Feature-Packed Arduino-Compatible Display System Development Solutions

Integrating display, audio & touch capabilities coupled with microcontroller functionality to faciltate superior HMI construction

7th May 2014 - FTDI Chip further expands its range of products supporting those working with the company's award-winning Embedded Video Engine (EVE) technology, by introducing a series of easy to use Arduino-compatible development platforms. The VM800P series (where P signifies PLUS) is a unique offering which furnishes engineers with everything necessary to implement more effective human machine interfaces (HMIs) – including not only display, audio and touch elements, but data processing aspects too. These units can be programmed via the Arduino IDE (using a pre-programmed Arduino-compatible bootloader), thereby taking advantage of the popularity that this open source development ecosystem now has amongst the global electronic engineering community. In addition, over 50 EVE sample applications are provided, categorised into basic, intermediate and advanced levels. These include straight forward gauges and keyboards through to white goods/industrial controls.

With comprehensive support for various Arduino libraries provided, every VM800P incorporates an FTDI Chip FT800 EVE graphic controller IC and its FT232R USB interface IC, as well as an ATMEGA328P 8-bit RISC-based microcontroller (running at 16MHz). Also featured are a touch-enabled display

LCD panel, a backlight LED driver and an audio power amplifier along with a micro speaker. A choice of 3.5-inch, 4.3-inch and 5.0-inch display formats is available, replete with precision fitted bezels that help to ensure continued operation even in uncompromising industrial application settings.

On top of the array of other items included, all VM800P units have a USB serial port for firmware upload and application communication, a battery-backed real time clock (RTC) for carrying out system timing and a micro-SD socket which is complemented by a 4GByte SD card containing the pre-loaded sample applications. These Arduino-compatible display system development platforms run off a standard 5V which can be delivered via a micro-USB cable or directly from an external supply.

“The impact of the Arduino phenomenon has been far reaching. It presents engineers with a powerful and extremely flexible foundation on which to create exciting new design implementations and now we are harnessing this in relation to our EVE technology,” states Paul Huang, Display Product Line Manager at FTDI Chip. “With the VM800P series, we are bringing to market something far more impressive than simple development boards. These PLUS boards are able to give engineers much more. They are complete stand-alone display sub-systems based on Arduino with all the attributes necessary to create game-changing HMIs - from the initial conception phase right through to final deployment. They can be utilised solely for development purposes or alternatively they will be easy for engineering teams to integrate into end product designs if this is preferred.”

Unit pricing for the VM800P series begins at $89.00. Arduino libraries, software and support documentation are provided free of charge. For more information on these products visit:

http://www.ftdichip.com/Products/Modules/VM800P.html

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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