FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AKUSTICA EXPANDS SINGLE-CHIP DIGITAL MICROPHONE FAMILY

--AKU2004 Designed for Modular Microphone Array Subsystems

San Francisco/IDF—September 26, 2006—Akustica, Inc., the pioneer in on-chip acoustic systems, today introduced a digital microphone that will improve the voice quality and ease the integration of audio solutions in notebook computers. With its top port design and surface mountability, the AKU2004 is ideal for use in module applications that use an automated assembly process for a single-sided printed circuit board (PCB), such as a camera module integrated into a laptop display bezel. In addition, the 4mm X 6mm AKU2004 has a left/right user-select function that allows a single device to be configured on the PCB for either the left or right microphone channel in an array.

Like other members of the Akustica high-performance digital microphone family, the AKU2004 digital microphone is a tiny Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) device on a chip. A complete *Voice-to-Bits*™ audio solution, the AKU2004 captures the acoustic signal at the transducer and performs several levels of processing until the voice signal is digitized and ready for interface formatting.

This implementation makes the AKU2004 virtually immune to all forms of radio frequency interference/electromagnetic interference (RFI/EMI) while, at the same time, decreases design complexity and improves time-to-market. Since portable computers may have as many as six wireless-communications antennas which create a bezel environment rich with radio frequencies, Akustica's full *Voice-to-Bits s*olution is a big advantage over old electret condenser microphone (ECM) technology.

Microsoft Vista™, Microsoft's new operating system scheduled for release early next year, will contain audio algorithms that enhance voice input for clear performance. To take advantage of these algorithms, the AKU2004 microphone chips are phase matched—allowing system manufacturers to use two (or more) microphones in an array configuration. Phase-matched microphones are ideally suited to the noise cancellation and beamforming algorithms that improve voice input quality on the laptop platform.

"Using the AKU2004 to achieve a modular approach for the integration of microphone arrays will allow designers to specify just one design for use in many models—saving them from reinventing the audio input solution for each notebook PC," said Dr. Ken Gabriel, Akustica's co-founder and chief technology officer.

Growing Opportunity for Digital Microphones in VoIP Applications and PC Cameras

Earlier this year, Fujitsu Computer Systems Corporation introduced its LifeBook Q2010 notebook with an Akustica microphone array embedded in the display. The Akustica array supports LifeBook Q2010 mobile business users who want applications such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and voice messaging.

"Akustica is certainly attaching itself to an interesting market with the Fujitsu LifeBook," said Gartner Analyst Steve Ohr in a recent issue of industry publication **EETimes**. "The number of VoIP ports has a 24.1 percent compound annual growth rate, increasing from over 29.5 million ports in 2005 to 73.8 million in 2010. Revenue growth, in the same period, will go from $1.5 billion in 2005 to $3.5 billion in 2010, for a 20.3 percent compound annual growth rate."

The AKU2004 is already gaining acceptance in the PC camera space. It has been designed into Ricoh Co. Ltd's Universal Serial Bus (USB) camera module reference design, an out-of-the-box solution that integrates digital microphone quality with high-performance video for PC camera platforms. (See: "Akustica Partners with Ricoh to Deliver Camera Module Reference Design," September 26, 2006.)

Price and Availability

Akustica's AKU2004 is sampling now; and production volumes will be available in December 2006. For volume pricing, please contact Akustica by phone: (412) 390-1730, Fax: (412) 390-1737 or email: sales@akustica.com.

About Akustica, Inc.

Founded in 2001, Akustica, Inc. is a privately held company based in Pittsburgh. Through a revolutionary technology known as Sensory Silicon™, Akustica products enable electronic devices to sense and respond to the world around them. By leveraging standard CMOS processes and MEMS technology, Akustica acoustic system-on-chip solutions combine the functionality of microphones with microelectronics and software onto a single chip. Only Akustica's CMOS MEMS Microphone Chips—which were pioneered by Akustica co-founder and CTO Dr. Ken Gabriel during his tenure at Carnegie Mellon University—enable single-chip solutions with arrays of transducers and integrated signal processing that disrupt both conventional microphone and speaker technologies. Smaller and more reliable than the current crop of electret condenser microphones (ECMs), silicon microphones can be customized with advanced sound capture features and noise reduction capabilities. For more information on Akustica, please contact us via phone: (412) 390-1730, Fax (412) 390-1737, email: contact@akustica.com or web: www.akustica.com.

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