



PRESS RELEASE

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SATA-IO Releases SATA Revision 3.0 Specification

Third Generation Specification Delivers Faster Speeds and Increased Functionality

Portland, Ore., and Taipei, TW – May 27, 2009 – Serial ATA International Organization (SATA-IO), the consortium dedicated to sustaining the quality, integrity and dissemination of serial ATA (SATA) technology, today released the [Serial ATA Revision 3.0 specification](#). The new specification ushers in lightning-fast transfer speeds up to six gigabits per second (Gb/s) as well as enhancements to support multimedia applications.

“As speed becomes critical to today’s storage, the SATA Revision 3.0 specification doubles the maximum transfer speed enabled by technology, paving the way for a new generation of faster SATA products,” said Knut Grimsrud, SATA-IO president and Intel Fellow and director of storage architecture. “SATA-IO members will be able to design for their customers products with the speed they crave, without compromising the quality and performance they’ve come to expect from SATA technology.”

The new specification is backward compatible with earlier SATA implementations, and maintains the low cost and low power for which the popular storage interface is acclaimed. In addition, the specification features a number of enhancements for increased functionality. These enhancements include:

- A new Native Command Queuing (NCQ) streaming command to enable isochronous data transfers for bandwidth-hungry audio and video applications
- An NCQ Management feature that helps optimize performance by enabling host processing and management of outstanding NCQ commands
- Improved power management capabilities
- A small Low Insertion Force (LIF) connector for more compact 1.8-inch storage devices
- A connector designed to accommodate 7mm optical disk drives for thinner and lighter notebooks
- Alignment with the INCITS ATA8-ACS standard

SATA technology has gained tremendous ground since its introduction in 2001. According to analyst firm IDC, more than 1.1 billion SATA hard drives have shipped from 2001 through 2008. Last year, SATA captured more than 98 percent of internal hard disk drive shipments, demonstrating that SATA technology is now used in the vast majority of desktop and mobile PCs*. Additionally, the technology is increasingly being used in other types of devices, including

**Source: IDC Doc #215614, “Economic Crisis Response: Worldwide 2008-2012 Forecast Update,” December 2008.*



optical disk drives, solid state drives, servers and external storage systems. SATA implementations are also making inroads in the enterprise market.

"The SATA interface has developed into the de facto standard HDD interface in computing applications," said John Rydning, IDC's research director for hard disk drives. "The new SATA Revision 3.0 specification builds upon the current market success of SATA, and will help to solidify SATA as the predominant storage device interface technology for the foreseeable future."

[Click here](#) for more information about the SATA Revision 3.0 specification.

See SATA Technology in Action

SATA-IO will demonstrate several product implementations of SATA 6Gb/s and other technologies enabled by the SATA Revision 3.0 specification at Computex Taipei on June 2-6. Be sure to visit booth #H810 to see the latest SATA 6Gb/s products.

Additionally, SATA-IO will host the first testing event for SATA 6Gb/s technology at its upcoming plugfest and interoperability workshop on June 8-11 in Milpitas, Calif. The workshop will also feature a developer training session on June 8, outlining all of the enhancements included in Revision 3.0. Please visit www.sata-io.org or email admin@sata-io.org for more information.

About SATA-IO

Formed in September 2004, the SATA-IO is the International Organization that owns and manages Serial ATA specifications as open industry standards. The organization defines and implements Serial ATA storage specification as the industry's storage needs evolve. It is dedicated to sustaining the quality, integrity and dissemination of the SATA technology by maintaining the specifications, promoting and marketing the benefits of the technology and creating future interface features and specifications that carry storage into the next decade. Additional information about the organization, its more than 218 participating companies and membership is available at www.sata-io.org.