Microchip Technology Launches Powerful 32-bit MPLAB® IDE Software Making Designing Easier, More Efficient

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHANDLER, Ariz., Dec. 4, 2002 [NASDAQ: MCHP] — Microchip Technology Inc. today introduced its new powerful MPLAB® Integrated Development Environment (IDE) v6.10 software. The MPLAB IDE is a 32-bit desktop development environment that can decrease design time by offering the flexibility to edit, compile, debug and emulate embedded designs without ever leaving the MPLAB environment.

Available at no cost, the software provides increased code writing efficiency, intuitive graphical user interface (GUI) for ease-of-use, easier interfacing of third party tools, USB to MPLAB In-Circuit Debugger (ICD) 2 interface, faster operating speed and full memory emulation for all supported devices. In addition to supporting Microchip’s PIC16 mid-range family and the PIC18 family of PICmicro® microcontrollers, designers will also be able to use the MPLAB IDE to design and develop code for Microchip’s dsPIC™ digital signal controllers. Support for the remaining devices will be added in future releases.

Features
Designed for use with Microsoft Windows®, the MPLAB IDE environment integrates various aspects of development, including source code editing, project management, machine code generation (from assembly or “C”), fast device simulation, device emulation, and device programming. Features of the modern, easy-to-use interface include a full-featured, color-coded text editor; easy-to-use project manager with visual display; enhanced source level debugging for “C”; a dynamic status bar to display processor condition; and context sensitive, interactive on-line help.

Development Tools
Because Microchip’s development tools operate under the MPLAB IDE umbrella, there is a consistent look and feel, which makes learning of the new tool interface minimal. Microchip’s development system tools include MPLAB Editor, MPASM™ Assembler, MPSIM™ Simulator Software, MPLIB™ Librarian, MPLINK™ Linker, MPLAB C17 and MPLAB C18 C compilers, MPLAB ICE 2000 and MPLAB ICE 4000 In-Circuit Emulators, PICSTART® Plus Device Programmer, PRO MATE® II Universal Device Programmer, and MPLAB In-Circuit Debugger (ICD) 2.

The MPLAB IDE software is available at no cost and is downloadable from Microchip’s website at http://www.microchip.com/1010/pline/tools/picmicro/devenv/mplabi/index.htm. For more information, contact Microchip’s Literature Line at 480.792.7668 or contact any authorized Microchip distributor around the world.

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 KEELQ® 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, Bangalore, India;
and a European Design Center in Lausanne, Switzerland; semiconductor fabrication facilities in Tempe and Chandler, Arizona; Gresham, Oregon; and Puyallup, Washington; and assembly and test operations near Bangkok, Thailand. Microchip employs approximately 3,300 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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