

# Press Release

## 24/02/2011

### **Panasonic Electronic Devices Licenses Multi-layer Resin Board ALIVH Technology to AT&S – Two companies' eye collaboration for the development of next-generation circuit board technology**

Osaka, Japan – Panasonic Electronic Devices Co., Ltd., a Panasonic Group company specialized in manufacturing advanced electronic components, and AT&S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik Aktiengesellschaft, a European market leader and one of the largest printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturers in the world, today announced that they have reached an agreement, under which Panasonic will license its unique multi-layer resin board technology called ALIVH (Any Layer Interstitial Via Hole) to AT&S. The two companies will also build up collaborative relationships with an eye to developing next-generation circuit board technology in order to accelerate business expansion in mobile devices, such as smartphones.

The global mobile phone market is seeing a dramatic shift to smartphones from regular mobile phones. The introduction of Long Term Evolution (LTE) communication services and the anticipated full-fledged spread of e-books are expected to spur the growth of the market. High-density and multi-layer circuit boards play a key role in smartphones, which require high-speed processing of ever more increasing amount of signals.

Panasonic's ALIVH multi-layer resin board technology enables an IVH structure in all layers to make PCBs suitable for high-density and multi-layer applications. The company places high priority on ALIVH products that are essential for the further evolution of sophisticated mobile terminals, such as smart phones. Panasonic has been accelerating the global development of this business.

AT&S is especially well positioned worldwide in the high-tech market segment for HDI microvia printed circuit boards. With this new technology AT&S further underlines its clear strategy as technological and innovation leader and remains at the cutting edge for the next generation of PCBs especially for mobile devices like smartphones or tablet PCs. The new technology offers its customers shorter lead times and environmentally friendlier processes (less need of water, power and CO<sub>2</sub> saving). The PCBs can become even thinner and enables more complex chip fanout, which is in line with many customer requirements and the overall trend of miniaturization. AT&S is also planning to accelerate its growth strategy by making use of the unique manufacturing improvements offered by the innovative ALIVH technology.

#### **About ALIVH (Any Layer Interstitial Via Hole)**

ALIVH boards developed and commercialized by Panasonic are the world's first multi-layer resin boards with an IVH structure in all layers. In October 1996, using ALIVH boards, Panasonic (then known as Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) developed a mobile phone that was the lightest and smallest in the industry at that time with less than 100 g in weight and less than 100 cc in volume. Since then, ALIVH boards have been widely used in Japan and overseas, and the global shipments are expected to exceed 400 million units (in terms of mobile phones) at the end of March 2011. In Japan, ALIVH PCBs are supplied by Panasonic and CMK Corporation, a major Japanese PCB manufacturer, with which Panasonic formed a business partnership in October 1997.

### **About AT&S (Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik Aktiengesellschaft)**

Formed in 1987, AT&S today ranks among the largest manufacturers of printed circuit boards in Europe and India and has a significant presence in China. AT&S is extremely well positioned in the market for high-tech HDI microvia printed circuit boards, which are chiefly used in mobile devices. The company is also highly successful in the automotive, industrial, and medical sectors. The Group employs more than 6,500 people worldwide. In the last fiscal year 2009/10, AT&S achieved turnovers of EUR 372.2m. For more information visit [www.ats.net](http://www.ats.net)

### **About Panasonic**

Panasonic Corporation is a worldwide leader in the development and manufacture of electronic products for a wide range of consumer, business, and industrial needs. Based in Osaka, Japan, the company recorded consolidated net sales of 7.42 trillion yen (US\$79.4 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2010. The company's shares are listed on the Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and New York (NYSE:PC) stock exchanges. For more information on the company and the Panasonic brand, visit the company's website at <http://panasonic.net/>.

### **About Panasonic Electronic Devices**

Panasonic Electronic Devices Co., Ltd., one of the core companies of the components and devices segment of the Panasonic Group, supplies state-of-the-art electronic components to industries worldwide from digital AV to information and communications, car electronics, home appliances, medical electronics, and environment/technology fields. Based in Osaka, Japan, the company recorded sales of 366 billion yen for the year ended March 31, 2010. For more information on the company, visit the company's website at <http://panasonic.net/ped/>.

### **Media Contacts:**

Overseas Public Relations Office  
Panasonic Corporation  
Tel: 03-6403-3040 Fax: 03- 3436-6766  
Panasonic News Bureau  
Tel: 03-3542-6205 Fax: 03-3542-9018

AT&S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG  
Martin Theyer | Director Strategy Development & Communications  
+43 (3842) 200 5909 | [m.theyer@ats.net](mailto:m.theyer@ats.net)