Press Release

Low-power AS3993 from ams provides UHF Gen 2 RFID reader capability for new handheld computers from Intermec

Intermec selects AS3993 because of its impressive receive sensitivity, 65mA operation and new low-power architecture

Unterpremstaetten, Austria (February 20, 2013). ams AG (SIX: AMS), a manufacturer of high-performance analog ICs and sensors for consumer, industrial and automotive applications, today announced that Intermec (www.intermec.com) has embedded the AS3993 UHF reader in its 70 Series of rugged, handheld computers.

Intermec is a successful manufacturer of data-capture devices such as scanners, barcode readers and handheld computers for use in the logistics, transportation, retail and industrial sectors. The 70 Series, which includes the CN70 RFID, CN70e RFID and CK70 RFID, is a family of ultra-rugged handheld computers designed for use by couriers, shopworkers and inventory handlers. The benefits of the products include excellent data-capture capabilities and long battery life.

These requirements are perfectly supported by the AS3993, an EPC Class 1 Gen 2 RFID reader designed for mobile, space-constrained or embedded applications. Packaged in a small QFN48 7mm x 7mm package, the device offers impressive radio performance, providing a high 20dBm output power from an internal power amplifier (PA) or highly linear 0dBm output for operation with an external PA. Its selectable sensitivity of -90dBm supports the use of small, embedded antennas while maintaining excellent read capability in the presence of antenna reflections and a self-jammer.

In the AS3993, this high performance is combined with low power consumption and low-voltage operation, helping to extend battery life. Unlike competing UHF RFID readers which implement their protocol handling in digital or software, the AS3993 is an all-analog design that uses far less power than rival DSP-based architectures. Power specifications for the AS3993 include operation at a power supply as low as 2.7V, and a 65mA current requirement.

‘We are excited to work with Intermec because this application pushes the envelope of high performance and low power,’ said Mark Dickson, Senior Marketing Manager (Wireless) at ams. ‘Intermec is an industry leader, and by taking full advantage of the performance benefits of the AS3993, it has created an outstanding new range of handheld computers with RFID capability.’

Price & Availability

The AS3993 UHF RFID reader is available for sampling now. It is priced at $35.00 for 1,000 pieces.

Technical Support

A demonstration board for the AS3993 is available. For further information on the AS3993 or to request samples, please visit www.ams.com/RF-Products/RFID/AS3993.

about ams

ams develops and manufactures high-performance analog semiconductors that solve its customers' most challenging problems with innovative solutions. ams' products are aimed at applications which require extreme precision, accuracy, dynamic range, sensitivity, and ultra-low power consumption. ams' product range includes sensors, sensor interfaces, power management ICs and wireless ICs for customers in the consumer, industrial, medical, mobile communications and automotive markets.

With headquarters in Austria, ams employs over 1,200 people globally and serves more than 6,500 customers worldwide. ams is the new name of austriamicrosystems, following the 2011 acquisition of optical sensor company TAOS Inc. ams is listed on the SIX Swiss stock exchange (ticker symbol: AMS). More information about ams can be found at www.ams.com.

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