

Smart Battery System IF

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News Release

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EVALUATION VERSION OF NEW SMBUS DRIVER TO BE GIVEN AWAY AT SBS-IF DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK IN PALM SPRINGS

New York, NY. – February 1, 2000 - The Smart Battery System Implementers Forum (SBS-IF), announced today that an evaluation version of the new system management bus (SMBus) driver will be distributed to conference attendees at the SBS-IF Developers Conference.

The 3rd Annual SBS-IF Developers Conference, sponsored by the SBS-IF and Portable Design Magazine is being held February 9 – 11, 2000 at the Hyatt Regency Suites in Palm Springs, California. Hosted by USAR – A Semtech Company, the conference will cover such topics as integrating the OS with the SBS, the use of SMBus on various platforms, Smart Battery safety and accuracy, and methods for proper Smart Battery management. Hideo Takeshita, Vice President of the Institute of Information Technology, will also give an overview of the Smart Battery Market. Members of the SBS-IF receive the evaluation driver copy in partial consideration for their membership dues. Non-members receive the evaluation driver in partial consideration for their conference registration fee.

Developed jointly by the SBS-IF, Fujitsu Ltd., Intel Corporation, O2 Micro, and USAR, the SMBus driver was announced last fall and has completed beta testing. The new SBS-IF SMBus driver works with both Windows 98* and Windows 2000*. It uses the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) to allow access to multiple SMBus branches connected to chipsets, to ACPI embedded controllers or other types of SMBus host controllers. Because of its versatility, this new driver will help OEMs take full advantage of the benefits of SMBus.

SMBus is a widely adopted system control bus used by both desktop and mobile platforms. It is used by many system management devices, including thermal sensors, fan sensors, contrast/backlight control, voltage switches, volume control, etc. SMBus is also used in smart battery subsystems (smart batteries contain circuitry to manage battery safety and to maximize computer run time).

The SBS-IF SMBus driver supports the Windows 2000 SMBus IOCTL interface documented in the Microsoft Windows 2000* Driver Development Kit (DDK).

For more information on the SBS-IF SMBus driver, Smart Battery System specifications, how to join the SBS-IF or details on the Developers Conference and Interoperability Workshop, please visit the Forum's web site at <http://www.sbs-if.org>.