



Lion's Tracs & ZF Micro Devices Inspiring Music Making

Rungis (France), September 17th, 2001 - ZF Micro Devices announced today that the FailSafe™ ZFx86™ microcontroller is at the core of the new music audio-midi workstation from Lion's Tracs, a leading Italian manufacturer of the music products industry. Megastation ZF-EX, ZF-76, ZF-88-the latest creations in keyboard s technology-are the first music workstations consisting of a Digital/ Analog Mixer, full 24bit processing, and 32 channels, thus providing "electronics musicians" or a "one man party band" with an improved sound quality and an unprecedented amount of interaction with 116dB dynamic range!

The professional Audio/Midi keyboard's Megastation features ZFx86™ System-on-a-chip, having a 32 Bit CPU 5x86 processor as a core, with added functionality such as MIDI file, Wave, Style Player, 64Mb RAM System memory, built-in 32 channel Mixer, and MP3 Encoder/Decoder. It comes also equipped with 16 Tracks HD arranger, 8 programmable single note DRUMS mute, 16 Loop Marker, and Sound Manager allowing loading of the Sound library MAPS file. The system comes with DOS and Linux installed. The music workstation is expanded by a DSP 128 Voice card, a Mixer with 60 midi insert Plug-ins performance, 64Mb RAM Sampler, 8-Track HD Recording, 128 Tracks Audio/ Midi Sequencer and Embedded Internet Browse. Available external connections include SCSI, VGA, USB, Comm, Video Karaoke, Foot Switch, 2X MIDI IN/OUT, Mouse, and PC Keyboard.

"At Lion's Tracs, we are always dreaming up innovative way to make our music audio-midi workstation more expressive, more powerful, more musical and when we first learned about ZF Micro Devices new technology - ZFx86™ PC-on-a chip - with all its PC functions integrated in a single chip ready with Linux, we knew we had found one" said Mr Colturato, General Manager. "It has been very easy for us to take our current board off the back and design our new PCB in minutes, with ZFx86™ requiring the minimum of external devices and logic."

"We are proud to collaborate with a music industry professional and see the ZFx86™ micro-controller bring new music-making possibilities to life" reported Patricia Blain, Marketing Manager at ZF Micro Devices Europe. In premiering the perfect marriage of ZFx86™ technology with the advanced and rich assortment of Megastation's capabilities, musicians inspired by the computer age can now interpret a new level of musical expression."

About ZFx86 Microcontroller

ZF Micro Devices provides the ZFx86™ PC-on-a-Chip, to enable customers to deliver innovative products faster. A low power consumption device measuring only 35mm by 35mm, the ZFx86 comes bundled with a run-time license for a fully implemented PhoenixBIOS™ from Phoenix Technology. The ZFx86 is fully x86 PC compliant and has been tested to run with a wide variety of O/S s, including DOS, Linux, Windows 95/98/NT and Windows CE 3.0. Every ZFx86 Integrated Development System includes Red Hat Linux and a LynuxWorks BlueCat™ Linux evaluation kit of development tools for creating compact custom Linux embedded applications. Including the software with the chip means OEMs no longer have to pay costly license fees or go through the expensive and time-consuming requirement of porting third party software and searching for unique peripheral drivers.

The ZFx86“, with the FailSafe“ System, is the only x86 microcontroller that boots autonomously on application of power and can operate even if system DRAM and Flash are unavailable. The patented FailSafe™ System also allows upgrades over the Internet, while eliminating the possibility of irrecoverable crashes. Using its proprietary Z-Tag™ interface, the ZFx86 can re-program system Flash at a fast 1.5M-bits per second, rather than the usual 19.2Kbaud, reducing potential downtime dramatically.

About Lion's Tracs

Lions's Tracs, www.lionstracs.com, is an Italian company specializing in the production of hardware and software for musical applications. Associated with the Media Records Group, an uncontested leader in Italy and one of the top ten independent European labels, the firm will showcase Megastation ZF-EX, ZF-76, ZF-88 at the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Exhibition in the Anaheim Convention Center (USA), next January 17-20, 2002. Lion's Tracs office is based in Merano (BZ) and can be reached at +39/473-220847 or at lions@lionstracs.com. Megastation is available from music retailers on a worldwide basis.

About ZF Micro Devices

ZF Micro Devices has pioneered FailSafe™ systems since its founding in 1995. ZF Micro Devices enables its customers to bring profitable, innovative, crash-immune systems to market faster than their competitors, by delivering low power (” Watt) PC systems at a chip size and price. The company recently changed its name from ZF Linux Devices. Corporate headquarters are located at 1052 Elwell Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303 USA (tel toll-free: 800-683-5943; tel: 650-965-3800; fax: 650-965-4050; e-mail: info@zfmicro.com; web: www.zfmicro.com). In Europe, ZF Micro Devices can be reached at +33-(0) 1-41-80-04-10. In South America, call +54-11-4543-0049.

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