

Daily Briefing:

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News Snippets

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BAE and DARPA "SWaP" in Tadiran batteries



It's "out with the old, in with the new" for DARPA's Optically Directed Attack Munitions (ODAM) program, which trades in its 60 mm mortars for a new guided munitions system featuring CR2-sized batteries. Accordingly, prime contractor BAE Systems selected Tadiran Batteries' TLM-1530HP lithium batteries for ODA because they meet program SWaP requirements, beating out the limited-shelf-life 3.0 V CR2 cells typically found in consumer cameras. Tadiran's TLM-1530 has a 20-year shelf life, handles up to 6.5 A pulses, features a maximum continuous load of 2.5 A, and operates from -40 °C to +85 °C.

Now ... how do we do this again?

Apparently the Joint Program Executive Office (JPEO) recognized a need for "JTRS" (Joint Tactical Radio System) to stand for something closer to "Just The Right Size." Accordingly, PrismTech and other SDR industry experts recently converged to help define guidelines for the DoD's waveform portability program, giving the industry a clarified procedure and strategy. The goal is to increase JTRS waveform portability and enhance the program overall, and the revised guidelines are scheduled for release in Q4 07.

GE Fanuc goes ballistic

Our "men in blue" around the globe are about to get more support from GE Fanuc Embedded Systems ... or at least their engineering staffs will, according to GE's recent announcement of its newly created Naval Systems Engineering Group. In addition to the obvious, the group also provides LEAP ballistic prediction and systems interfacing, along with ballistics assessments using tools such as the Dynamic Gun Alignment and Analysis System (DGAAS) and the VTMS and LCASS NGS systems.

SDRF Forum gets a fresh start



There's nothing like a new beginning ... especially for 20-year industry veteran Lee Pucker, who was recently named the SDRF's "consulting CEO." In his two-year contract position, Pucker helps drive strategic plan development, guides Forum officers in their new strategic direction, and oversees Forum financial matters. Pucker's most recent position was as CTO and VP for corporate development at SDRF member Spectrum Signal Processing, and he is presently forming his own ForwardLink Consulting firm. Previous engineering experience includes positions at Computer Sciences/Nichols Research and the U.S. DoD, among others.

Then two became one

Some say two (companies) are better than one, but now VMETRO and Micro Memory are refuting that notion with the former's recent acquisition of the latter. The move is touted to blend VMETRO's presence worldwide – and its two design centers in Europe – with Micro Memory's U.S.-based design center and customers. The result: VMETRO gains more opportunities to participate in U.S. ITAR-regulated programs. The acquisition also serves as VMETRO's gateway into a new market sector through Micro Memory's SSD Umem NVRAM cards, primarily used by Tier I/II OEMS in the enterprise network storage segment.

BiTMICRO: Show me the money



While SSD's internal architecture won't be turning round and round anytime soon, the wheel of fortune is ... at least for SSD manufacturer BiTMICRO. The company recently completed Series F funding of \$9.3 million via Woodside Investments LP's investor team. The money is slated to "ramp production, sales, and marketing operations" and to support R&D initiatives to design next-gen, flash-based E-Disk SSDs (pictured) and semiconductor storage technology. BiTMICRO's total private funding now totals \$31.4 million.

Making a "CASE" for safety-critical software

Software tools vendor AdaCore isn't saying "c'est la vie" to the military's challenge of finding an open-source development environment to produce safety-critical embedded software with a 10- to 30-year lifespan. Instead, the company has just signed on to the Toolkit in Open Source for Critical Applications & System Development (TOPCASED) project, an open-source consortium comprising scientific, academic, and commercial partners hoping to remedy the problem. AdaCore's primary effort is to provide an Eclipse-based development environment to TOPCASED, which is funded in part by the French General Business Directorate.