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MARKET-LEADING PIGEON POINT SHELF MANAGER FOR ADVANCEDTCA DELIVERS DRAMATICALLY SIMPLER SHELF ARCHITECTURE ADAPTATIONS

SCOTTS VALLEY, CA USA – March 2008 – Pigeon Point Systems, the leading supplier of shelf and board management solutions for AdvancedTCA[®], AdvancedMC[™] and MicroTCA[™], announces availability of release 2.5 of its market-leading Pigeon Point Shelf Manager, including support for the Pigeon Point Hardware Platform Description Language (HPDL), with dramatically simplifies the process of adapting the Shelf Manager to new AdvancedTCA shelf architectures. HPDL is a precise and concise textual description of the facilities of the shelf, such as the fan trays and power entry modules and the interface they present to the Shelf Manager. Shelf developers can update this description themselves and load it onto the shelf in a binary form that is directly interpreted by the Shelf Manager during operation, thereby significantly shortening the adaptation and validation period for new shelf architectures. The current update of release 2.5 (which is 2.5.2) is available now to upgrade any of the thousands of Pigeon Point ShMM-500R Shelf Management Mezzanines that manage the majority of the world's AdvancedTCA shelves.

Pigeon Point HPDL has already been applied successfully to more than a dozen different ATCA shelf architectures; almost all new shelf adaptations for the Pigeon Point Shelf Manager will be done via this method, going forward. This new technology leverages the extensive shelf adaptation experience that Pigeon Point has gained since

shipping the first Pigeon Point ShMMs more than five years ago. The compact and low-power ShMM modules are mounted as mezzanines on carrier boards that can be very flexibly designed in form factor and functionality for a given shelf. Binary HPDL data can be stored with AdvancedTCA-defined FRU (Field Replaceable Unit) inventory and description records on the ShMM carrier boards, on auxiliary FRUs such as fan trays and power entry modules and as part of the shelf level FRU information, making the implementation of each of those levels automatically interpretable by the Shelf Manager. The Shelf Manager can even update its description of an auxiliary FRU, such as a fan tray, when a new variant of that FRU is inserted in a shelf. HPDL takes the self-describing nature of the ATCA hardware platform management architecture to an important new level, in which the hardware platform management *implementation* aspects of a shelf are self-describing, as well. This additional step will provide a crucial benefit as ATCA shelves are widely deployed in many variants, with updates to the shelves and their field replaceable units over long life programs.

Release 2.5 of the Pigeon Point Shelf Manager also includes numerous other improvements, including: 1) analytic deadlock detection and additional layered watchdog facilities for improved robustness, 2) support for handling Shelf Manager events via user-provided scripts or executables outside the Shelf Manager for additional operational flexibility, and 3) external access to cached copies of the IPMI data records for the intelligent FRUs in the shelf, allowing, for instance, OpenHPI to “discover” the constituents of the shelf much more quickly.

The Pigeon Point Shelf Manager user documentation is posted on the Library page of the Pigeon Point website (www.pigeonpoint.com/library.html). Also accessible via that page are useful articles and newly updated tutorials on hardware platform management, along with the presentation “Applying OpenHPI in xTCA Platforms” that is being delivered by Mark Overgaard at the MVA Communications Ecosystem Conference on March 12 in Burlingame, California.

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[About Pigeon Point Systems](#)

Pigeon Point Systems delivers world-class management components for modular platforms based on the AdvancedTCA[®], AdvancedMC[™] and MicroTCA[™] architectures to leading companies, worldwide. Pigeon Point's focus on providing dependable, proven solutions for the mandatory management controllers in these architectures allows customers to concentrate on the value-add aspects of their products. Deep expertise on these architectures ensures compliance and interoperability in the Pigeon Point components.

Pigeon Point, an executive member of PICMG, is a leader in its AdvancedTCA, AdvancedMC and MicroTCA subcommittees and is active in many other technical subcommittees. Pigeon Point is also a contributing member of the Service Availability[™] Forum and active in its HPI Working Group. For more information about Pigeon Point, visit www.pigeonpoint.com or call 831-438-1565.

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