Announcing the ThumbDV™

7 December 2014
Friday Harbor, WA

NW Digital Radio has developed a USB based version of their popular DV3000 AMBE™ vocoder board. The new product named ThumbDV™ (model number DV3000U), is available now for ordering at a price of $119.95, plus applicable taxes and shipping, through http://nwdigitalradio.com/products[1]. Initial shipments for the ThumbDV™ are projected for the 3rd week of December.

John Hays (K7VE), Product Development Director, reports, "Our DV3000 product, which is designed to be the vocoder for our forthcoming UDRX-440 digital radio, also acts as a popular add-on board to the Raspberry Pi single board computer and is now deployed in 25 countries around the world. This capability allows network communication through the Internet to the global D-STAR network using a computer with a microphone and speakers. The DV3000 uses the GPIO header on the Raspberry Pi to access the vocoder. The ThumbDV™ makes this same functionality available on Linux, Windows, and Mac OS X[2] computers with a USB port."

Current products in this space use the older AMBE-2000 series of vocoder chips which do not support additional digital voice radio standards such as DMR, System Fusion, dPMR, NXDN, P25 Phase 2 HR, and others, which can be addressed by the newer AMBE-3000 series vocoder chip as found in the DV3000 and ThumbDV™, pending further 3rd party software development.[3]

The ThumbDV™, as its name suggests, is the vocoder in a form factor similar to the familiar USB thumb drive memory devices. The ThumbDV™ is small, light weight, and very portable.

Bryan Hoyer (K7UDR), President of NW Digital Radio says, "The ThumbDV™ is designed using the best practices for USB attached devices with features to minimize power consumption, mitigate EMI, and provide high reliability. The case is transparent to provide visibility of the circuit as well as LEDs to indicate device activity."

Visit http://nwdigitalradio.com for additional information.

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1   A limited run of ThumbDV™ devices will be available during December 2014, with shipment expected in time for domestic Christmas delivery. An additional run is anticipated after the first of the year. NW Digital Radio will be closed December 18th through January 4th.
2   Mac OSX functionality is currently limited to running the AMBEserver daemon, full interconnection to the D-STAR network requires additional software which needs to be optimized for MAC OSX.
3   The ThumbDV™ has been tested using AMBEserver and DummyRepeater (with ircDDBGateway) free open source software from Jonathan Naylor, G4KLX.