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MICROCHIP INTRODUCES NEW LOW-COST MOUSE AND TRACKBALL SOLUTIONS FOR PCs AND APPLE COMPUTERS

CHANDLER, Ariz., (June 7, 1993) -- Microchip Technology Inc. announces the introduction of the MTA41300, the MTA41110 and MTA41120, its new low-voltage, low-cost mouse and trackball controller ICs especially designed for ease of implementation.

The MTA41300 can be configured to operate as a Microsoft® serial format compatible or as an IBM PS/2® compatible mouse, and the MTA41120 can be configured to interface with the Apple® Desktop Bus. The MTA41110, which is only PS/2 interface compatible, provides full support for the PS/2 command set; the MTA41300, which supports both the serial and the PS/2 interface with auto-detect capability, provides full support for the PS/2 command set except the resolution mode, which is fixed.

The new controllers are 18-pin, low-power CMOS integrated circuits combined with application-specific software. When combined with a few external components, a complete mouse or trackball system can be realized. All three products, when configured for mouse applications, support both one and two button operations. For trackball applications, the select and drag operation can be accomplished using the optional drag lock input and drag lock LED for one-handed operation.

"Microchip's controllers make it easy to implement new designs," said Phil Hoppes, director of the company's ASSP division. "We provide the complete system interface and circuit design for our customer. This is particularly useful in embedded designs, where the customer is looking for a total solution and not merely a component that requires further engineering effort. For additional ease of use, our solution is compatible with all of the peripheral drivers supplied in the available operating systems on either platform. If
a customer desires a unique peripheral driver, we have third-party vendors who can develop them."

The new controllers provide low-voltage operation compared to other products now on the market and are available in a wide array of packaging, from 18-lead PDIP and SOIC to the extremely compact 20-lead SSOP package. "These factors -- low voltage and small packaging -- are particularly important when the controllers are used as integrated trackballs in notebook applications," Hoppes said. "And they're available right now. With other solutions, the designer must not only design the system but also program and test the device, which delays the product introduction to market."

Samples of the devices are now available in narrow 18-pin DIP packages. The MTA41300 and the MTA41110 are priced at $2.74 per unit and the MTA41120 is priced at $3.02 per unit in 10,000-piece quantities. Demonstration kits will be available in the third quarter of 1993.

Microchip Technology Inc. is the worldwide leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of field programmable 8-bit microcontrollers and related specialty memory products for high-volume embedded control solutions. Microchip addresses the growing need for innovative embedded control applications in the consumer, automotive, office automation, communications and industrial control markets with products that feature the industry's most economical OTP (one-time programmable) capability. The company is located outside Phoenix in Chandler, Arizona, where it operates a 0.9 micron wafer fabrication line and has a wholly owned subsidiary performing assembly and test in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, as well as sales offices in Asia, Europe, Japan and North America. Microchip is traded on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol MCHP.