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For Immediate Release

TASKING M16C Software Development Toolset First to Support Object-Oriented Programming

C++/EC++ and Flash tool integrated into EDE

SYDNEY, Australia – September 4, 2001 – Altium Limited (ASX: ALU) is pleased to announce that TASKING, its industry-leading brand of tools for embedded software development, delivers extended compiler and flash capabilities in the latest release of the M16C toolset. Focused on enabling the developer to take full advantage of the M16C architecture, the TASKING M16C Software Development Toolset V2.1 provides compiler optimization, language error-checking and ease-of-use features that set it apart as the leading software development solution for developers using the Mitsubishi Electric M16C 16-bit microcontroller.

These capabilities, along with an improved integrated development environment, enable developers to produce high-quality code and meet the time-to-market requirements of today's computer, communications and internet-enabled sectors. By combining the TASKING toolset with the M16C Starter Kit Plus microcontroller evaluation products from Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc., customers can quickly evaluate multiple microcontrollers and system-level performance, as well as enjoying access to reference designs and ready-made prototype hardware.

For applications where footprint is critical but the power of C++ object-oriented design is needed, EC++ (Embedded C++) support maintains C++ functionality while eliminating application overhead. Through a simple dialog in EDE, the developer can scale C++ for efficiency and select features to enforce more stringent coding.

Using configurable C language error-checking that adheres to the MISRA C guidelines, TASKING M16C developers can prevent the use of error-prone C-constructs. With these safety checks in place, developers can improve the code reliability and ease the documentation of safety-sensitive applications.

By combining MISRA C's stringent error checking with the fine-tuned checking of the CrossView Pro debugger, a software design team has all the tools needed to develop robust, highly reliable code.

Given the prevalent use of flash memory in embedded designs, the TASKING M16C Flasher, an easy-to-use flash programming tool, simplifies development, speeding time to market. The Embedded Development Environment (EDE) now includes the Flasher which interacts with the standard Mitsubishi Electric flash tool available on-chip, allowing developers to directly flash a Motorola S-Record file into the chip via one single user interface

"TASKING continues to improve the ease-of-use of its M16C Software Development Toolset with this latest release", said Richard Sessions, director of embedded systems for Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc. "This suite promises to make C++ flash memory coding significantly easier and faster, leveraging the ease of use and C code efficiency of our powerful line of M16C 16-bit embedded processors."

Using C++ and EC++, developers gain the power of object-oriented programming without the overhead. Compiler optimizations and flash coding exploit the high performance strengths of the M16C architecture. With continued compiler enhancements, code checking and emphasis on ease-of-use, the TASKING M16C Software Development Toolset enables developers to reduce both application development and maintenance time.

Availability

The TASKING M16C Software Development Toolset V2.1, now available on MS-Windows, Sun/Solaris, HP/UX and PC/Linux, starts at \$2,790 for the C compiler and CrossView Pro simulator package. M16C customers with an active maintenance contract may upgrade to this release free of charge. A demo version of the toolset is available from <http://www.tasking.com/M16C/> or on CD-ROM from any of the Altium Sales Offices or distributors. Release notes and manual files can be downloaded from the technical support area at <http://www.tasking.com/support/M16C/>.

About Altium Limited

Altium Limited (ASX: ALU), trading as Protel International Limited (ASX: PRI) prior to August 6, 2001, is a leading global developer and supplier of desktop electronic design automation (EDA) and embedded software design tools for the Microsoft Windows environment.

Since the Company's foundation in 1985 and its release of the world's first Microsoft Windows-based EDA tool in 1991, Altium has continued to apply the most advanced software design methods to provide powerful, easy-to-use and affordable design software to engineers and electronics designers worldwide.

Altium's current product brands include Protel, P-CAD, TASKING, Accolade, CircuitMaker and CAMtastic!. These products offer tailored solutions covering a range of hardware and software design processes.

Altium is headquartered in Sydney, Australia, and operates a number of sales and support offices in Australia, the United States, Japan and Europe – as well as maintaining a large reseller network in all other major markets. More information about the Company and its products and services may be obtained from our new website at <http://www.altium.com>.

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