

FTDI Introduces USB GPS Module

Enabling integration of exciting new navigation functions & location-based services

18th September 2013 - FTDI Chip continues to find innovative ways by which to employ its advanced USB technology into next generation electronic designs. Its latest product release, the FT-X-GPS, allows precision positioning data to be derived - so that a computing platform (such as a laptop, tablet, or embedded PC) to which it has been connected, via its USB port, can benefit from this precise data to enable location-based services and applications that continue to emerge as mobility increases.

Running off a 5V supply from a USB A port, this power efficient module is based on the company's FT230XQ USB-to-UART bridge IC (part of the popular X-Chip series). Supporting USB2.0 Full Speed operation, it can handle data rates of 3Mbits/s. The built-in location sensing mechanism outputs data in a NMEA0183 v.3.01 format, in order to allow pinpoint accuracy. This can then be incorporated into a variety of software applications found on the connected computing platform.

The attractive, contoured, black enclosure is designed in a thumb drive format, with dimensions of just 60.3mm × 20.3mm × 12.3mm and comes complete with an LED to indicate operational use. It has a temperature range that spans from -40°C to 85°C and sensitivity as low as -163dBm, enabling it to be utilized in a broad cross section of industrial, as well as consumer application scenarios.

A complete application note describing the module, circuitry, and software support has been created (AN_216 - Using the FT230X to Design a GPS Dongle) and is available at:

http://www.ftdichip.com/Support/Documents/AppNotes/AN_216_Using_the_FT230X_to_design_a_GPS_Dongle.pdf

“Modern computing platforms need to have a high degree of mobility. Software applications that make use of this mobility can add significant value to our everyday lives,” says Fred Dart, FTDI Chip’s CEO and Founder. “This small form factor USB-based GPS module offers a convenient method by which to acquire and utilize location data. Furthermore its rugged construction and strong system performance mean that it is highly optimized for demanding operating environments.”

The completely designed module, FT-X-GPS, is now available with single unit pricing of \$49.00.

About FTDI Chip

FTDI Chip specialises in the design and delivery of advanced silicon and software solutions. The company focuses on providing engineers with feature-rich, easy to use, robust products that will speed to market and reduce development costs. Widely recognised for its broad portfolio of Universal Serial Bus (USB) products, FTDI Chip can offer a simple route to USB migration by combining easy-to-implement ICs with proven, ready-to-use, royalty-free firmware and driver software. It has everything from simple bridge devices for converting USB from RS232, RS422, RS485, I²C, SPI, etc., to highly integrated system solutions with built in microcontrollers and sophisticated development platforms.

FTDI Chip has now further expanded its “made easy” philosophy, with the addition of simple to use display controllers that combine display, audio and touch functionality in a single compact package with accompanying development software, for creating Graphic User Interfaces (GUIs) suitable for a wide variety of low-power microcontrollers.

FTDI Chip is a fab-less semiconductor company, headquartered in Glasgow, UK, with research and development facilities located in Glasgow, Singapore and Taipei, Taiwan, plus regional sales and technical support sites in Glasgow; Portland, Oregon, USA; Shanghai, China; and Taipei.

More information is available at <http://www.ftdichip.com>

Regional sales offices and distributor lists are available at
<http://www.ftdichip.com/FTSalesNetwork.htm>

For further information and reader enquiries:

Dave Sroka - FTDI Chip

Unit 1, 2 Seaward Place, Centurion Business Park, Glasgow, G41 1HH, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 141 429 2777 Fax: +44 (0) 141 429 2758

E-mail: marketing@ftdichip.com

Issued by:

Mike Green - Pinnacle Marketing Communications Ltd

Tel: +44 (0)20 84296543

E-mail: m.green@pinnaclemarcom.com

Web: www.pinnacle-marketing.com

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