For Immediate Release

e-con Systems Inc.
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e-con Systems Announces Android Support for its Camera Daughter Boards

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e-con Systems announces its Android camera driver for its e-CAM50_OMAP35x camera add-on board as it interfaces with OMAP evaluation board housing OV5642 camera sensor. e-CAM50_OMAP35x connects to the high speed CMOS sensor interface of the TI OMAP35x offering tremendous processing power through the superscalar ARM Cortex-A8 core running at 600MHz, says e-con.

e-con has developed a camera driver and integrated it to the camera subsystem of Android offering a better picture quality and perfect lossless compression with a super fine image quality that can be stored on the SD card on a less memory space involving best quality in the process of compression. Android has much to offer for developers in embedded applications beyond phones. Most of today's embedded devices share several attributes with phones: small form-factor LCD/touch screens, rich GUIs, low-power processors, broad connectivity options (cellular, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc), battery operation, etc.

"By integrating our standard V4L2 Linux camera driver with Android Camera HAL layer, e-con is proud to offer complete ready-to-use camera solution for our Android customers", said Ashok Babu, President, e-con Systems. "This allows our Android customers to use the default camera application of Android as it is, and removes a significant amount of effort in developing custom camera application using V4L2 APIs, thereby reducing the time-to-market", he added.

Fig: Image Capture Demo on Android

Android's camera subsystem connects the camera application to the application framework and user space libraries, which in turn communicate with the camera hardware layer that operates the physical camera. By integrating the e-con Linux camera driver onto Android, e-con has enabled Android camera application to take advantage of the camera hardware and use all the features of the camera application provided in FroYo Distribution. Allowing OEMs to realize their Android-based designs with e-con's technical expertise on camera development in relation to optimized framework for the OMAP35x based devices.

About Android

Android was first released by Google in November 2007, as an OS targeted at smart phones. Its success has been phenomenal in less than three years becoming the most popular OS for smart phones, currently shipping on almost half of these phones worldwide. Android phones are shipping at a rate of almost 100 million per year. Applications are generally written in Java and processed with the standard Java tools with a converter being used to translate to the Dalvik VM bytecodes.

Choosing Android as an OS for embedded devices will provide tens of millions of handsets run essentially the same Android stack, allowing access to huge pools of users finding bugs, and a large developer community dedicated to fixing them. While Android can't match the reliability of lighter-weight purpose-built operating systems, it is a thoroughly-debugged system as compared to stitching together a Linux stack from scratch. In addition, more than 100,000 applications are currently available for Android and many of these applications ease and speed development. That said, Android development is not overly complex and a large pool of developers can support Android.

Availability

e-CAM50_OMAP35x development kit is currently available and customers who would want to evaluate the Android driver, can choose to buy the e-CAM50_OMAP35x development kit from the website. More information regarding the development kit is on e-con's website.

About e-con Systems

e-con Systems, is an embedded product design and development company offering services like Hardware Design, Firmware design / Embedded Software development, Board Design with Board Support Packages in various product domains such as Wired/Wireless Networking, Consumer Appliances, Process Control Applications, Video streaming, Bio-metric security etc. with OS focus on Android, Linux, Windows Embedded CE and Windows Mobile.

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With a passion of "Productizing ideas", e-con realizes the concept of customers into final products and so far has developed Industrial data loggers, handheld platforms like Digital signage, Industrial Controllers, HD Camera solutions, Point of Sale terminals and Reference platforms with Windows CE Operating System.

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