Avnet and Aaware Introduce New Sound Capture Platform to Enable Voice Interface for Artificial Intelligence Applications

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Solution leverages Avnet’s MiniZed to improve interface for voice control AI targeting home and industry

PHOENIX & LOS GATOS, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Avnet (NYSE: AVT), a leading global technology distributor, and Aaware, Inc. (14), an emerging global supplier of sound capture technology for far-field, voice-enabled digital products, today introduced Aaware’s Sound Capture Platform, designed to provide product development teams with higher performance, scale and flexibility. The solution leverages Avnet’s MiniZed™ Zynq SoC development platform to improve sound capture performance for artificial intelligence (AI) applications in the smart home, industrial IoT and robotics markets. Avnet and Aaware will demonstrate the new voice interface technology at CES 2018, January 9-12 in Las Vegas, Eureka Park booth #50212 in the Sands Expo.

The Aaware Sound Capture Platform integrates algorithmic acceleration technology and a flexible microphone array board with the hardware power of Avnet’s MiniZed™ Zynq SoC development and demonstration platform, using dual-core Xilinx®-7000 All Programmable SoC devices.

“Leveraging the utility and expandability of Avnet’s MiniZed platform, Aaware’s Acoustically Aware™ sound capture algorithms enable product development teams to create far-field, voice-to-machine communications functionality that is more natural and robust than anything I have seen on the market today,” said Jim Beneke, vice president, engineering and technology, Avnet. “This versatile technology not only solves the problem of canceling noise, echo and reverberation, but also allows for anything I have seen on the market today,” said Jim Beneke, vice president, engineering and technology, Avnet. “This versatile technology not only solves the problem of canceling noise, echo and reverberation, but also allows for better voice recognition, even in noisy environments,” said Bill Teasley, vice president of engineering at Sensory.

“Aware is a top-notch distributor that has cultivated an exceptionally collaborative relationship with Xilinx, whose technology is consistently at the core of next-generation applications and solutions,” said Joe Gianelli, CEO and co-founder of Aaware. “Working with Avnet, and by extension Xilinx, will enable Aaware to reach a larger array of customers and markets worldwide, delivering world-class audio sound capture solutions that can help them bring more robust AI applications to market quickly and effectively.”

Aaware’s Acoustically Aware sound capture algorithms, paired with TrulyHandsfree™ wake word detection technology from Sensory, Inc., allow systems to adapt to differing noise interference, without requiring calibration for different environments or integration of the reference signal.

“By integrating Sensory’s industry leading wake word detection with Aaware’s noise processing, device makers are able to deploy powerful products that feature always-listening speech recognition capabilities that thrive in noisy environments,” said Bill Teasley, vice president of engineering at Sensory.

“Providing customers with scale and flexibility, coupled with powerful edge acceleration for the voice-enabled Artificial Intelligence (AI) application market, is compelling,” said Yousef Khalilollah, vice president, core vertical markets, Xilinx. “We see tremendous opportunity accelerating at the edge with Xilinx All Programmable SoCs and Aaware technology, enabling voice assistants, robotics and other AI-related applications.”

Unlike standard sound capture platforms which typically offer only fixed microphone array configurations, the Aaware platform has a concentric circular array of 13 microphones that may be configured in different combinations, allowing for product performance tuning. The Aaware platform separates source speech (wake word) and follow-on speech from interfering noise with ultra-low distortion, allowing the system to more easily integrate with third-party speech and natural language engines. In addition, source localization data can be forwarded to downstream applications, such as video, improving the performance of sophisticated multi-sensor AI applications, including those for industrial robotics and surveillance.

For more information on the Aaware Voice Platform available through Avnet, visit Avnet’s MiniZed.org portal at www.minized.org/product/AEV13MZ

Click to Tweet: (18) Sound capture platform from Aaware leverages @Avnet #MiniZed #Zynq #SoC development platform and @Trulyhandsfree wake word detection to enable smarter, faster and safer far-field #AI voice control interface http://avnet.me/32689

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About Aaware

Superior voice interfaces start with superior sound capture. Aaware’s unique Acoustically Aware technologies bring out the best far-field voice interfaces for the growing number of AI applications. This, coupled with Aaware design services, offers a complete sound capture solution tailored for today’s digital product teams. Learn more about Aaware at aaware.com

About Avnet

From idea to design and from prototype to production, Avnet supports customers at each stage of a product’s lifecycle. A comprehensive portfolio of design and supply chain services makes Avnet the go-to guide for innovators who set the pace for technological change. For nearly a century, Avnet has helped its customers and suppliers around the world realize the transformative possibilities of technology. Learn more about Avnet at www.avnet.com
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Links:

Language: English
Contact:
Avnet
Maureen O'Leary, 480-643-7499
maureen.oleary@avnet.com

or
Brodeur Partners for Avnet
Jamie Ernst, 480-308-0286
ernst@brodeur.com

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