



What is the PC/104 Embedded Consortium?

By Jeff Milde

In 1992, 12 companies established the PC/104 Embedded Consortium to maintain and develop PC/104 technology and markets. Embedded systems designers have been enjoying the benefits of the PC/104 standard ever since. The PC/104 Embedded Consortium is dedicated to promoting the development and use of the PC/104 and PC/104-Plus architecture.

The PC/104 Embedded Consortium's purpose is to establish PC/104 as a broadly supported industry standard architecture for embedded PC applications. The PC/104 Embedded Consortium maintains the PC/104 Specification and other PC/104-related documents and engages in a variety of PC/104 public relations activities. Consortium membership is open to companies that offer or use PC/104 modules, or target PC/104 applications with their products.

Online services

The PC/104 Embedded Consortium provides two FREE services for those seeking specific products or with technical questions regarding PC/104 technology.

- Online resource guide: This guide is a searchable database of Consortium member companies and their products. This database is updated regularly by Consortium members and provides useful information for those searching for PC/104 products.
- Technical requests: Individuals can use the Technical Request Form to get quick and thorough responses to their technical questions from industry experts.

Specifications

In addition to maintaining both the PC/104 and PC/104-Plus specifications, the Consortium has released an additional specification – PCI-104.

PCI-104, recently accepted by the membership, is identical to the popular PC/104-Plus combined ISA + PCI embedded standard except that the PC/104 ISA expansion connector is removed. By eliminating the large ISA bus connector, PCI-104 yields an additional 10 percent of board area for larger CPU chipsets, and higher levels of integration and/or I/O connectors. The PCI-104 specification still maintains the small 3.550" x 3.775" size, rugged design, and self-stacking architecture for embedded applications set by the PC/104 and PC/104-Plus standards.

Embedded design contest

For the second year the Consortium is holding its PC/104 design contest to encourage PC/104 users to showcase their applications and to recognize those who are designing creative products based on PC/104 or PC/104-Plus technology.

Designers submitted entries this year in three categories:

1. Commercial for industrial/medical/transportation/other
2. Commercial for military/aerospace/COTS
3. Research project

Winners will be announced at the Embedded Systems Conference in San Francisco on March 31, 2004. Winning projects will be on display at the conference and presented to the press. The designers will be recognized at an Awards Ceremony to be held in their honor.

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2004
Time: 10:00 AM (PST)
Location: Room 250, Moscone Convention Center
San Francisco, CA

Communications

The Consortium uses three main communication tools to keep in contact with members on a regular basis.

- E-News: An electronic monthly publication that includes organizational updates and opportunities available to members and nonmembers alike
- Members-only updates: An electronic publication that provides the latest announcements and opportunities available to members only
- Web site: www.pc104.org – Serves as the portal of communication and knowledge for users

Trade shows

The PC/104 Consortium works hard to promote PC/104 technology in the industry. Each year the Consortium participates in the Embedded Systems Conference in San Francisco. This year, as in years past, the Consortium will be there in full force working on generating booth traffic for all members exhibiting at this show and encourages them to visit the Consortium booth. The booth will be open to visitors at:

Date: March 29 – April 1, 2004
Booth No.: 640
Location: Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA

Annual Consortium meeting

Each year the board of directors holds a general membership meeting, usually at the Embedded Systems Conference in San Francisco. The annual meeting of the membership is open to all members, press, and guests. The focus and the direction of the PC/104 Consortium are discussed at this meeting. This year's meeting time and location are:

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2004
Time: 11:00 AM (PST)
Location: Room 250, Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA

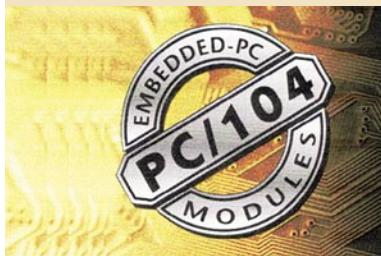
Members

Members of the Consortium enjoy a variety of benefits depending on their level of involvement. Currently, there are four membership categories. The membership categories and their general benefits are:

- Executive member: Seat on the board of directors, voting member, participates in all marketing efforts, can use the PC/104 logo, and receives all communications
- Associate member: Can elect one associate member representative to the board of directors, voting member, participates in all marketing efforts, can use the PC/104 logo, and receives all communications
- Affiliate member: Participates in all marketing efforts, can use the PC/104 logo, and receives all communications
- Observer: Receives all communications

Recently benefits for both the executive and associate member levels have changed. Visit the Consortium Web site at www.pc104.org for a complete list of benefits.

To learn more about the PC/104 Embedded Consortium, contact:



PC/104 Embedded Consortium

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