For Immediate Release

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY PACKS 3-AXIS PASSIVE ENTRY TRANSPONDER/ENCODER INTO SINGLE-CHIP SOLUTION FOR HIGHLY SECURE DESIGN

CHANDLER, Ariz., Feb. 14, 2001 [NASDAQ: MCHP] -- Microchip Technology Inc. today introduced the HCS473 3-axis passive entry KEELOQ® encoder, which features three transponder inputs for omni-directional detection and provides high security in an integrated package solution. The KEELOQ code-hopping technology is an industry standard for highly secure remote control and access control applications.

Designed for automotive Passive Keyless Entry (PKE) system applications, the HCS473 combines Microchip’s patented KEELOQ high security technology with a small 14-pin package outline, making the device an ideal solution for secure challenge-and-response systems. The KEELOQ technology eliminates the need for encoder firmware development and reduces external hardware requirements, which shortens normal system design time and provides faster time-to-revenue.

The HCS473 PKE system is based on the concept that a door (i.e., car, home, hotel room) will detect whether the correct key is in the proximity of the door. Most anyone can recall a time when they approached a door while their arms were filled with shopping bags, books or a small child and then had a difficult time finding their keys or struggled to open the door. The HCS473 device helps minimize these inconveniences.

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ADD ONE – HCS473 KEEOLOQ® TRANSPOUNDER

Currently, the majority of passive entry systems on the market feature a single antenna, which results in a directional system that is sensitive to the orientation of the key. Single antenna systems also usually require expensive analog detection circuits for each antenna to detect the small signals for bi-directional communications, which in turn increases costs and also makes it difficult to fit the circuit in a small outline required for keys.

Key orientation issues are eliminated with the HCS473 as the three transponders are positioned to provide an omni-directional solution. Production costs are reduced and size issues are non-existant as the three sensitive, noise tolerant antenna inputs are integrated onto a single chip.

The HCS473 provides a high level of security with 64-bit encryption, bi-directional communication and a reduced access time for fast and secure authentication. The capability of using the same key for two security systems, such as a car and the home or for two cars is also available. Additional features include a low standby current of less than 5 µA for long battery life, an RF PLL interface, input sensitivity of 20 mV p-p, LED drive and an internal calibrated oscillator.

Microchip’s patented KEEOLOQ code hopping technology creates a high degree of security using a long code word length together with encryption and synchronization techniques. The code hopping technology uses a complex non-linear cryptographic algorithm to encode the transmission sequence. The KEEOLOQ code hopping methodology circumvents code capturing since a different code is used with each successive transmission and a previous code is never accepted again. The coding process prohibits the calculation of the key, even if a large number of transmissions are captured and analyzed.

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ADD TWO -- HCS473 KEELOQ® TRANSPOUNDER

The HCS473 is available in 14-pin PDIP and SOIC packages and is priced at $2.30 each in 10,000-unit quantities. Samples are available in March 2001 with volume production available in June. A KEELOQ Transponder Evaluation Kit and device programmer will also be available to support the HCS473. For more information, contact any Microchip sales representative or authorized worldwide distributor.

Microchip Technology Inc. manufactures the popular PICmicro® field-programmable RISC microcontrollers, which serve 8- and 16-bit embedded control applications, and a broad spectrum of high-performance linear and mixed-signal, power management and thermal management devices. The Company also offers complementary microperipheral products including interface devices; microID™ RFID devices; serial EEPROMs; and the patented KEELOQ® security devices. This synergistic product portfolio targets thousands of applications and a growing demand for high-performance designs in the automotive, communications, computing, consumer and industrial control markets. The Company's quality systems are ISO 9001 (1994 version) and QS9000 (1998 version) certified. Microchip is headquartered in Chandler, Arizona with design facilities in Mountain View, California and Bangalore, India; semiconductor fabrication facilities in Tempe and Chandler, Arizona and Puyallup, Washington; and assembly and test operations near Bangkok, Thailand. Microchip employs approximately 3,350 people worldwide and has sales offices throughout Asia, Europe, Japan and the Americas. More information on the Company can be found at www.microchip.com.

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