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Streamline Deployment of Smart Energy Equipment with Flexible Power Line Communication (PLC) Modem

Multi-protocol modem offers single design that addresses a variety of smart metering markets and requirements

CHANDLER, Ariz., June 12, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- With the uptick in smart grid infrastructure adoption globally, utilities are seeking ways to improve reliability and performance of smart meters to address multiple markets. To meet utilities' growing needs, equipment manufacturers dedicate extensive resources developing different versions of products based on existing and emerging industry-standard Power Line Communication (PLC) protocols. Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ:MCHP) today introduced a flexible PLC modem that can support multiple standard and proprietary protocols in the frequency band up to 500 kHz, enabling manufacturers to address different end-customer regulations, markets and operational requirements. The single device can be adapted simply with firmware, significantly reducing development costs and time to market.

Designed to address PLC protocols such as ITU G.9903 (G3-PLC) and ITU G.9904 (PRIME), as well as CENELEC, FCC and ARIB compliant applications, the PL360B is the latest device in Microchip's portfolio of industry-leading smart energy products. The PL360B modem comes with reference designs for adding a PLC interface to any end-customer application requiring connectivity, including smart meters, lighting, home automation, building automation and remote control.

"With nearly 100 million metering and PLC devices deployed to date, Microchip has incorporated extensive field expertise and application knowledge in the development of its smart energy products, which have consistently exceeded our customers expectations in performance and long-term reliability," said Kourosh Boutorabi, business unit director of Microchip's Smart Energy division. "The PL360B device addresses a significant design challenge manufacturers have faced in developing multi-protocol and field-upgradable metering infrastructure equipment. Our solution provides what customers need to easily develop high-performance smart meters and get to market quickly."

Additional benefits of using a PL360B modem is its efficient use of power, offering up to a 25 percent improvement in power consumption over previous generations, and a Class D amplification scheme that optimizes the modem transmission efficiency further. For additional information visit **http://www.microchip.com/PL360B**.

Development Tools
The ATPL360 evaluation kit includes two evaluation boards to establish point-to-point communication. The kit includes PC tools designed to evaluate the performance of the PL360B, including a PHY tester for point-to-point test, PLC "sniffer" to capture PLC traffic in a deployed network and a PLC manager to manage the resulting network. G3-PLC and

PRIME-PLC communications firmware is provided free of charge. A variety of reference designs is also available for a complete electricity meter with PLC, for a single PLC modem and for a master PLC device in charge of mastering the complete network of PLC nodes. All reference designs come with design files, bill of materials and schematics.

Pricing and Availability
The PL360B is available now starting at $2.00 each in 10,000 unit quantities. The ATPL360 evaluation kit is available for $500.00.

For additional information, contact any Microchip sales representative or authorized worldwide distributor, or visit Microchip's website. To purchase products mentioned in this press release, go to Microchip's full-service channel **microchipDIRECT** or contact one of Microchip's authorized distribution partners.

Resources
High-res images available through Flickr or editorial contact (feel free to publish):

- Application image: **https://www.flickr.com/photos/microchiptechnology/41837134745/**
- Chip shot: **https://www.flickr.com/photos/microchiptechnology/42475893921/**

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 **www.microchip.com**.

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