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Native Mode ZX Microcontroller Released

Beaverton, OR – April 03, 2008 -- Elba Corporation announced today the first shipments of the newest member of the powerful multi-tasking ZX microcontroller family intended for use by scientists, engineers, experimenters and hobbyists. The new ZX-24n is a 24-pin “stamp format” device that offers performance enhancements and additional programming features compared to the company’s ZX-24 and ZX-24a microcontrollers. All ZX-series microcontrollers are programmed in ZBasic, a subset of Microsoft’s Visual Basic (VB6) with microcontroller-specific extensions and other productivity enhancements.

The ZX-24n is the first in a planned series of devices that operate in “native” mode, meaning that the user’s ZBasic program is compiled to native machine code for the underlying microcontroller, in this case the Atmel ATmega644P MCU. This is in contrast to the previously released ZX family members that use the “virtual machine” model (also known as the interpreter model). According to Donald Kinzer, president of Elba Corp., “the native mode devices run applications faster and allow programmers ultimate control over the device while still benefiting from the ease of use of the ZBasic language.” The new ZX-24n is largely source code compatible with the previously released ZX family members - the ZX-24, ZX-24a, ZX-40, ZX-40a, ZX-44, ZX-44a, ZX-1281 and the ZX-1280.

The single unit pricing of the ZX-24n is \$59.95. Volume pricing is available.

The ZBasic programming language is a subset of Microsoft’s Visual Basic (VB6) language with extensions suitable for microcontroller programming. The ZBasic compiler can detect common programming defects such as use of a variable before its initialization and other likely errors. The 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-24n may be edited, compiled and downloaded using a state-of-the-art Integrated Development Environment. The ZBasic IDE provides productivity-enhancing features such as word completion, call tips, auto-indenting, syntax highlighting and undo/redo.

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

ZBasic, ZX-24, ZX-24a, ZX-24n, ZX-40, ZX-40a, ZX-40n, ZX-44, ZX-44a, ZX-44n, ZX-1281, ZX-1280 and Elba are trademarks of Elba Corp. Other product or service names mentioned herein are trademarks of their respective owners.