

Zarlink Proves Value of DMT (Discrete Multi Tone) Chip Set With Successful Tests of High-Speed Modem

- Powered by Zarlink DMT chips, VDSL modem achieves 56 Mb/s (megabits per second) over standard telephone lines
- Zarlink adds AFE (analog front end) chip to VDSL (Very high rate Digital Subscriber Line) product portfolio

OTTAWA, CANADA, May 15, 2002 – Zarlink Semiconductor (NYSE/TSE:ZL) today announced that to prove the value of its DMT data transceiver and AFE chip set, it has designed and built a VDSL evaluation modem, based on DMT modulation technology. Leading customers in Europe, Asia and North America are now successfully testing Zarlink's evaluation modems.

Zarlink's DMT-VDSL modem exceeds the 52 Mb/s international standard for broadband VDSL. In tests, the modem achieves download speeds of 56 Mb/s and upload speeds of 36 Mb/s over 200 meters of standard copper telephone line. Over 1.3 kilometers, the modem delivers 11 Mb/s downstream and 3 Mb/s upstream.

"These results prove that our DMT transceiver and AFE chips are performing at world-class standards, and provide real evidence that we are delivering to performance goals," said Andrew Faulkner, VDSL business director, Zarlink Semiconductor. "By offering customers a full DMT-VDSL evaluation modem, we are also accelerating their development and test cycle times."

In December 2001, Zarlink began sampling the industry's first DMT data transceiver for four-band, 12 MHz (megahertz) VDSL. More recently, Zarlink produced samples of the next product in its VDSL portfolio – a 12 MHz AFE device for analog-digital/digital-analog signal conversion in DMT-VDSL modems. Zarlink expects to begin shipping its DMT data transceiver and AFE devices – the two key silicon chips powering next-generation DMT-VDSL modems – in mid-2002.

Zarlink's new VDSL AFE device supports the full 12 MHz VDSL signal bandwidth at 35ms/s (mega samples per second) and with 12-bits linearity. The AFE provides on-chip input/output filtering and gain control. Interfaces include a serial microport for control, parallel ports for transmit/receive digital samples, and differential analog interfaces for transmit/receive signal paths. With low power consumption and two packaging options – small footprint BGA (ball grid array) and QFP (quad flat pack) – Zarlink's AFE device is well suited for compact modem designs.

Zarlink offers complete platform for evaluating DMT-VDSL services

Zarlink's reference design and evaluation platform offer all the hardware and software required to implement full-rate DMT-VDSL modem capability in central office, customer premise and MTU/MDU (multi tenant unit/multi dwelling unit) applications.

To speed customer design cycle times, Zarlink has produced a commercially viable modem for ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) over VDSL and Ethernet over VDSL applications. The modem utilizes Zarlink's DMT data transceiver, AFE and MDS105 Ethernet switch, and includes line driver and interface circuitry, a processor, a transformer, protection circuits and connector ports. The software includes all the drivers and protocols for controlling and evaluating the VDSL link. A full document set with design files is also available.

DMT modulation technology key to optimizing VDSL performance

VDSL is an emerging standard for short distance, 52 Mb/s symmetrical transmission of broadband services – such as interactive gaming, high-speed Internet, plus multiple data and voice channels – over telephone lines to homes and businesses. However, the speed and distance of VDSL signals are reduced under noisy, real-world conditions. Zarlink's DMT modulation technology overcomes interference by dynamically configuring the transmitted signal to match the line conditions, resulting in error-free communications at higher data rates, over longer distances.

About Zarlink Semiconductor

Zarlink employs its formidable analog, digital and mixed-signal capabilities to offer the most compelling products for wired, wireless and optical connectivity markets and ultra low-power medical applications. For more information, visit www.zarlink.com.

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For further information:

Michael Salter
Media Relations
613 270-7115
michael.salter@zarlink.com

Chris Brennan
High Road Communications
613 236-0909
cbrennan@highroad.com