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ALTA TECHNOLOGY ANNOUNCES ALPHA-BASED CompactPCI™ PRODUCTS

500 MHz Alpha Systems Deliver Industries Best Performance under Windows NT®.

SANDY, Utah—May 7, 1997 -- Alta Technology (Alta) today announced its family of CompactPCI™ Single-Board Computer (SBC) boards and systems. Based on Digital's 64-bit 21164 Alpha microprocessor running at 500 MegaHertz, the new SBC uses the worlds fastest microprocessor. Alta is also introducing two CompactPCI systems that incorporate the board, chassis, peripherals, and Microsoft Windows NT operating system. Alta also announced CompactPCI peripheral boards and complete development systems.

The SBC/P164™ is Alta's Single Board Computer (SBC) with 366, 400, or 500 MHz Alpha processors, 64 to 512 Mbytes of ECC memory on a 256-bit wide memory bus, one or two Mbytes of 12 nanosecond tertiary cache memory and a 64-bit PCI bus. This 6U board also includes parallel, dual serial, keyboard and mouse ports, dual IDE disk and floppy disk controllers, and a single PCI Mezzanine Card (PMC) slot. Initially, the SBCs run the Microsoft Windows NT operating system. Alta also plans to support Digital Unix and Wind River Systems' VxWorks® operating systems in late summer of 1997.

Alta will sell two ready-to-run system configurations – an entry level tower system with a 366 MHz processor, 64 MB of (expandable) memory, VGA graphics, 2.1 Gbyte hard drive, CD ROM drive, and NT operating system. Two 64-bit user slots are available in the free standing system. The second system, a 19” rack mount chassis, provides six user slots for CompactPCI expansion cards plus chassis space for a second CompactPCI backplane or a VME backplane.

Glen Lowry, president of Alta, said, “Alta’s CompactPCI offering now provides the high performance punch needed in many embedded products. The Alpha and CompactPCI are an unbeatable combination of computation and I/O bandwidth.” Mr. Lowry explained Alta’s CompactPCI strategy as providing one-stop shopping for Alpha development tools and off-the-shelf products. “From our Single Board Computers and peripheral boards to our low cost development stations and rack mounted production systems, these products provide the CompactPCI tools that OEMs and System Integrators need.”

The board is compliant with the 64-bit standard for CompactPCI established by the PCI Industrial Computers Manufacturers Group (PICMG™), the PCI industry’s standard setting organization. As a member of PICMG, Alta is committed to “ensuring the availability, interoperability, and compatibility with standard PCI peripheral slot cards.”

“We are pleased that Alta has chosen the 21164 Alpha microprocessor for the 64-bit CompactPCI platform,” said Tim Miller, Alpha’s Strategic Marketing Manger. “The powerful combination of Digital’s Alpha processor and PCI peripheral chips gives the Alta SBC unsurpassed performance for embedded computing. Alta’s CompactPCI products will help broaden Alpha’s success in this market.”

Frank Setinsek, Vice President and chief designer of Alta's Alpha products confirms the commitment to the Alpha. He said: "Since its introduction a few years ago, Alta's Alpha family has expanded to include a complete portfolio of highly dependable, scaleable, and expandable products that offer end users outstanding value and satisfies their most stringent performance requirements. We intend to maintain our high level of R&D in providing Alpha solutions."

Alta designs and markets computer products for embedded and distributed architectures both domestically and internationally through direct sales channels and regional manufacturer's representatives. In addition to CompactPCI, Alta's products include VME, SBus, PCI and PMC processors and I/O peripheral cards with technologies which span fiber optics, Fibre Channel, high speed serial and parallel communications and analog and digital boards.

Alta Technology was founded in 1988 to design, manufacture and support parallel and embedded computation tools, products and services for high-performance applications. Today, Alta offers a comprehensive family of embedded tools for high computational and high communication applications.

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