



AKUSTICA IMPROVES THE PERFORMANCE OF VOICE RECOGNITION APPLICATIONS

Shows Interspeech attendees how voice input quality in laptops improves with its integrated microphone arrays

Pittsburgh/Interspeech—Sept. 15, 2006— Pittsburgh’s own Akustica, Inc., will take advantage of the hometown location of an industry conference called Interspeech at the Westin Convention Center Sept. 17-21 to show off its award-winning single-chip microphones, which debuted earlier this year.

As an international conference on spoken-language processing, Interspeech is a technical forum focusing on person-to-person and human-to-machine speech communication. According to Dr. Marcie Weinstein, Akustica’s strategic marketing director, much recent work in the field is related to improving ASR (Automated Speech Recognition) for PC and phone applications. Some of this work focuses on using higher performance microphones and using microphone arrays to achieve higher accuracy rates. Consequently, Akustica’s technology fits right in.

Akustica, which is among the several aptly named “Steel” sponsors of the event this year, will be represented on the exhibit floor – with a microphone array demo in the Microsoft® Research display. This is no coincidence: One of the new features in the highly anticipated Microsoft Windows Vista™ operating system will be an audio engine that uses the input from multiple microphones to perform noise suppression, echo cancellation, and beamforming, providing optimal performance for voice communications, recording, and speech recognition applications.

Akustica’s demo will allow conference attendees to hear for themselves how Akustica’s unique microphones -- embedded in a notebook computer -- can improve the input voice quality to the PC and subsequently increase the accuracy of speech recognition applications such as voice command and control. On Sunday evening, Sept. 17, Akustica will also join its neighbors in academia and industry in a special event to demonstrate homegrown speech and language technology in the Westmoreland Room of the conference hotel.

“A great way to leverage this Vista audio functionality is to embed the microphone array directly into the bezel of a notebook computer display,” says Alex Acero, Microsoft’s manager of speech research and a conference organizer. “Akustica’s digital microphones provide an excellent way to overcome the mechanical, electrical, and acoustical challenges typically encountered when trying to integrate a high performance microphone solution into the laptop environment.”

About Akustica

Founded in 2001, Akustica, Inc. is a privately held company based in Pittsburgh. Through a revolutionary technology known as Sensory Silicon™, Akustica products enable electronic devices to sense and respond to the world around them. By leveraging standard CMOS processes and MEMS technology, Akustica acoustic system-on-chip solutions combine the functionality of microphones with microelectronics and software onto a single chip. Only Akustica's CMOS MEMS Microphone Chips—which were pioneered by Akustica co-founder and CTO Dr. Ken Gabriel during his tenure at Carnegie Mellon University—enable single-chip solutions with arrays of transducers and integrated signal processing that disrupt both conventional microphone and speaker technologies. Smaller and more reliable than the current crop of ECMs, silicon microphones can be customized with advanced sound capture features and noise reduction capabilities. For more information on Akustica, please contact us via phone: (412) 390-1730, Fax (412) 390-1737, email: contact@akustica.com or web: www.akustica.com.

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