MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY FILES COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT SUIT AGAINST MICON DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD.

CHANDLER, Ariz., Jan. 29, 1999 [NASDAQ: MCHP] — On January 8, 1999, Microchip Technology of Chandler, Arizona USA, filed a copyright infringement suit against Micon Design Technology Co. Ltd. of Taipei City, Northern Taiwan (“MDT”) and EZE Semiconductor (UK) of Lancashire, Great Britain (“EZE”) in the District Court Munich I alleging infringement of Microchip’s German copyrights in the microcode implemented by Microchip’s PICmicro® 8-bit RISC microcontrollers. Upon information and belief, MDT also markets and sells 8-bit microcontrollers in Germany through its distributor EZE.

“For 10 years, Microchip Technology has developed a significant presence in Europe with more than 20,000 customers designing with our high performance PICmicro devices,” said Steve Sanghi, President and Chief Executive Officer for Microchip. “It is Microchip’s corporate policy to take whatever steps it believes necessary to protect the Company’s valuable intellectual property assets.”

Microchip Technology Inc. manufactures the PICmicro® family of 8-bit RISC-based microcontrollers—with OTP, FLASH, and ROM memory technologies; serial EEPROMs; related specialty memory products; microID™ family of RFID products and KEELQ® code hopping devices. These products target thousands of embedded control applications in the consumer, automotive, office automation, communications and industrial markets. Microchip’s quality systems are ISO 9001 certified. Headquartered near Phoenix in Chandler, Ariz., Microchip employs approximately 2,050 people worldwide.

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