



NPE Delivers Low Power Wi-Fi Sensor Network Module powered by GainSpan

NPE's WiFi-IT! module, supported by simple high-level programming environment, allows very quick development of applications on embedded processor

LOS GATOS, Calif., and MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., -- October 5, 2009 -- North Pole Engineering, Inc. (NPE) and GainSpan® Corporation announced the release of the first module in NPE's new low-power Wi-Fi sensor networks product line. The low-cost, 802.11 b/g compatible WiFi-IT! module is based on GainSpan's GS1010 system-on-chip, the most highly integrated, low power Wi-Fi single chip solution available today. The years-long battery life and high level of system integration provided by GainSpan, combined with the advanced software of NPE that allows manufacturers to easily develop their own applications on the embedded processor of the GS1010, makes the WiFi-IT! module the ideal solution for manufacturers wishing to integrate Wi-Fi connectivity into their sensor network solutions.

"The low-power consumption, multiple interfaces, and high degree of system integration of GainSpan's system-on-chip enabled us to deliver an advanced hardware and software platform that allows engineers to easily integrate Wi-Fi capability into their embedded products," said Joe Meyer, president of North Pole Engineering.

"The platform NPE developed using the GS1010 significantly reduces the development time of embedded products." said Vijay Parmar, CEO of GainSpan. "Designers can write code in Basic language with no knowledge of the underlying processor."

NPE's WiFi-IT! module accelerates product development with a powerful hardware and software platform that cuts costs and makes retrofitting existing equipment with WiFi capability extremely easy, allowing product engineers to choose from the many available interfaces, including UART, SPI, I2C, digital and analog, to directly connect to existing equipment. WiFi-IT!'s reporting engine and the manufacturer's equipment is configurable on-the-air and easily accessible through a virtual COMM or UDP port.

The WiFi-IT! module is user-programmable using WiFi-IT! Basic; an inexpensive, simplified high-level programming environment where developers can write their own applications that run directly on the GS1010's applications processor, with no required knowledge of the real time operating system or the API. This allows designs based on WiFi-IT! to do away with a separate user microprocessor as the GS1010 provides both embedded control and wireless communication capabilities in one package--a huge savings in development time and bill of materials.

By leveraging GainSpan's low-power consumption and advanced power management technology, the WiFi-IT! is able to operate for years on a single AA battery or using energy harvesting, making it the ideal green solution for many applications such as smart energy home, asset tracking, building automation, and industrial applications.

The 1.3 x 1.8 inch WiFi-IT! module operates in the 2.4 GHz ISM band and is available in two antenna configurations. It is approved by the FCC for use in the U.S. The WL10-GC incorporates an integrated ceramic PIFA antenna and the WL10-GS uses an SMA terminal mount hinged antenna.

About North Pole Engineering

NPE, Inc., headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a provider of embedded technology solutions for a broad range of industries. The company specializes in advanced technologies that combine hardware and software disciplines to provide low-cost, low-power solutions to the OEM marketplace. For additional information, visit our website at: www.npe-inc.com.

About GainSpan

GainSpan Corporation, a spinoff of Intel Corporation, is a leader in ultra low power Wi-Fi semiconductor solutions. GainSpan provides the industry's most highly integrated low power Wi-Fi chip solution for battery-powered or energy-harvesting sensor devices and other embedded systems. Devices using GainSpan's solution can run for up to 10 years on a single AA battery. GainSpan enables its customers to leverage the large installed base of Wi-Fi access points and devices and create new products for building automation, smart home energy, health monitoring, and real time location system (RTLS) applications, while reducing the overall operation and installation costs of sensor networks. www.gainspan.com.

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