



Editor's Foreword

By Joe Pavlat

CompactPCI & AdvancedTCA Systems

GLOBALCOMM 2006

GLOBALCOMM 2006 saw more than 20,000 people attend North America's largest telecommunications infrastructure trade show. Exhibitors numbered more than 500 at the June 4-8 Chicago conference.

Forty-two PICMG member companies exhibited in the PICMG Technologies Showcase (Figure 1), one of the larger multicompany pavilions, with around 8 percent of total exhibitors in the Showcase. PICMG has reserved an even larger space for 2007 after Showcase spaces sold out this year. Quite a few PICMG member companies, including Diversified Technologies, Intel, Artesyn, Motorola, and Molex had stand-alone booths, many near the Showcase. I apologize if I missed any others, but it was a big show. Attendees included (left to right, Figure 2) Wade Appelman of StarGen and Warner Andrews of Zarlink, Jerry Gavin of NMS Communications, Daniel Sauriol of Kontron, and Mondo Mikhail of SBS.

Virtually all of the companies in the PICMG Showcase showed AdvancedTCA products, confirming that this technology is becoming mainstream and widely accepted as the right platform for next-generation infrastructure equipment. A number of providers showed AdvancedTCA-based equipment. Lucent Technologies announced an AdvancedTCA300-based product at the show, planning late 2006 deliveries.



Figure 1

The analyst community was very positive. "Recent Yankee Group research shows that leading Tier 1 telecom equipment manufacturers are embracing the concept of common platforms and estimate a 30 percent improvement in time-to-market and project development costs from using standards-based communications servers," said Brian Partridge, senior analyst of the Yankee Group.

MicroTCA had its real coming out at GLOBALCOMM, with dozens of functioning systems at the event. Figure 3 shows a unique MicroTCA system from CorEdge networks. A MicroTCA system from SBS capable of full redundancy is pictured in Figure 4.

Cooling 500 W

A group of PICMG member companies working privately under the banner of the Liquid Cooled Embedded Computer (LCEC) initiative debuted a prototype of innovative liquid cooling technology capable of cooling 500 W in a hot swappable module. The module is only the size of a medium-sized paperback book. Look for more on LCEC in an upcoming issue of *CompactPCI and AdvancedTCA Systems*.

Siemens has selected Motorola's Embedded Communication Computing business as their AdvancedTCA equipment supplier of choice. "Siemens is committed to applying an open standards-based common platform with AdvancedTCA as a main technology in both its mobile networks and fixed networks portfolio," said Dr. Dieter Carl, Siemens' Vice President Platform Strategy. "Our customers will benefit due to the need for rapid deployments and converged network build outs to provide new revenue-generating services."



Figure 3



Figure 4

IMS takes off

IP Multimedia Services (IMS) was a subject of major buzz at the show. A new study by ABI Research notes fixed and mobile network operators will invest a total of \$10.1 billion in IMS capital infrastructure over the next five years. They also predict that operators will generate \$49.6 billion in service revenue from IMS-enabled applications in 2011. IMS promises seamless meshing of mobile and fixed networks as well as services, including push-to-talk, Web browsing, video, streaming content, interactive games, and instant multimedia messaging. Many suppliers were talking up AdvancedTCA as an important platform for IMS.

Positive feedback at the show conveyed the general feeling that AdvancedTCA is here to stay in a big way and indicated MicroTCA will prove to be a very important open platform standard.

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Figure 2