

Dot Marks the Spot: Micro-wireless Solution Debuts for Business Activity Monitoring

Access International rolls out technology to enable automatic sensing, identification and assessment of business activity; potential uses seen in warehouse, yard management

By Editorial Staff

Dallas — November 9, 2007 — Solution provider **Access International**, which specializes in wireless business activity monitoring solutions, has released a micro-wireless technology platform called Dot and designed to provide a dynamic view into the status of every "thing" operating in the enterprise and how each thing contributes to the goals of the enterprise.

By enabling automatic sensing, identification and assessment of business activity in real time, the Dot chip aims to provide improved productivity and security by delivering wireless intelligence unattainable until now, Access said.

The solution provider predicted that Dot's flexibility would allow it to take many forms to suit specific needs and that, as an enabling technology, it would be the heart of new products such as a long-range bar code, an electronic property tag, an automatic building access badge, a vehicle identification tag, an electronic cargo container seal, a wireless sensor transmitter and other uses.

Era of "Things Talking"

The first end-user product to utilize Dot technology ships in December in a card-based form factor. As an ultra-thin tag, it will be used on assets, vehicles and workers, enabling their wireless visibility.

"The wireless era of 'people talking' has given way to the era of 'things talking.' Dot makes all assets, materials, people, sensors and even vehicles wireless," said Allan Griebenow, president and CEO of Access. "Once you 'Dot the enterprise,' real-time critical information invisible to the enterprise is immediately made available. This dramatically expands the scope of business intelligence, improves the corresponding decision-making and establishes a new horizon for automation."

As examples of how Dot might be used, Access said the technology could sense the location of such assets as laptops and identify to whom the assets belong; in case of an emergency, Dot could provide information on where workers are located; and for vehicles, information could be acquired on which trucks came to and left a yard with what materials.

Behind the Dot

Access' invention combines a processor, memory and wireless communications into one chip about the size of a single grain of rice, but the company claims that the solution is as powerful as

the first personal digital assistants (PDAs). It is projected to run for years on a watch battery, stores at least three pages of information in memory and communicates to the world at high speed, all at a cost of only a few dollars each, according to the solution provider.

The Dot technology incorporates a battery-powered, software-definable wireless transceiver that is compatible with multiple global regulations, including the Electronic Product Code (EPC) Class I and Gen II (passive radio frequency identification [RFID]) standard and is expected to make supply chain tagging more reliable while opening new applications in sensing and security.

"Dot is a powerful invention that combines so many necessary elements for a micro-wireless technology to be successful," said Professor Dinesh Bhatia at the University of Texas at Dallas. "It has great potential for multiple uses."