June 10, 2013

Microchip Makes Real-Time Power Monitoring and Code Optimization Affordable for Portable, Power Supply, Motor Control and Meter Designs

MPLAB® REAL ICE™ Power Monitor Module Provides Unsurpassed Current Measurement; Optimizes Software for Lowest Possible Power Consumption

CHANDLER, Ariz.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP), a leading provider of microcontroller, mixed-signal, analog and Flash-IP solutions, today announced the **MPLAB® REAL ICE™ Power Monitor Module**, which enables designers to identify and eliminate code that consumes high current, in real time. Combined with the **MPLAB REAL ICE in-circuit emulator** and **MPLAB X IDE**, this development platform allows users to measure, graphically profile and optimize code power consumption for all of Microchip's more than 1000 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit **PIC® microcontrollers**. Additionally, it offers unsurpassed micro-Amp current measurement, with an overall dynamic range up to 1 Amp, and a voltage range of 1.25V to 5.5V. At a list price of $379.99, Microchip's Power Monitor Module is significantly more cost effective than similar tools, making it ideal for a broad range of battery-powered, digital power-supply, motor-control and metering applications.

Embedded designers continue to seek new ways to optimize power consumption for both extended battery life and greater line-power efficiency. As MCU vendors and users have greatly reduced hardware power consumption—such as the 9 nA sleep and 30 µA/MHz active current consumption of Microchip's **eXtreme Low Power (XLP)** PIC MCUs—application software is the next place for engineers to focus. Microchip's Power Monitor Module provides programmable power to the target, as well as sampling intervals, enabling users to run at specific voltage levels and see tailored measurements. Designers can also set a "current break" threshold level that breaks when exceeded, allowing them to pinpoint the code causing the spike and debug it. All of these measurements can be displayed graphically, via the "Current Profile Graphing" feature, enabling engineers to better understand which sections of their code are consuming higher current.

"The MPLAB REAL ICE Power Monitor Module meets our customers' need for a low-cost software optimization tool that enables them to squeeze every last drop of power efficiency out of their code," said Derek Carlson, Microchip's vice president of Development Tools. "Together with our XLP PIC microcontrollers for battery-powered applications, and our MCUs and dsPIC® digital signal controllers for digital power conversion, motor control and metering, Microchip now provides the industry's first complete low-power embedded design platform."

Pricing & Availability

The MPLAB REAL ICE Power Monitor Module (part # AC244008) is available today for $379.99 each at **microchipDIRECT** (**http://www.microchip.com/get/UR5E**). For additional information, contact any Microchip sales representative or authorized worldwide distributor, or visit Microchip's Web site at **http://www.microchip.com/get/M530**. To purchase products mentioned in this press release, go to **microchipDIRECT** or contact one of Microchip's authorized distribution partners.

Resources

High-res Photo Available Through Flickr or Editorial Contact (feel free to publish): **http://www.microchip.com/get/G26W**

Follow Microchip:

- RSS Feed for Microchip Product News: **http://www.microchip.com/get/FG04**
- Twitter: **http://www.microchip.com/get/4QHW**
- Facebook: **http://www.microchip.com/get/HTA1**
- YouTube: **http://www.microchip.com/get/WGPB**

About Microchip Technology

Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MCHP) is a leading provider of microcontroller, mixed-signal, analog and Flash-IP solutions, providing low-risk product development, lower total system cost and faster time to market for thousands of diverse customer applications worldwide. Headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, Microchip offers outstanding technical support along with dependable delivery and quality. For more information, visit the Microchip website at **http://www.microchip.com/get/T23A**.

Note: The Microchip name and logo, MPLAB, PIC, and dsPIC are registered trademarks of Microchip Technology Incorporated in the U.S.A. and other countries. REAL ICE is a trademark of Microchip Technology Inc. in the U.S.A. and other countries. All other trademarks mentioned herein are the property of their respective companies.

Tags / Keywords: embedded development tools, power monitor tools, software development tools, microcontroller power monitoring, microcontroller energy monitoring, power debugging, low power code optimizing, low power embedded design, low power development tools, xlp development tools

Microchip Technology Inc.
Editorial Contact:
Eric Lawson, 480-792-7182
eric.lawson@microchip.com
or
Reader Inquiries:
1-888-624-7435
http://www.microchip.com/get/M530

Source: Microchip Technology Inc.