

News Release

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PCMCIA's ExpressCard I/O Expansion Standard Now Available to Product Developers

ExpressCard Momentum Builds as PCMCIA Membership Grows

INTEL DEVELOPER FORUM CONFERENCE, San Jose, Calif., Feb. 17, 2004 – PCMCIA, a leading technology trade association, today announced that its ExpressCard™ standard (version 1.0) is now available to product developers for purchase through www.expresscard.org. Developed by leading computer, PC card and connector companies, the new ExpressCard standard is the next step in high-performance, modular expansion for desktop and mobile systems.

In addition, PCMCIA announced that almost 40 companies have joined the ExpressCard initiative since it was officially announced last spring. Current members include Dell, HP, IBM, Intel, Lexar Media, Microsoft, SCM Microsystems and Texas Instruments.

“The computer, PC Card and connector industries continue to embrace ExpressCard technology, the next evolution in easy-to-use modular expansion for a wide variety of systems,” said Brad Saunders of Intel Corporation and chairman of the PCMCIA. “We are making the specification generally available as a way to ease the transition to ExpressCard in the development of both desktop and mobile systems. The strong, widespread industry support is good news for consumers, who should see ExpressCard-compliant systems in mobile and desktop systems by the end of the year.”

Copies of the specification can be ordered at www.expresscard.org for \$349, with a one volume credit toward PCMCIA membership good for 180 days. The standard is available to members at no charge. Companies can join the association at www.pcmcia.org.

(more)

ExpressCard supports sealed-box expandability in both desktops and notebook systems. By simply inserting an ExpressCard module into a compliant desktop or notebook computer or other system, consumers will be able to add memory, communications and security technology. ExpressCard technology supports faster performance, hot plug-n-play and auto-configuration. ExpressCard modules are roughly half the size of today's PC Card modules.

The ExpressCard interface supports both the PCI Express* architecture and Universal Serial Bus (USB)* 2.0 standards in a single slot. ExpressCard modules will be available in two sizes: 34mm x 75mm and 54mm x 75mm. Both modules are 5mm high. Host systems can provide any combination of slots for either module width.

PC Card technology allows users to connect media and new hardware capabilities to computers and other communications and consumer electronics devices. Examples are: memory cards, wired and wireless communications hardware, security devices and emerging applications that were not available when the system was purchased. More than 95 percent of all notebook computers use PC card technology for expansion.

About PCMCIA

PCMCIA is a non-profit trade association founded in 1989 to establish technical standards for PC Card technology and to promote interchangeability among computer systems. Already a feature in almost every notebook and palmtop computer, PC Card technology empowers users to configure systems and create unique, integrated solutions to meet their computing needs. Based in San Jose, California, the association has approximately 100 member companies worldwide. The PCMCIA also has a specification development and co-publishing relationship with the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) covering PC Card and Smart Media technologies.

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Editor's Note: Photos and graphics available at www.expresscard.org.