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Frontline Provides Low-cost and Highly Portable Bluetooth Scatternet Analyzer

New Version Of FTS4BT Bluetooth Protocol Analyzer To Be Demonstrated At Bluetooth Americas Is Available Now. Support For Five AV Profiles & SIM Access Profile Also Included.

San Jose, CA, USA – December 9, 2003 – Frontline Test Equipment, Inc., the emerging leader in Bluetooth® protocol analysis, today announced that a new version of its FTS4BT™ Bluetooth protocol analyzer that supports scatternet sniffing will be demonstrated in booth 508 at Bluetooth Americas. A pre-release of this version of FTS4BT is available immediately, with a production release expected within a month.

The air sniffing hardware consists of two finger-sized Bluetooth ComProbes® that plug into two USB ports and together weigh a total of 2 ounces (57 grams). For PCs that don't have two USB ports, a small, self-powered USB hub is included. Support for two-piconet scatternets is a \$500 option (US list price) and can be added at any time. This means the total price for a unit of FTS4BT capable of scatternet sniffing is \$9,995.

Sniffing a two-piconet scatternet requires that two different frequency hopping patterns be followed. The FTS4BT solution to this sniffing challenge is to use one Bluetooth ComProbe for each piconet. The sniffed data is then combined, based on timing information, and presented in a single user interface.

This same technique can be used to support Bluetooth scatternets that consist of more than two piconets. In anticipation of this requirement, the USB hub that Frontline has selected has four ports. For each additional piconet that is part of the scatternet a Bluetooth ComProbe is added at a cost of \$500. For example, the total cost of an FTS4BT configured to sniff a four-piconet scatternet is \$10,995, weighs about 4 ounces (114 grams), and fits in the palm of a hand.

This same multi-ComProbe approach has other important benefits. It allows FTS4BT to sniff mixed piconets that simultaneously contain V1.1 and V1.2 traffic. In addition, two Bluetooth ComProbes can be setup to provide redundant sniffing of homogeneous V1.1 or V1.2 piconets. This will help solve the nagging issue that all current air sniffers suffer from of missing packets due to the passive nature of sniffing that precludes the possibility of the sniffer requesting retransmission of a missed packet.

FTS4BT provides the industry's most extensive set of profile-level decodes. Support has been added for five important AV profiles: Generic Audio/Video Distribution, Audio/Video Remote Control, Advanced Audio Distribution, Video Distribution, and Video Conferencing. Support for the SIM Access Profile has also been added.

Eric Kaplan, President of Frontline Test Equipment, commented, "It's an exciting time for Bluetooth technology and for Frontline. We are beginning to see developers need support for new and more sophisticated applications. Scatternets have been discussed for quite some time, but now we actually are talking to customers that are planning on using them soon. And our decision to put so much work into the AV and SIM support is totally customer driven."

About FTS for Bluetooth

The FTS4BT Bluetooth protocol analyzer is used by leading Bluetooth companies worldwide and is a corporate standard at Bluetooth chipmaker CSR. Since becoming available in late 2002, FTS4BT has become recognized as the leading analyzer for debugging and verifying Bluetooth applications.

Some of the reasons that FTS4BT has become so popular, so quickly include: Realtime operation that allows data to be analyzed as it is captured (capture, display, decode, filter, and detect errors all at the same time), highly portable, finger-sized, air sniffing hardware, excellent piconet synchronization, enhanced support for Park, Hold, and Sniff low power modes, quad-mode sniffing (air, serial HCI, USB HCI, and Virtual), single-click protocol filtering, familiar tree (Explorer style) protocol decode display, TCP/IP support comparable to an Ethernet analyzer, built-in support for user-defined decodes and HCI Vendor Extensions, highly detailed protocol decodes, and extensive profile support.

About Frontline Test Equipment, Inc.

Frontline is the emerging leader in Bluetooth protocol analysis. Founded in 1991, Frontline Test Equipment, Inc. designs, develops, markets, and supports cost-effective, PC-based data communication test tools for the computer and communications industries. Frontline has sold over 30,000 data communication analyzers since 1988 and is the world's number one provider of PC-based protocol analyzers for special-purpose data communication networks. (Please see www.fte.com for details.) Frontline is headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

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