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Easily Implement Low-power Touch Pads with Surface Gestures Using Microchip's New Software Library

Add taps, swipes, pinch and zoom to compatible PIC®, AVR® and SAM MCUs at no additional cost

CHANDLER, Ariz., May 21, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Capacitive touch has become ubiquitous across a wide range of industries and applications, replacing the knobs and buttons that once controlled our electronics with smooth, intuitive touch panels. Previously a novelty on high-end products, consumers now expect touch control on everyday devices such as headphones, remote controls, coffee makers and thermostats without paying a premium for the interface. Microchip Technology Inc. (NASDAQ:MCHP) today announced a new **2D Touch Surface library** that enables designers to easily implement touch pads using the company's 8-bit PIC® and AVR® microcontrollers (MCUs) and 32-bit SAM MCUs. Available free of charge with the purchase of any compatible MCU, the library provides a simplified, low-cost solution for embedded applications.

Ideal for implementing small touch pads and screens, the 2D Touch Surface library eliminates costs by running on a device's existing MCU. This removes the need for a dedicated touch controller, giving product designers the flexibility to add finger position tracking and gesture detection, such as swipes, pinch and zoom, to products. The touch library is provided through Microchip's code configurators: MPLAB® Code Configurator (MCC) for PIC MCUs and Atmel START for AVR and SAM MCUs. Both software tools enable simplified graphical configuration and accelerate development with lean C code tailored for individual project needs. The 2D Touch Surface library is available today on Atmel START and will be available on MCC this quarter.

Intuitive, attractive user interfaces are central to the success of products, and the 2D Touch Surface library eliminates the need to integrate a costly operating system to fulfill consumers' smartphone-like interface expectations. The library is well suited for adding touch to a variety of applications across consumer electronics, automotive and industrial industries, such as smart speakers, steering wheels or thermostats.

"Capacitive touch has become mainstream, and we're continuing to see growth in the number of applications that require low-power, gesture-enabled touch surfaces," said Fanie Duvenhage, vice president of Microchip's touch and gesture business unit. "The 2D Touch Surface library makes the realization of small touch pads and screens easier and more affordable."

Low-power performance for touch pads is built in through the library, as complete surfaces are scanned at once while in deep sleep. Reliability is a fundamental requirement for touch, and the solution provides continued responsiveness and functionality through the impact of

water and noise, meeting the demands of automotive and home appliance applications. Implementations operate through wet conditions and can sustain 10V in conducted noise, in alignment with International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 6100-4-6 test level 3.

Development Tools
The DM080101 Water Tolerant Touch Surface development kit enables easy evaluation of the 2D Touch Surface library. The kit demonstrates water tolerance and noise immunity on a touch pad and has two touch buttons, all controlled by the same MCU.

Pricing and Availability
The 2D Touch Surface library is available for free with the purchase of any compatible MCU. The DM080101 Water Tolerant Touch Surface development kit is available now for $23.

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/28243484838**
- Tool photo: **https://www.flickr.com/photos/microchiptechnology/41395898794**

About Microchip Technology
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