



Symwave Begins Shipping FireWire-800 Physical Layer Solution

SSI Computer Corporation is first to ship FireWire 800 external storage enclosures based on Symwave solution

SAN DIEGO, Calif., May 28, 2008 – Symwave, Inc., a privately-held supplier of high-performance analog/mixed signal semiconductor solutions for the PC, consumer and mobile devices, today announced that its “FirePHY-800” 1394b S800 Physical Layer (PHY) solution has commenced shipping to Taiwan-based SSI Computer Corp.

Symwave’s FirePHY-800 solution is a 3-port device which supports legacy FireWire 400/200/100 (IEEE 1394a) connections and high-speed 800 Mbps FireWire 800 (IEEE 1394b) connections. The Symwave FirePHY-800 device is compatible with all of the latest 1394b-to-SATA controller solutions on the market today and supports MacOS, Windows XP and Windows Vista operating systems.

SSI recently introduced two new external hard-disk drive (HDD) enclosure models that utilize the Symwave FirePHY-800 device. The SI7908, designed for Century Japan, and the SI7968, designed for a US storage OEM, are unique enclosure designs that allow individual 2.5” or 3.5” HDDs to be easily ejected and swapped. This functionality is particularly useful for consumers who desire redundant data backups on multiple different HDDs. A dual-bay enclosure, SI1328, and a quad-bay enclosure, SI1348, are also in development based on the same Symwave PHY solution and will be shown at Computex Taipei 2008, June 3-7, 2008.

“We are very pleased to be working with Symwave to deliver high quality HDD storage enclosures to our customers,” said Ken Chen, Assistant President of SSI Computer. “The Symwave solution has allowed us to differentiate our external enclosures from the competition and offer a higher performance, more robust product at a lower cost.”

“The Symwave FirePHY-800 solution enables external storage manufacturers and ODMs, such as SSI, to deliver more robust FireWire 800 enclosures at a price point that was not previously possible,” said Jim Kappes, Marketing Director at Symwave. “Symwave’s complete reference design kit and strong technical support enabled SSI to go from concept to pre-production in less than 3 months.”

External Storage Market Poised for Tremendous Growth

As the capacity of external hard drives continues to increase, the digital interface (typically USB) has become a major bottleneck in transferring large amounts of data from a PC to an external storage device. In a typical backup test transferring 500 GB of data, it required more than 25 hours to complete the data transfer over a USB 2.0 interface, compared to 6.7 hours over a FireWire 800/1394b interface. With FireWire 1600 (1394b S1600) technology, which Symwave was the first to demonstrate recently, the same 500 GB transfer can be accomplished in about 3.3 hours, a 7.5x speed improvement compared to USB 2.0. As a result of the massive speed improvements with 1394b and the fact that silicon costs are dropping significantly with increased competition, the market for 1394b-enabled storage devices is expected to grow at a faster rate than the overall storage market over the next 3-5 years.

According to Brian O'Rourke, Principal Analyst at In-Stat, "the total worldwide market for high-speed direct attached storage (DAS) devices is growing at a rate of nearly 20% per year and should reach over 47 million units by 2010. The availability of cost-effective silicon solutions for high-speed storage interfaces, including next-generation technologies such as FireWire 1600 and USB 3.0, will help to drive the rapid growth in the DAS market."

Symwave offers a variety of FireWire 800/1600 (1394b)-to-SATA HDD reference designs and engineering design services that can greatly accelerate time-to-market for ODMs and OEMs. Symwave also provides its customers with value-added support services such as compatibility testing, performance testing, and signal integrity testing of customer designs at its flagship design/test center in Shenzhen, China.

The Symwave FirePHY-800 device, SW3080, is in mass production and widely available. A pin-compatible device that supports S1600, SW3160, is also sampling to limited customers and partners.

About Symwave

Symwave is a fabless semiconductor company that designs, develops and markets high-performance analog/mixed-signal integrated circuits and system solutions. Symwave specializes in the design and development of high-speed, standards-based Serial Physical Layer ICs (PHYs) and high-performance, low-power Analog Front End ICs (AFEs) leveraging its proprietary mixed-signal technology and silicon design capabilities. Symwave's mission is to become the premier supplier of high-performance, customer-driven mixed-signal silicon and systems solutions to the PC, mobile device and consumer electronics markets. Symwave's strategy is focused on defining, developing and delivering best-in-class / first-in-class integrated circuit solutions for its customers leveraging Symwave's world-class analog / mixed-signal IC design team coupled with its broad IP portfolio. Symwave is a privately held company founded in 2001 with headquarters in San Diego, CA, and offices in Southern China, and is backed by several top-tier venture capital firms, including Kodiak Venture Partners and CMEA Ventures. Additional information is available at www.symwave.com.

About SSI

SSI Corporation, founded in 1984, is the only company in the world entirely focused on rapidly delivering intelligent external storage device and retrieval solutions that enable companies and organizations to leverage their growing volumes of Mobile Rack into profitability, growth and competitive advantage. SSI is recognized as the world leader in the market for external storage devices. SSI's storage Mobile Rack, Back Plane, Enclosure, RAID solution, Detect device, Multimedia speakers, software products and services are the leading information access and external storage devices for every major computing platform in today's business enterprise.

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