

For Immediate Release

Press Release

From: System General Corporation

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System General Awarded Patent for Minimum Load Requirement Reduction Technology

Taipei, Taiwan - March 13, 2003 – SG (System General Corporation), the global leader in Green Mode Power ICs, announced today that it has acquired an important new patent for its latest Power Conservation innovation. The invention specifies a method for reducing the minimum load requirement of a power system using a magnetic amplifier. This makes it possible to manufacture power supplies with reduced power consumption and increased system stability. The patent is currently registered with the United States Patent Office (Patent Number US6,501,666 B1).

In addition to the latest patent, SG has already acquired more than twenty patents worldwide. A dozen new patent applications have been filed and are currently pending. SG expects to apply for more than fifty new patents in the near future.

“In my opinion, patent protection is becoming more and more important to winning the battle, especially for an IC design company like ours. We have great innovations and they will offer great benefits to our customers. We are very pleased that our inventions have been recognized and protected,” said Tom Yang, President and CEO of SG. “We are continually developing new inventions and winning patents for them.”

This newly patented invention (US6,501,666 B1) provides a method and apparatus for a magnetic amplifier to reduce the minimum load requirement of a power supply. The apparatus is comprised of a voltage-dropper and a current-limiter. Through the voltage-dropper and the current-limiter, the master output of the power supply is coupled to the output of the magnetic amplifier. The differential voltage of the master output and the magnetic amplifier output determine the voltage of the voltage-dropper. The current-limiter limits the current flow from the master output to the magnetic amplifier output. If the master output has zero load and the magnetic amplifier is in a full load condition, a start-up current will flow from the master output to the output of the magnetic amplifier via the voltage-dropper and the current-limiter. In the mean time, the start-up current will widen the pulse width of the PWM signal until the current-limiter limits the current. The maximum current level of the current-limiter is set to a level that will maintain a corresponding minimum pulse width for the PWM signal. The minimum pulse width will ensure that the output of the magnetic amplifier stays within regulation.

About System General

System General (SG) was founded in 1983 as a consulting company specializing in Device Programming and Power Management. In 1985, the company expanded its operations to include the design and manufacturing of Device Programmers. Aiming to become the leader in its field of expertise, SG is committed to delivering products and services of the highest quality. It has earned an excellent reputation from customers all over the world.

System General significantly expanded its business scope in 1999, after merging with the IC design company ESIC. Armed with a strong R&D team, SG successfully entered the business by delivering its first series of Power Management products. System General's innovative energy-saving power conversion designs were well received by the market.

With the corporate vision of "Innovation for a Better Tomorrow", SG's business goal has always been to provide original products that improve people's lives. SG operates through two strategic business units: Semiconductors and Programming Instruments. Both units have the backing of dedicated and highly skilled R&D, manufacturing, sales, logistics and technical support teams.

SG is headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan. It has branch offices in the USA, China, and Hsinchu Taiwan. System General also works with sales agencies throughout the world.

SG's Business Units:

- Semiconductor Business Unit: Multimedia, Power Management & Control ICs, Wireless Communication ICs, General Purpose Mixed-signal ICs, Scanner ICs, IP Development
- Programming Business Unit: Manual Device Programmers, Automated Device Programming and Testing Systems.

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