Silicon Labs Launches High Port Count Power Over Ethernet Solution

-- Si3459 PoE PSE Controller Provides Highly Integrated 8-Port Building Block to Reduce the Cost and Complexity of Ethernet Switches and End Points --

AUSTIN, Texas – July 1, 2015 –Silicon Labs (NASDAQ: SLAB), a leading supplier of IC solutions for Internet infrastructure applications, today announced the first in a next-generation family of high port count Power over Ethernet (PoE) power sourcing equipment (PSE) devices. The new Si3459 8-port PoE PSE controller is designed for high port count enterprise Ethernet switch applications, simplifying the development of PSE applications such as enterprise and small-medium business (SMB) switches and routers, IP-based private branch exchange (PBX) switches and midspan injectors.

The Si3459 PSE controller's high port count makes it a logical, economical building block solution for switches with eight to 64 or more ports. The 8-port Si3459 controller provides IEEE-compliant PoE/PoE+ port control at a lower implementation cost than competing 4-port controllers. While other PoE component vendors offer PSE controllers, few have introduced greater than 4-port configurations. Silicon Labs' 8-port configuration reduces deployment costs due to economies of scale; common resources on the chip can be reused to simplify system design and enable the lowest net cost-per-port.

Combining the Si3459 with Silicon Labs' newSi3483 power management IC enables precision power management. The Si3483 device provides consumption-based power management for up to 64 PSE ports. This combination reduces power supply sizes and improves robustness during power supply failure events.

The Si3459 controller is a key part of Silicon Labs' comprehensive PSE solutions, which include Si860x I2C digital isolators, evaluation boards and reference designs, and the Si3483 power management IC, enabling rapid integration with industry-leading Ethernet switch chipsets. The combination of these Silicon Labs components and boards provides a one-stop-shop solution for PSE subsystems.

Silicon Labs offers cost-effective development tools for PSE applications based on the Si3459 and Si3483 ICs. The Si3459-KIT simplifies evaluation of the PSE controller, and the Si3459Smart24-KIT supports evaluation of PSE controllers and the Si3483 power manager.

Si3459 PSE Controller Highlights

- New: Eight ports for high port count (24, 48, 64) enterprise Ethernet switch applications
- New: Precision power management enabled when teamed with the Si3483 power management controller IC
- Scalable downward for SMB 8-port switches
- Provides full IEEE 802.3at-compliant PoE/PoE+ port control
- On-chip dc-dc converter delivers power for itself as well as neighboring components
- I2C interface allows access to each port's supply voltage and current

Si3483 Power Management IC Highlights

- Enhances system-level power management to optimize power supply sizing
- Provides consumption-based power management for up to 64 PSE ports
- Enables supply failure monitoring for improved system robustness

Pricing and Availability

The Si3459 8-port PSE controller is available now in production quantities in a 56-pin, 8 mm x 8 mm QFN package. The Si3459 IC is priced at $4.50 (USD) in 10,000-unit quantities. The Si3483 power manager IC is available now in production quantities in a 24-pin, 4 mm x 4 mm QFN. The Si3483 is priced at $1.97 (USD) in 10,000-unit quantities. To help developers reduce development time and cost, Silicon Labs offers the Si3459-KIT priced at $299 (USD) and the Si3459SMART24-KIT evaluation kit priced at $399 (USD). For more information about the Si3459 8-port PoE PSE controller, Si3483 power management IC and development tools, visit www.silabs.com/PoE.

Silicon Labs

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