwidth and reliability challenges. Located in Pullman, Wash., AHA has been setting the standard in Forward Error Correction technology for more than a decade and offers a variety of standard and custom IC solutions for the data communications industry. www.aha.com.

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