microH264-D4

Quad Channel H.264 Codec for mini PCI

Advanced Micro Peripherals
THE EMBEDDED VIDEO EXPERTS

The microH264-D4 is a quad channel H.264 Codec on a single mini PCI form factor. The microH264-D4 provides a powerful and flexible solution for capturing and compressing up to 4 analog video inputs at full size and at frame rate to the H.264 digital video standard.

The microH264-D4 not only provides H.264 compression but can also simultaneously decompress and replay recordings from storage to display.

The microH264-D4 allows high quality real-time video and audio capture and compression from NTSC/PAL video sources to disk and simultaneously provides an additional path for uncompressed video for on-screen preview or optional downstream video analytics. The high performance H.264 video data compression and efficient bus utilization allow up to four microH264-D4 cards to be fitted in a mini PCI system with spare band-width for other collaborating peripherals.

Real-time 4 x full-size, full frame rate H.264 encode of PAL/NTSC/RS-170

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION (Rev A.02)
Subject to change without notification

Advanced Micro Peripherals Ltd
Cambridge, CB6 2HY, England
Tel (+44) 1353 659500
Fax (+44) 1353 659600
sales@ampltd.com
http://www.ampltd.com

Advanced Micro Peripherals Inc
New York, NY10001, USA
Tel (+1) 212 951 7205
Fax (+1) 212 951 7206
sales@amp-usa.com
http://www.amp-usa.com

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EMBEDDED-PC PC/104 MODULES

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The microH264-D4 is support by a set of well-documented comprehensive SDKs that minimize development risk and shorten time-to-market for applications in video streaming, recording, or routing. The SDKs are available on popular embedded operating systems such as Windows and Linux.

Simultaneous

H.264

and

M-JPEG

encoding

Applications

Solid-State Digital Video Server

Vehicle-based Video Codec

Law Enforcement

Crime Scene Recording

Remote Video Surveillance

Multi-camera Security Application

Asset Monitoring

Traffic Monitoring and Control

Video Acquisition and Analytics

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Text and graphics overlay

Camera PTZ control

Features

Real-time 4 x full size H.264 Encode at full frame rate

H.264 Decode/Playback

Fast Text Overlay on Recording for Time/Date stamp etc

Optional Real-time 4 x Motion-JPEG Encode at full frame rate

Optional RS-485 Serial Port for Camera PTZ Control

Optional Full bit-mapped graphics overlay on analog preview output

4 x mono audio input channels

Up to 4 microH264-D4 cards per system

Drivers for WinXP-E and Linux

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H.264 Video Recording

The microH264-D4 supports recording of up to four video inputs each as a single H.264 file. The resulting H.264 file can be played back by the microH264-D4 or appropriate hardware/ software decoders.

I/P Frame Encoding

The microH264-D4 supports encoding of both I and P frames. Encoding of only I frames is also supported. The microH264-D4 supports any number of P-frames between successive I-frames.

Encoding Bit Rate Control

The microH264-D4 provides flexible bit rate control by providing two modes: Variable Bit Rate (VBR) and Constant Bit Rate (CBR).

Variable Bit Rate (VBR)

For VBR mode the picture quality is fixed according to a Quantisation value of between 1 and 20. The bit rate varies automatically in reaction to the incoming video to maintain the set quality. VBR is appropriate for storage applications.

Constant Bit Rate (CBR)

In CBR mode, the average bit rate is fixed and the picture quality is adjusted on a frame-by-frame basis to maintain the preset average bit rate. CBR is of particular benefit where video needs to be streamed over a fixed-bandwidth link.

M-JPEG Video Recording (Optional)

In addition to the 4 x full size, full frame rate encode operations the microH264-D4 can also support simultaneous motion-JPEG encoding of each channel at the same size and frame rate as the H.264 encoding. This is useful for application requiring storage and network streaming.

Motion Detection and Event Triggers

The microH264-D4 supports automatic motion detection. Motion detection parameters such as regions of interest and frame difference threshold can be configured under software control.

Using the motion-detection feature the microH264-D4 can be operated in a baby-sitting mode where recording is committed to disk only when scene motion event is detected, to make most efficient use of disk storage. Software for the microH264-D4 allows recording of pre-trigger, on-trigger and post-trigger events.

Uncompressed Video Preview

The microH264-D4 provides a secondary video path allowing the video being recorded to be streamed across the mini PCI bus to the host system's VGA buffer for video previewing. The Preview output can also be used to view an alternate video source while recording other inputs. The Preview information is also available as a composite analog output (optional) suitable for driving a PAL/NTSC or RS-170 display device.

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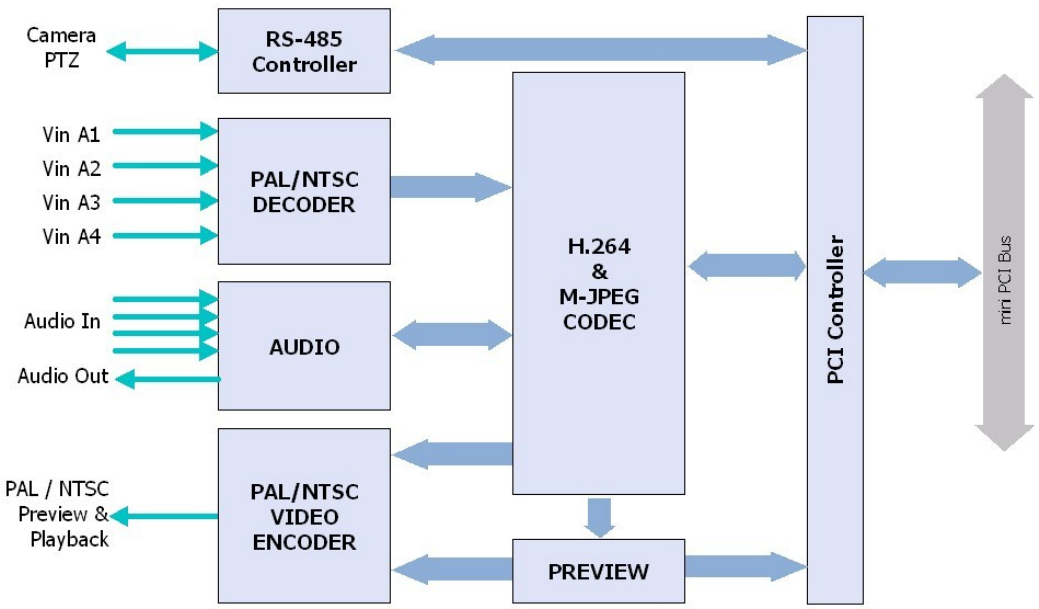
The uncompressed video, in RGB or YUV format, is available to downstream processes and may be used in further image processing applications.

OSD Video Overlay

The microH264-D4 provides a number of options for adding overlay information to the incoming video. This is a useful feature for applying real-time annotation and labelling to Preview and H.264 recordings. The microH264-D4 provides fast text based overlay for the encoding / recording video path and a more comprehensive full bit mapped graphics (with alpha blending) for the optional analog preview output - useful for implementing complex menu and navigation controls. There is currently no overlay capability on the VGA preview path. .

H.264 Decode and Playback

The microH264-D4 supports decoding and playback of H.264 files from storage to the host system's display screen. Maximum image size of decoded video is 704 x 480 (NTSC) or 704 x 576 (PAL). Audio data which is part of the original recording is also decoded and played back in synchronisation with the video. In addition to playback to the system's VGA device, the microH264-D4 provides an optional analog composite playback output suitable for directly driving a PAL/NTSC or RS-170 display device.



microH264-D4 Block Diagram

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mini PCI Bus Interface

Type III miniPCI
132MBytes/sec bandwidth at 33.33 MHz bus speed
Live multi-stream H.264 capture to memory or disk
Concurrent H.264 Capture and live preview

Analog Video Input

Up to 4 concurrent composite PAL or NTSC video input channels
Four 10-bit Analog-to-Digital converters
Anti-aliasing filters on inputs

Video Input Formats

Standard CCIR601-NTSC, CCIR-PAL
NTSC-M, NTSC-N, NTSC-J, NTSC (4.43), RS-170
PAL-B,G,N, PAL-D, PAL-H, PAL-I, PAL-M, PAL-NC, PAL-60

Video Input Adjustments

Contrast (or luma gain) adjustable from 0 - 200% of original
Saturation (or chroma gain) adjustable from 0 - 200% of original
Hue (or chroma phase) adjustable from –180° to +180°
Brightness (or luma level) can be adjusted from –25 to +25 IRE
Software adjustable Sharpness, Gamma and noise suppression

Audio Input

4x mono input
Provides Audio/Video Synchronisation

Video Encoding

ITU-T H.264 (ISO/IEC 14496-10, Baseline profile, level 3)
M-JPEG Video Encoding (optional)
4 channel NTSC 4CIF (704 x 480) at 30fps
4 channel PAL 4CIF (704 x 576) at 25fps
Supports I and P Frame Compression
Supports Variable Bit Rate (VBR)
Supports Constant Bit Rate (CBR)

Audio Encoding

G.723 Audio Codec

Video Decoding / Playback

Real-time H.264 Video Decoding
Playback to Composite PAL/NTSC output (optional)

Uncompressed Video Path

Real-time Preview to host VGA display
Preview to Composite PAL/NTSC output (optional)
Optional uncompressed RGB/YUV for downstream applications

Motion Detection

330 (NTSC) or 396 (PAL) detection blocks
Masking of areas not required for motion detection
Adjustable sensitivity

System Requirements

x86 PC-Compatible Host Computer with spare miniPCI type III slot
PCI/AGP Display (if Video Preview to host is required)

Miscellaneous

Standard mini PCI form factor
Operating temp 0˚C to 60˚C
Operating temp –40˚C to +85˚C (extended temp option)

Software Drivers

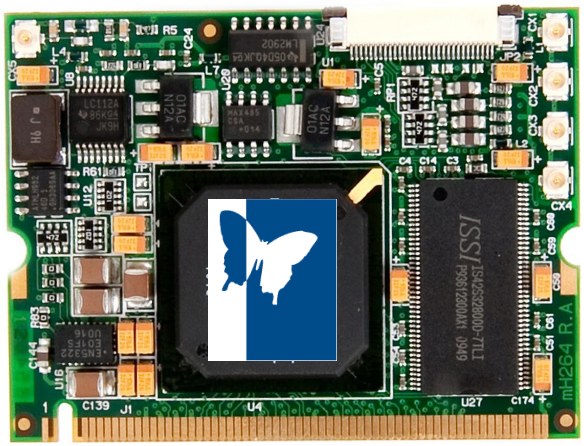
Drivers for WindowsXP and Linux
Sample video recording application in C/C++ source code

Related Products

microH264D4-VStream	RTSP Video Streaming SDK

Ordering Information

microH264-D4	H.264 Video Codec (0 to 60˚C)
microH264-D4-Ext	H.264 Video Codec (-40˚C to +85˚C)



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