



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MiniBlade™ Specification Now Available to Address Mass Storage Subsystem Requirements of Small Form Factor Embedded Systems**

*SFF-SIG Releases First Mass Storage Subsystem Standard to Address Small Size, Removeability and Ruggedness Requirements of the Embedded Market*

San Jose, CA, March 30, 2009 - The Small Form Factor Special Interest Group (SFF-SIG), a collaboration of leading suppliers of embedded component, board and system technologies, today announced the availability of revision 1.0 of the MiniBlade Specification for small, rugged subsystems such as mass storage and other I/O technologies. MiniBlade is the first such subsystem standard to address the small size, removeability and ruggedness requirements of the small form factor embedded market.

SFF-SIG announced in October, 2008 that it was adopting the SiliconDrive II Blade Specification, jointly developed by Silicon Systems and Samtec, and updating and repackaging the specification for the broad small form factor embedded market.

In its first year of operation, the SFF-SIG has become the only standards organization focused on the embedded market to expand its portfolio of next-generation industry standards to include standards that encompass board form factors, board to board interconnect specifications for both stackable and Computer-on-Module technologies,

and now tiny subsystems to address mass storage and other plug and play I/O technologies.

The new MiniBlade Revision 1.0 Specification defines the mechanical form factor and interface pin definitions for MiniBlade devices and specifies both a vertical and right-angle socket. The socket incorporates latches to retain the MiniBlade device in its socket to withstand embedded environments better than consumer-grade dongles and thumb drives. The MiniBlade electrical interface supports PCI Express, SATA, SDIO, MMC and USB interfaces, including reserving pins for the new USB 3.0 interface as it becomes available. Board designers may incorporate support for one or more of the interfaces on their SBC designs.

Companies interested in participating in future revisions of the MiniBlade Specification definition should contact the SFF-SIG at [info@sff-sig.org](mailto:info@sff-sig.org).

### **About the Small Form Factor SIG**

The Small Form Factor Special Interest Group is an international organization devoted to identifying, creating, and promoting standards that help electronics system and device manufacturers and integrators move to small form factor technologies and building blocks in their products, and protect their investments. Benefits of small form factor products include smaller size, reduced power consumption (eco-friendly, “green” products), and greater reliability compared to larger legacy products.

The SIG’s philosophy is to embrace the latest technologies, as well as maintain legacy compatibility and enable smooth transition solutions to next-generation interfaces. For more information about the SFF SIG, visit [www.sff-sig.org](http://www.sff-sig.org) or e-mail [info@sff-sig.org](mailto:info@sff-sig.org).

*MiniBlade is a trademark of the Small Form Factor Special Interest Group. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.*

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