



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AKUSTICA'S DIGITAL MICROPHONE NOMINATED FOR EDN INNOVATION AWARD**

Pittsburgh, PA—February 13, 2007—Akustica announced today that EDN Magazine has selected its AKU2000 digital microphone as a finalist for the publication's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Innovation Awards. The awards will be presented April 2 in San Jose, Calif., coinciding with the Embedded Systems Conference Silicon Valley, the largest yearly gathering of electronic-systems designers in North America.

EDN Magazine, which has covered the electronics industry for the past 50 years, singled the AKU2000 out from hundreds of entries as one of the most promising new products in the mixed-signal application-specific standard product category. As the world's first and only single-chip silicon digital microphone, the AKU2000 is also the first device released using Akustica's patented Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) technology. As such, the AKU2000 can be mass-produced in extremely high volumes with the accompanying high yields and repeatability associated with standard semiconductor manufacturing.

"Akustica is honored to have been selected as a finalist for such a prestigious technology award and to be in the company of other great technology innovators," said Jim Rock, chief executive officer of Akustica. "The AKU2000 demonstrates how Akustica's CMOS MEMS technology is revolutionizing the MEMS industry while enabling cell phone, PC, and other mobile device manufacturers to raise the standard for voice-input quality."

"Unlike traditional MEMS devices, which require custom thin-film semiconductor techniques, Akustica's AKU2000 employs the metal-dielectric layers of conventional CMOS processes," noted EDN in a February 1, 2007 article on the Innovation Awards.

The magazine's editors also recounted the advantages of the AKU2000 over older-style electret condenser microphones (ECMs), stating that "ECMs' analog outputs are susceptible to signal corruption from nearby EMI-radiating sources, such as cell phones, LCDs and their backlights, and WiFi transceivers...The AKU2000's PDM (pulse-density-modulated) digital output exhibits none of these shortcomings; the device (which integrates an acoustic transducer, analog preamplifier, and fourth-order sigma-delta modulator) is also surface-mountable and, at 4×4×less than 2 mm, squeezes into tight spaces."

The AKU2000 has already been adopted by leading PC Original Equipment Manufacturers, including Fujitsu Computer Systems Corporation, which has embedded AKU2000 digital microphones in a number of its LifeBook® computing platforms.

Akustica's chief technology officer Ken Gabriel has also been nominated for an EDN Innovation Award, in the "Innovator of the Year" category. (See "Akustica's Ken Gabriel is Finalist for Two Electronics Industry 'Innovator' Awards," February 13, 2007.)

### **About Akustica**

Founded in 2001, Akustica, Inc. is a privately held company based in Pittsburgh, PA. 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's acoustic system-on-chip solutions combine the functionality of microphones with microelectronics and software onto a single chip. Only Akustica's CMOS MEMS microphones—pioneered by Akustica chief technologist and co-founder Ken Gabriel, Ph.D., 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 electret condenser microphones, Akustica's silicon microphones can be customized with advanced sound-capture features and noise-reduction capabilities. Akustica digital output microphones are now reaching the market in commercial volumes, helping to fulfill demand for improved voice input in a host of voice-enabled applications, from Internet telephony on notebooks to PC camera modules and mobile phones.

More information about Akustica can be obtained via Phone: (412) 390-1730, Fax (412) 390-1737, Email: [contact@akustica.com](mailto:contact@akustica.com) or Web: [www.akustica.com](http://www.akustica.com).

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