Power Design PC Specs

Issaquah, Wash USA
Fonthill, ON Canada
May 7, 2007

ACK Software Controls, Inc. and Amiga, Inc. are pleased to announce the specifications for the new Power System.

"While targeting the needs of today, we wanted to challenge ourselves to design for the future as well," said Adam Kowalczyk President of ACK Software Controls, Inc.

This new system will be offered at a suggested retail price of $1,498.00 and be a complete offering, excluding monitor, in a finished design that will provide customers with everything they need to get started.

Power Design Specifications
PowerPC board:
*   Based on the P.A. Semi PWRficient PA6T-1682M dual core 64 bit CPUs clocked at 2GHz.
*   RoHS compliant ATX form factor.
*   Four (4) DDR2 DIMM slots.
*   One (1) PCI Express x16 slot for high performance graphics cards.
*   One (1) PCI Express x2 slot for high performance I/O cards.
*   One (1) PCI Express x1 slot for standard I/O cards.
*   One (1) PCI 32 bit slot for legacy cards.

*   Six (6) USB 2.0 ports.
*   Two (2) Gb Ethernet ports.
*   Two (2) UART ports for serial connectivity and debug.
*   One 8Mb Flash EEPROM containing U-Boot firmware.
*   Four (4) SATA II ports based on the Silicon Image SiI3132 (x2)

"This new design offers the Amiga user a new choice in hardware. Amiga believes that this new system will address the needs of the Amiga user today and into the near future," said Bill McEwen of Amiga, Inc.

About Amiga:
Amiga, Inc. is the world's premier provider of multimedia enabling technologies. For almost two decades its award-winning software has been a mainstay for motion picture studios, multimedia creators, and digital entertainment enthusiasts around the world. Today Amiga builds on this legacy leading the way in multimedia development by providing developers with hardware-independent technologies for writing and porting applications to new platforms and interactive devices For more information visit www.amiga.com.

About ACK
ACK Software Controls, Inc. specializes in the area of embedded controls design for use in automation systems where low-power consumption and reliability is an absolute must. Concentrating on design for manufacturing with local manufacturing facilities has allowed ACK to quickly and cost-effectively develop solutions for customers with low-volume requirements. By integrating hardware, firmware, and device driver engineering capability in-house, ACK can provide complete turn-key solutions to customers.

US Slips Again in Broadband

Written and produced by John Anderson
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Media Minutes: April 27, 2007

The 30-nation chartered Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's latest statistics on broadband infrastructure ranks the United States 15th in the world with regard to the deployment of broadband technology. That has Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii worried about the country's future in terms of our information economy.

Senator Inouye: "While some will debate what in fact these rankings measure, one thing that cannot be debated is the fact we continue to fall further down the list."

The United States ranked 12th in the world with regard to broadband infrastructure just a year ago, and when it comes to growth in broadband penetration alone, the U.S. ranks 20th out of 30. Speaking in front of the Senate Commerce Committee on the subject April 24th, Free Press policy director Ben Scott told lawmakers that a lack of competition between the dominant phone and cable companies, coupled with abysmal regulatory research on the broadband marketplace, means we'll continue to fall behind unless a national broadband development policy is implemented.

The first step, says Scott, is for the Federal Communications Commission to stop cooking its numbers to paint a rosy picture of broadband in America. A recent report from the FCC touts significant growth in wireless broadband as a sign that things are improving, but Scott says that's not an honest reading of reality.

Ben Scott: "Broadband-capable cell phones, like Blackberries and Trios, much as I love mine, are expensive, they are slow, and they are seldom used as substitutes for a wireline connection at home. We would be wise to shelve the hype on this point about wireless broadband, and face the reality that it is not yet a substitutable competitor."

Although the majority of Americans now have access to some sort of broadband service, whether it be DSL, cable modem, satellite, or wireless, nearly half the population still doesn't subscribe to any of them. Scott believes that's in part due to incumbent providers trying to squeeze the most profit out of the system possible.

Ben Scott: "American consumers routinely pay between seven and ten dollars a megabit. Compare that to the less than one dollar that the top nations in the world pay. In short, American consumers are paying more for less than our global counterparts. Worse still, about 60% of Americans are not yet broadband subscribers, either because it isn't available, it isn't affordable, or it simply isn't attractive enough for them to buy."

AmigaMCCC News

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June Calendar

June 4 — Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter
       7:00 pm — **South** Grand Prairie Public Library
       760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie

June 4 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
       Approx. 9:15 pm — Location TBD

June 23 — Newsletter Deadline — 7:00 am

Senator Inouye says Congress will work to correct this problem with two specific pieces of legislation.

Senator Inouye: "First is the Broadband Data Development Act, to improve broadband data collection at both the federal and state levels. Second, the Advanced Information and Communications Technology Research Act, which will promote innovation here in the United States."

It's a far cry from a national push to make broadband as ubiquitous as electricity, but you have to start somewhere.