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**FTDI Delivers Connectivity Solutions for Raspberry Pi Mini Computer**

***Employing highly optimised USB interface ICs to ensure strong performance***

USB solutions specialist Future Technology Devices International Limited (FTDI) has added to its range of connectivity offerings with two new products that address the rapidly growing popularity of the Raspberry Pi (RPi) computing platform. The TTL-232R-RPi is a USB-to-TTL Serial UART debug cabling solution that incorporates the company’s FT232RQ high performance interface IC. This is complemented by the RPi USB Hub Module, which is designed to connect to an RPi unit and expand the number of interfaces that can be accessed downstream from a host.

Only recently released, RPi is a simple, ultra-low cost computer board aimed at inspiring youngsters to learn the fundamentalprinciples of programming. Running the Linux operating system, with a compact format that is the size of a credit card, it utilises a 700 MHz ARM-based processor and has a 256 MByte SDRAM memory.

Through FTDI’s debug cable it will be possible for laptop/desktop PCs to interface with the RPi board and perform in-depth analysis on the software application being developed. The 1 m long cable connects directly to the RPi’s serial port. This port will output kernel debug messages to be acquired by the PC.The FT232RQ USB-to-Serial UART interface IC within the TTL-232R-RPi cableprovides a USB to asynchronous serial data transfer path capable of supporting data rates from 300 bits/s to 3 Mbits/s at 3.3 V TTL levels. The chip handles all the USB signalling and protocol requirements.

The RPi USB Hub Module utilises an USB-to-UART/MPSSE IC, along with a GL850G USB hub controller IC. It provides engineers with up to 4 downstream USB 2.0 Hi-Speed (480Mbit/s)ports.Asynchronous serial data transfer rates from 300 bits/s to 12 Mbits/s at 3.3 V TTL levels are supported, while synchronous serial data rates of up to 30 Mbits/s can be dealt with on JTAG, SPI and I2C interfaces. The module has dimensions of 33.45 mm x 65 mm.

“The RPi concept has huge potential to nurture aspiring young engineers. Supporting it with a highly optimised debug solution is a vital part of achieving that goal. The TTL-232R-RPi enables a fast, simple way to connect with an RPi and examine what is going on when it runs a newly constructed program. Furthermore, the USB Hub Module gives a greater degree of flexibility to RPi based system designs. Both products make use of the expertise in USB conversion that FTDI’s technical team possesses,” states Fred Dart, CEO and founder of FTDI. “The RPi philosophy seems very similar to that of FTDI - making things as uncomplicated as possible so that the creativity of pupils/students is encouraged,” he concludes.

An operational temperature range covering -40 °C to +85 °C is supported by both the cable and the hub module offerings.All the components used in their construction are fully compliant with the RoHS directive.

Pricing for the TTL-232R-RPi debug cable is £9.8 each, with immediate availability. Pricing for a single RPi\_Hub\_Module is £22.25, with availability starting in August. Further information on these products can be found at:

<http://www.ftdichip.com/Support/documents/Datasheets/modules/DS_RPi_HUB_Module.pdf>

<http://www.ftdichip.com/Support/documents/Datasheets/Cables/DS_TTL-232R_RPi.pdf>

**About FTDI**

Future Technology Devices International (FTDI) specialises in the design and supply of silicon and software solutions for the Universal Serial Bus (USB). FTDI offers a simple route to USB migration by combining easy-to-implement IC devices with proven, ready-to-use, royalty-free USB firmware and driver software. The company’s single and multi-channel USB peripheral devices come with an easy-to-use UART or FIFO interface. These popular devices can be used in legacy USB-to-RS232/RS422 converter applications or to quickly interface an MCU, PLD, or FPGA to USB. A wide range of evaluation kits and modules are available to evaluate FTDI’s silicon prior to design-in. Vinculum is FTDI’s brand name for a range of USB Host/Slave controller ICs that provide easy implementation of USB Host controller functionality within products and use FTDI's tried and tested firmware to significantly reduce development costs and time to market. FTDI is a fab-less semiconductor company headquartered in Glasgow, UK with R&D centres in Glasgow and Singapore and has regional sales offices in Oregon, USA, Shanghai, China and Taipei, Taiwan.

More information is available at <http://www.ftdichip.com>

Regional sales offices and distributor lists are available <http://www.ftdichip.com/FTSalesNetwork.htm>

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