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Microchip Technology Introduces 2.4 GHz IEEE 802.15.4(TM) FCC-Certified Radio Frequency Transceiver Module

CHANDLER, Ariz.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP), a leading provider of microcontroller and analog semiconductors, today announced the MRF24J40MA FCC-certified Radio-Frequency (RF) transceiver module. The new module services the 2.4 GHz unlicensed Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) short-range wireless frequency band for the IEEE 802.15.4(TM) specification, for ZigBee(R) or proprietary wireless-protocol systems. It includes discrete biasing components and an integrated PCB antenna to be used in sensor and control network environments. The module is fully regulatory-agency certified for the US (FCC), Canada (IC) and Europe (ETSI), and is expected to save designers time and money by eliminating the need to receive FCC certification for their wireless products.

Providing a complete short-range IEEE 802.15.4 wireless networking solution, the MRF24J40MA transceiver module is surface mountable and can be used with hundreds of 8-bit, 16-bit, or 32-bit PIC(R) microcontrollers (MCUs). The module is supported by Microchip's PICDEM(TM) Z Demo Kit and the ZENA(TM) Wireless Network Analyzer; as well as Microchip's free ZigBee, MiWi(TM) and MiWi P2P (Peer-to-Peer) software-protocol stacks. When combined with these development tools, the module enables designers with little or no RF design experience to design low-power wireless networking products quickly and inexpensively.

"We are excited to now offer PIC microcontroller customers a simple and complete 2.4 GHz wireless link, via our FCC-certified MRF24J40MA module," said Steve Caldwell, director of Microchip's RF Products Division. "By combining the transceiver module with one of our hundreds of PIC microcontrollers and our certified ZigBee, MiWi or MiWi P2P protocol stacks, customers can easily and cost-effectively develop short-range wireless networks."

"Having a FCC-certified 802.15.4 module is expected to enable our designers to get products to market sooner," said Dr. Jose Gutierrez, director of Technology Planning with Emerson. "Additionally, agency-certified modules can reduce schedule risk and save Emerson a significant amount of money."

Applications

A variety of wireless networking applications are appropriate for the MRF24J40MA module, such as industrial monitoring and control, home and building automation, remote control, low-power wireless sensor networks, lighting control and automated meter reading.

Development Tool Support

Designers looking to incorporate the MRF24J40MA transceiver module into their designs can do so using the PICDEM Z 2.4 GHz Demonstration Kit (Part # DM163027). The kit includes a pair of development boards with a PIC18LF4620 MCU, along with the ZENA network analyzer and wireless network configuration utility. It is available today at www.microchipdirect.com, for $269. Designers can also download any of Microchip's free ZigBee, MiWi and MiWi P2P protocol stacks from its online Wireless Design Center at www.microchip.com/wireless.

Module Availability & Pricing

Production quantities of the MRF24J40MA module can be ordered at www.microchipdirect.com today, at a price of $8.99 each in 1,000-unit quantities. For further information, contact any Microchip sales representative or authorized worldwide distributor, or visit Microchip's Web site at www.microchip.com/wireless.

Microchip Customer Support

Microchip is committed to supporting its customers by helping design engineers develop products faster and more efficiently. Customers can access four main service areas at www.microchip.com. The Support area provides a fast way to get questions answered; the Sample area offers free evaluation samples of any Microchip device; microchipDIRECT provides 24-hour pricing, ordering, inventory and credit for convenient purchasing of all Microchip devices and development tools; finally, the Training area educates customers through webinars, sign-ups for local seminar and workshop courses, and information about the annual MASTERs events held throughout the world.

About Microchip Technology

Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP) is a leading provider of microcontroller and analog semiconductors, providing low-risk product development, lower total system cost and faster time to market for thousands of diverse customer applications worldwide. Headquartered in Chandler, Ariz., Microchip offers outstanding technical support along with dependable delivery and quality. For more information, visit the Microchip website at www.microchip.com.

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Photos and Block Diagram available through editorial contact.

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