



# Marketing Bulletin

AMB2009-06

December 22, 2009

## **Windows 7<sup>®</sup> Now Available and Supported** *Updates Available to Support Existing Products in the Field*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

As you are undoubtedly aware, Microsoft has released the long-awaited new version of its premier operating system, Windows 7. Impressions from both the general IT world and from Alpha Micro's own staff are that Windows 7 is a solid product. Resembling Windows Vista<sup>®</sup> in user interface, it resolves many of Vista's compatibility and performance problems. Alpha Micro is pleased to announce that our key products have been updated for Windows 7 compatibility.

### **64-Bit and 32-Bit Versions**

Windows 7 offers 32-bit and 64-bit editions. When Alpha Micro states that a product is Windows 7-compatible, unless specific mention is made to the contrary, we mean that the product works with both the 32-bit and 64-bit editions.

### **SuperFalcon<sup>™</sup>, Cardinal<sup>™</sup> and Eagle 750<sup>™</sup> Implications**

AMPC<sup>™</sup> version 7.1(943) and beyond are compatible with Windows 7. Cardinals shipping as of the date of this bulletin include a CD with Windows 7-compatible software.

New part numbers have been added to the Alpha Micro Price List for 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows 7 Professional<sup>®</sup>, to be used when configuring Eagle 750 systems. Windows 7 Home Premium<sup>®</sup> and Windows 7 Ultimate<sup>®</sup> are unlikely to be used in a typical AMOS environment and therefore will not be added to our Price List. Windows XP<sup>®</sup> licenses will continue to be made available as long as they can be obtained. Windows Vista has been discontinued from our product line due to limited demand.

In general, Alpha Micro recommends that new systems going forward use Windows 7 unless compatibility issues dictate using an earlier Windows version. We do not have the reservations that we had about Vista. Unless you have a particular reason for requiring the 64-bit version, we recommend ordering the 32-bit version for maximal likelihood of compatibility with existing applications and drivers.

Please note that AMPC 5.0 for the ISA Bus Falcon<sup>™</sup> will not be updated for Windows 7 compatibility. Alpha Micro does not expect this to be a problem, as few systems with ISA bus sockets are capable of running Windows 7.

### **Eagle 800<sup>™</sup> and AM-8000<sup>™</sup> Implications**

Microsoft has released a preview edition of "Windows Embedded Standard 2011<sup>®</sup>", the forthcoming Windows 7-based replacement for Windows XP Embedded<sup>®</sup>. In the interim, until a

production version of this product is ready, Microsoft has released “Windows Embedded Standard<sup>®</sup>”, which is essentially XP Embedded under a new name. Regular Windows XP Embedded remains available as well, likely because developers will not race to rebuild their OSES just for a name change to Windows Embedded Standard. An embedded version of Vista was never created.

Microsoft has also released “Windows 7 for Embedded Systems<sup>®</sup>”, which is essentially regular Windows 7 licensed for dedicated kinds of computer applications. Unlike XPE, in which a custom OS is built from the ground-up by selecting (only) the modules of Windows that one’s application needs, Windows 7 for Embedded Systems starts with a complete version of Windows that is somewhat customizable and possibly reducible to restrict its functionality.

For the time being, Windows XP Embedded continues to be Alpha Micro’s base operating system of choice for Eagle 800 and AM-8000 systems. Alpha Micro will continue to monitor Microsoft’s developments in the Embedded product line and will update our own products when an appropriate new OS comes along.

### **TrueGUI<sup>™</sup>, AlphaODBC<sup>™</sup>, and AlphaLAN<sup>™</sup> Compatibility**

*TrueGUI 3.0* is a new release for compatibility with Windows 7. Previous versions of *TrueGUI* will not install properly in Windows 7. This release may be downloaded from [www.truegui.com](http://www.truegui.com). Existing Activation Codes will work with this new version.

AlphaODBC **1.5** is a new release with a new installer required for use with Windows 7.

AlphaLAN 9.0 has been tested and is known to work. There is a known incompatibility between AlphaLAN 8.0 and 64-bit versions of Windows 7. U.A. Systems recommends using only the 9.x and later versions of its products for 64-bit Windows. AlphaLAN 7.0 and earlier have not been tested by Alpha Micro and may not work with 32-bit Windows.

If you discover an incompatibility in one of our products, before contacting Alpha Micro, please right click on the icon for the program in question and try running it in XP Compatibility Mode. That will help determine the nature of the problem and will save time in resolving it.

### **Ordering Information**

Dealers covered by a Support Agreement needing an update for any of the above packages except AlphaLAN may download them from Alpha Micro’s FTP server using the logon provided to you for the 2009 Support Year. Dealers on a Time-and-Materials support arrangement with Alpha Micro may purchase an update by contacting Alpha Micro Order Administration.