



News Release

CONTACT: David A. Dickstein
Intel Corporation
(916) 356-2211; (916) 719-6173 (mobile)
david.a.dickstein@intel.com

SERIAL ATA MILESTONES ACHIEVED WITH TWO COMPLETED SPECS

Second-Generation Signaling Speed of 3Gbps Doubled

INTEL DEVELOPER FORUM, Barcelona, Spain, April 20, 2004 – The Serial ATA Working Group announced today two specification development milestones at the Intel Developer Forum here. One centers on the second-generation speed for Serial ATA, the other on the CabCon Volume 2 release candidate completion.

The specification for the second generation Serial ATA signaling speed – 3Gbps – has been completed and the release candidate of that specification has started its ratification process. The second-generation speed equates to a peak transfer rate of 300MB/s. The second generation speed is double that of the first-generation Serial ATA speed which is 1.5Gbps (150MB/s).

A scattering of Serial ATA products supporting 3Gbps signaling speeds have already been announced. Once the ratification process is complete in about 60 days, those products that comply with the spec can be marketed as 3Gbps Serial ATA products.

Among the features of the enhanced technology is that no new cables and connectors are required to support the higher signaling speeds. They support both the 1.5Gbps and 3.0Gbps speeds because the original Serial ATA specification proactively defined the cables and connectors to support the higher signaling speeds anticipated for the second-generation speed.

In addition to the speed doubling for the internal phy definition provided in the SATA 1.0 specification, the new phy specification also defines a higher-power version of the phy for longer-haul datacenter use. The datacenter phy version defined in the specification only impacts box-to-box applications (not used as a direct disk drive connection) and has been defined to match the electrical parameters for the SAS phy.

-- more --

Also announced at IDF was that Volume 2 of the cables and connectors specification defining new cable and connector variants has been completed and the release candidate of that specification has started its ratification process.

Volume 2 of the cables and connectors specification adds several new cabling options :

- An internal multi-lane cable and connector assembly for streamlining connections between multiple internal host ports and internal devices or short backplane.
- An external consumer cable and connector solution that accommodates use of Serial ATA with external storage devices.
- External multi-lane datacenter cable and connector solution for connecting multiple Serial ATA channels between chassis in a datacenter.

Products based on the new cable and connector ingredients are expected to appear by the end of the year.

About the Serial ATA Working Group

The Serial ATA Working Group comprises the Serial ATA 1.0 Working Group and the Serial ATA II Working Group. The former organization was established in February 2000 to specify Serial ATA for desktop applications. Membership includes promoter group companies Dell, Intel Corporation, Maxtor, Seagate and Vitesse. The Serial ATA II Working Group was formed in February 2002 to further address the needs of servers and networked storage market segments and specify next generation transfer speeds. Visit www.serialata.org for more information.