

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **First Shipments of Advanced Microcontroller to Customers**

Beaverton, OR - November 28, 2005 -- Elba Corporation announced the first shipments of a powerful new microcontroller intended for use by scientists, engineers, experimenters and hobbyists. The ZX-24 is a ready-to-use microcontroller that is programmed in ZBasic, a subset of Microsoft's Visual Basic (VB6) with microcontroller-specific extensions and other productivity enhancements.

The new microcontroller is pin-compatible with the venerable Basic Stamp (Parallax Inc.), providing an excellent upgrade path for applications that have outgrown the Stamp's resources. Additionally, the ZX-24 is both pin-compatible and source code-compatible with the innovative BX-24 (Netmedia, Inc.) while offering substantially better performance including twice the execution speed and over 3 times as much available RAM space. Other improvements relative to the BX-24 include up to 5 simultaneous full duplex serial channels, full support for popular device interface protocols like I2C and 1-Wire, and field-upgradeable firmware.

The ZBasic programming language is a superset of NetMedia's BasicX language, providing many advanced capabilities that help programmers write correct code more quickly. The compiler can detect common programming defects such as use of a variable before its initialization and other likely errors. The ZBasic compiler incorporates advanced optimization techniques that help programmers pack more functionality into the available code and data spaces by, for example, eliminating unused or superfluous variables and unreachable code.

Programs for the ZX-24 may be edited and compiled using a state-of-the-art Integrated Development Environment. The ZBasic IDE, based on an open-source programmer's editor, provides productivity-enhancing features such as word completion, call tips, auto-indenting, syntax highlighting and undo/redo. The IDE can also be used to perform field updates of the ZX-24's internal firmware, making it simple for customers to upgrade to new releases as they become available.

More information and a free download of the compiler, IDE and documentation are available at <http://www.zbasic.net>.

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