FTDI Chip Unveils Daughter Cards Supporting its Arduino-Compatible EVE Development Boards

Enabling a more expansive choice of connectivity options to be utilized

Following on from the release of its VM800P development platforms, which facilitate more advanced human machine interface (HMI) implementation using its innovative Embedded Video Engine (EVE) technology, FTDI Chip has introduced a series of accompanying daughter cards (or shields).

The Arduino-compatible VM800P 'PLUS boards' are based on the company's award winning FT800 EVE graphic controller devices, in which display, audio and touch functionality are all integrated onto a single chip. The boards also incorporate an 8-bit ATMEGA microcontroller unit (MCU) and a TFT display (with 3.5", 4.3" and 5.0" inch sizes available). The 6 new daughter cards will allow the expansion of the boards' I/O capabilities in order that they can be implemented into a wider range of application scenarios. They use 1 or 2 Micro-MaTch miniature connectors to interface with a VM800P.

The VI800A_TTLU is a plug-in accessory for the PLUS boards which enables inclusion of a TTL level UART. This daughter card behaves as an SPI-to-UART bridging mechanism. It is complemented by the VI800A_RELAY, which effectively acts as an SPI-to-relay bridge for PLUS boards, with the SPI slave interface converted into a relay interface. The VI800A-ETH allows an external Ethernet interface to be connected and the VI800A_PoE enables Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) functionality to be benefitted from. The VI800A N485U behaves as a SPI-to-RS485 bridge with the VI800A_232U behaving as an SPI-to-RS232 bridge – thereby allowing interfacing with legacy equipment.

"Our PLUS boards merge together the familiarity of Arduino and the ground-breaking technology of EVE, with its novel object-oriented approach to HMI implementation. Now, with the addition of these daughter cards, there are greater opportunities for more comprehensive external interfacing and a higher degree of control. This will unlock the true potential of EVE deployment in all manner of exciting new application environments," states Paul Huang, Display Product Line Manager at FTDI Chip.

The VI800A_TTLU, VI800A-ETH, VI800A_PoE, VI800A N485U and VI800A_232U each have a form factor of 63.50mm x 37.50mm, while the VI800A_RELAY has dimensions of 68.90mm x 48.75mm. For more information on these products visit: http://www.ftdichip.com/EVE.htm

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About FTDI Chip
FTDI Chip develops innovative silicon solutions that enhance interaction with today's technology. Through application of its "Design Made Easy" ethos, the company is able to support engineers with highly sophisticated, feature-rich, robust and simple-to-use product platforms. These enable creation of electronic designs with higher performance, fewer peripheral components, lower power budgets and diminished board real estate.

FTDI Chip's long-established, continuously expanding Universal Serial Bus (USB) product line boasts such universally recognized product brands as the ubiquitous R-Chip, X-Chip, Vinculum, and H-series. As well as host and bridge chips, it includes highly-integrated system solutions with built-in microcontroller functionality. The company's Embedded Video Engine (EVE) graphic controllers each pack display, audio and touch functionality onto a single chip. The unique, more streamlined approach utilised by these ICs allows dramatic reductions in the development time and bill-of-materials costs involved in next generation Human Machine Interfaces (HMIs) implementation. FTDI Chip also provides families of highly differentiated, speed-optimised microcontrollers with augmented connectivity features. These application oriented controllers (AOCs) are targeted at key areas where they add value via their elevated processing performance and increased operational efficiency.

FTDI Chip is a fab-less semiconductor company, partnered with the world's leading foundries. The company is headquartered in Glasgow, UK, with research and development facilities located in Glasgow, Singapore and Taipei (Taiwan), plus regional sales and technical support sites in Glasgow, Taipei, Portland (Oregon, USA) and Shanghai (China).

For more information go to http://www.ftdichip.com

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