

POWER UP

Ericsson teams up with
NAT, Germany to develop
the world's first intelligent
MicroTCA power module

Bonn, Germany

Customer Profile

Customer: NAT, Germany

Based in Germany, Netzwerk und Automatisierungs-Technologie (NAT) specializes in the delivery of high performance information and communication solutions, offering a product portfolio dedicated to the embedded computing market. NAT has an established network with several market leading MicroTCA integrators such as GE Fanuc, Schroff and Rittal. NAT produces standard interface modules and systems for both LAN and WAN based on standardized hardware standards such as Advanced Mezzanine Cards (AMC), Virtual Machine Environment (VME) and MicroTCA among others.

Website: www.nat-gmbh.de

NAT, a market leader in embedded computing solutions, partners with Ericsson to develop a compatible power module for its range of MicroTCA Carrier Hub cards.

The Micro Telecommunications Computing Architecture (MicroTCA) standard offers huge potential beyond communications, with applications in growing market segments such as process control and industrial automations. In February 2007 NAT turned to Ericsson to supply a reliable and compatible power solution for their range of MicroTCA Carrier Hub (MCH) cards, a central component in a MicroTCA computing system.

The Ericsson power module had to deliver excellent functionality and conform to the MicroTCA specifications, as well as be fully compatible with the MCH cards and architecture under development from NAT. The MicroTCA platform is a standard that was ratified in 2006. With the MicroTCA specification, Telecommunications Computing Architecture (TCA) can extend its reach into the domain of smaller telecommunications systems and onward into the rest of the embedded computing market. Ericsson and NAT maintained a close relationship throughout the development of the MicroTCA

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Heiko Körte,
Director of Sales and Marketing,
NAT

solution in order to ensure that the specifications were read and interpreted consistently between the two companies. The power module's software has been developed and de-bugged using the MCH from NAT as a reference tool. This close cooperation ensures that there is full compatibility between the power module and the MicroTCA standard. The partnership between Ericsson and NAT has resulted in a power module that is fully compatible with any cards or modules that can be inserted into a MicroTCA chassis. The software went through several sessions in the lab during the development to ensure that the interface between the MCH and power module worked perfectly.

Josef Bose, Sales Manager, Ericsson talks about the project and the importance of the relationship that has developed between NAT and Ericsson: "Ericsson has worked closely with NAT throughout the development of this MicroTCA power module. Our close partnership on this project has resulted in a very energy and cost efficient power solution that has been fully de-bugged and delivered within 15 months. The quick delivery was necessary in order to meet the market launch window for NAT. The software in the Ericsson power module enables it to operate as an integrated part of a complete system. The solution offers full redundancy; a spare power module will intervene in the case of a power loss. The power is digitally controlled, offering 95 percent power efficiency and fantastic functionality, such as the ability to supply and distribute power throughout the system dependant upon demand."

Ericsson's power module has been delivered fully de-bugged ahead of schedule. Heiko Körte, Director of Sales and Marketing, NAT talks about the delivery: "This excellent cooperation with Ericsson has resulted in us being able to present our redundant architecture at the 2008 MicroTCA conference in Munich, far sooner than we had hoped. The rapid development of this power solution offers us and our customers a significant advantage, shortening time-to-market and enabling us to capture business opportunities earlier."

Overview

Customer: NAT, Germany

Customer Objective

- Develop a fully compatible MicroTCA power solution
- Deliver within close product launch schedule

Ericsson Solution

- MicroTCA power module development
- Systems Integration
- Software development

Customer Benefits

- Delivered ahead of schedule
- Completely de-bugged upon delivery
- Fully compatible with customer MicroTCA system.

To find out more about this article contact Patrick le Fevre

Email: patrick.le-fevre@ericsson.com