



NEWS RELEASE

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PCI EXPRESS EXTERNAL CABLING SPECIFICATION COMPLETED BY PCI-SIG

Enables New Usage Models Such as Platform Disaggregated I/O,
Chassis-Chassis Expansion I/O and Others

BEAVERTON, Ore. – February 7, 2007 – PCI-SIG®, the Special Interest Group responsible for PCI Express® industry-standard I/O technology, today announced the availability of the PCI Express External Cabling 1.0 specification, which extends the PCI Express (PCIe®) interconnect architecture “outside the box.” Cables using the PCIe technology will be used for external applications, as well as applications internal to an enclosure that need a cable connection. The PCIe External Cabling specification provides guidelines for a practical cable length, but does not currently set a maximum cable distance. The new specification creates new opportunities for the application of the PCIe architecture to innovative platform topologies, allowing developers to leverage the existing and broad PCIe ecosystem.

The PCI Express External Cabling specification establishes a standard method of using PCIe technology over a cable by defining cable connectors, copper cabling attributes and electrical characteristics, connector retention, identification and labeling. It conforms to the PCIe 1.1 Base and electro-mechanical specifications, enabling high data rates between PCIe subsystems. Standard cables and connectors have been defined for x1, x4, x8, and x16 link widths. Sideband signaling is provided via the cable to attain compatibility with existing silicon and software; this leverages existing software and infrastructure, provides ease-of-use and helps accelerate adoption of the technology.

“This specification helps the industry create new products that will take PCIe technology out of the box – enabling PCIe solutions for IO expansion drawers, external graphics processors, tethered mobile docking, communications equipment and embedded applications,” said Al Yanes, PCI-SIG chairman and president. “With the large market PCI Express has achieved since its introduction in 2002, this is a great opportunity for OEMs to take products to new levels with PCIe technology.”

The new cabling specification currently supports signaling rates of 2.5GT/s. In the future, PCI-SIG expects to continue to advance the cabling technology by providing new enhancements and foresees support for 5.0GT/s signaling rates.

The PCIe Cabling specification is available for download at
http://www.pcisig.com/specifications/pciexpress/pcie_cabling1.0/.

About PCI-SIG

PCI-SIG is the Special Interest Group that owns and manages PCI specifications as open industry standards. The organization defines and implements new industry standard I/O (Input/Output) specifications as the industry's local I/O needs evolve. The PCI Special Interest Group was formed in 1992, and the organization became a nonprofit corporation, officially named "PCI-SIG" in the year 2000. Currently, more than 850 industry-leading companies worldwide are active PCI-SIG members. PCI-SIG's current directors are employed by the following PCI-SIG member companies: AMD, Broadcom, HP, IBM, Intel, LSI Logic, Microsoft and nVIDIA. For more information about PCI-SIG, and PCI-SIG membership benefits, contact PCI-SIG by phone, at 503-619-0569, or by fax at 503-644-6708, or visit the PCI-SIG web site at: www.pcisig.com.

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