VXIbus Consortium Announces Major Advance to the VXI Specification

SAN DIEGO - January 19, 2004.-- The VXIbus Consortium today announced the release of a new revision to the VXIbus specification that incorporates the VME64 and 2eVME protocols to dramatically increase the speed and performance options for VXI based systems. The Consortium made the announcement on it’s website at http://www.vxibus.org.

The new specification, Revision 3.0, provides for 64-bit addressing and permits data to be transferred on both rising and falling edges, increasing data rates to 160 MB/s. Extensive work was done by the consortium participants to ensure backward compatibility as well as future expansion. Manufacturers of new instruments and controllers can decide whether to incorporate the new protocols on a per-product basis.

“It was exciting to experience the level of energy put into this effort by the group of companies involved,” stated Derrik Weeks, Technical Chairman of the VXIbus Consortium. “The addition of 64-bit addressing and the 2eVME protocol to the VXIbus specification significantly enhances VXI’s ability to meet present and future market needs. Doubling the bus performance reduces acquisition and test times while 64-bit addressing provides a broader opportunity for VXI instrument designers in the future.”

VXIbus has offered users a robust open-architecture test platform with data rates up to 40Mbyte/sec. While this speed has been sufficient for the vast majority of test and measurement applications, the VMEbus, upon which VXI is based, has continued to evolve to provide higher data rates and remains the fastest major commercial backplane to provide more than 8 slots without external bridges.

In 1995, the VMEbus was extended with VME64 to provide 64-bit addressing and increased data rates to 80 Mbyte/sec. Then in 1997, 2eVME or VME64x was adopted to permit data to be transferred on both rising and falling edges, increasing data rates to 160 Mbyte/sec.
“VXI is now poised to take advantage of the 64-bit processing from the PC world, while remaining completely independent of the PC bus. VXI-1 Rev. 3.0 ensures a stable supported ATE platform well into the future.”
Kevin Leduc, President of the VXIbus Consortium commented, “all of our contributing members look forward to the possibilities this new specification offers to the VXI community.”

About the VXIbus Consortium

The VXIbus Consortium was formed in 1987 to develop a standard by which anyone could develop instruments that would be capable of handling demanding electronic test problems that would be interoperable and would work together seamlessly, would reduce the size of current instrumentation systems, and would increase the speed of ATE systems. These goals were met with the initial specification release of VXIbus, the leading open standard platform for Commercial, Military and Aerospace test and measurement.

The VXIbus Consortium continues to function with the following objectives:

- To maintain the VXIbus technical standards
- To test the interoperability and robustness of the VXIbus standards
- To promote the VXIbus architecture for automatic test applications

For the complete specification as well as additional information on VXI, please visit the website at [http://www.vxibus.org/](http://www.vxibus.org/).