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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3M Touch Systems Unveils EX II The New Electronics Platform for Touch Screens

Methuen, Mass. — January 14, 2002 — 3M Touch Systems, Inc. announced today the new MicroTouch™ EX II electronics platform, a revolutionary new mixed-mode, proprietary ASIC which supports a variety of touch screen technologies. Innovative in design and feature rich in nature, this new electronics platform represents a significant investment in the future of touch technology. EX II's architectural design opens the door to a new generation of touch controllers, unattainable until now. Supporting both capacitive and resistive touch technology, this chip is the foundation for a series of touch controller products (such as serial RS-232, USB, and TouchPen) to be delivered by 3M Touch Systems in the coming year.

“The EX II platform represents an exciting strategic direction for the organization,” says Terry Jones, business director for 3M Touch Systems. “This design responds to the demands for new levels of creativity for all touch applications. With its small footprint, extended temperatures, and on-chip RAM, EX II enables the R & D team at 3M Touch Systems to expand the technology offerings into entirely new dimensions of touch interactivity.”

“Designed with today's fast performance requirements in mind, EX II redefines the level of speed, accuracy, and custom capability required for today's applications. 3M Touch Systems' decision to expand its electronics product offering demonstrates the company's commitment that with the right products and the right expertise, we can be tremendously responsive in the markets that we serve,” says Dan Savage, business manager, sensor products.

EX II is a single chip solution that's very compact in design but powerful in capability. The EX II is a mixed mode (analog/digital) 64-pin TQFP ASIC that supports multiple touch technologies, including Capacitive, 4-wire resistive and 5-wire Resistive, as well as multiple serial communications capabilities including RS-232 Serial and USB.

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The embedded USB functionality is integrated right in the ASIC, minimizing development time and effort and requiring fewer additional parts. USB support provides plug and play capability, Wake-On-Touch, and low power mode. This allows the system to use less power when not being used, while a simple touch brings the system awake.

EX II's new architecture has on-chip ROM and on-chip RAM designed in. Embedded ROM code allows the developer to address the ASIC independent from the touch application, facilitating firmware development. On-chip RAM provides the flexibility of downloading firmware at the point of manufacture or to systems already deployed in the field. The chip allows access to the latest 3M Touch Systems features and protects from obsolescence. EX II has the capability of 16K by 16K positional touch coordinates, improving precision for larger screen sizes. An expanded operating temperature range (-40° to 70° C) enables touch solutions to exist in a broader range of environments. Superior immunity to Electro-Static Discharge (ESD) and robust EMI resistance from interference enhances the reliability of the overall touch application, and simplifies meeting ever-stringent regulatory requirements.

Also being announced today are the first EX II-based controllers available for the ClearTek product line, EX II 1000 SC series. Available for immediate delivery (cased or uncased), the EX II 1000 SC integrates the EX II chip and is fully backward compatible to the former serial controller, making it simple and easy for existing customers to adopt EX II technology and enjoy many of the new features. And with the download firmware capability, the EX II 1000 SC can be field upgraded with the latest firmware feature set from 3M Touch Systems.

The new architecture, its communication and technology flexibility, and new feature set uniquely positions the EX II chip to redefine touch systems for the future.

About 3M Touch Systems, Inc.

This announcement represents a renewed focus on the design and development of new touch products from 3M Touch Systems, Inc, a subsidiary of 3M, created through the acquisition of Dynapro and MicroTouch Systems, two longtime touch suppliers in the touch screen industry. 3M Touch Systems operates globally and reports through 3M Optical Systems Division headquartered in St. Paul, Minn. 3M is a \$16 billion diversified manufacturer serving an array of commercial, industrial, and consumer markets.

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To download the high-resolution JPEG image related to this release, visit <http://www.3m.com/3MTouchSystems/Corporate/News/EXII.exe>

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