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CASAWORKS RECEIVES INNOVATIONS AWARD FOR CIELO HOME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT CES 2004

Innovative System Controls Home Electronics via PDA, PC, Web Pad, or Wireless Remote Control



LAS VEGAS, NV (January 8, 2004)—CasaWorks, a division of Metrics Technology, Inc., showcased the CieloTM Home Management System in the Innovations 2004 Pavilion and also at their exhibit space at the 2004 International Consumer Electronics Show. Cielo is a new hardware and software-based solution that gives homeowners the intelligence and functionality of traditional high-end home control and automation systems in an affordable, easy to use, and reliable system.

Cielo, pronounced "see-ell-o," is the Spanish word for "sky," and with the Cielo Home Management System, the sky is the limit. It allows homeowners to control their household electronics, including lighting, climate, security, and entertainment systems, using a PDA, PC Web browser, Tablet PC, or wireless programmable remote control. Users can specify their preferences, which are recorded by Cielo to manage the home's systems.

"We were excited to win honorable mention and were extremely pleased at the response we received by both home automation enthusiasts and industry professionals to our demonstrations on the show floor," said Michael Arendall, President and CEO of CasaWorks. "The features we designed into our Cielo Home Management System seemed to be exactly what this emerging market is demanding (ease of installation, ease of use, and lower cost of ownership)." We are striving to make the most integrated, affordable, flexible, and reliable home management system ever and make it available to more homeowners.

The Cielo Home Management System demonstrations at CES 2004 showed a variety of devices being controlled by a number of built-in home behaviors, including Z-Wave enabled light dimmers and wireless controlled window shades from several different manufacturers. Z-Wave[™] is a wireless protocol from Zensys A/S, which provides low bandwidth wireless control for many different classes of devices and is ideal for both new construction and retrofit installations. CasaWorks is a Z-Wave Developer working with Zensys to create wireless controllers and bridging technologies for use with the Cielo Home Management System. Z-Wave enabled devices will be available from CasaWorks around the beginning of Q2 2004 through Cielo-authorized dealers and integrators.

CasaWorks' personnel demonstrated the combination of wireless lighting with security systems and communicating thermostats, so all the lights turned on and the designated outdoor lights flashed when an alarm event occurred. The Cielo Home Management System controls several popular security panels including DSC and GE Security panels supporting RS-232 or similar controls. Visitors to the booth were able to arm or disarm the system from an installed security keypad. Cielo's Welcome Home and Away behaviors in turn controlled the thermostat to reset the temperature, turn on or off the lights, and turn on or off the media center based on arming or disarming the security system. Cielo also monitors user access and can send an e-mail notification when the system is armed or disarmed. Security can be controlled from a simple integrated user interface via a Web browser.

The lighting system was also integrated with CasaWorks' medio S-series Digital Media Server (available later this year) providing mood lighting when the user selected a genre playlist of recorded MP3 audio files. The lights were dimmed to 25% for the Classical genre, 50% for Blues, or 75% for the Latin genre. The lighting system along with the medio Digital Media Server was also integrated with a full home theater demonstration which provided the convenient feature of controlling the entire theater room devices including; dimming the lights, lowering the window shade, and starting the movie when the user simply inserted a DVD disc into the DVD player. Then the system turned on the lights to 50% dim when the movie was paused and back off when the movie was resumed.

Cielo comes with out-of-the-box functionality that can be easily customized by installers, requiring little or no programming. All user interfaces can be implemented using standard HTML and then linked to behaviors that interface with the home's components and systems. The Cielo Home Management System includes selections for most typical home automation tasks. The software facilitates network transparency and provides auto-discovery of system components, allowing seamless updates from a laptop computer or over the Internet. Software updates can be performed automatically without having to reboot the system. Built for reliability using an embedded computer, Cielo is designed for extended hours of operation without service.

About CasaWorks

CasaWorks provides design, installation, and programming services to the home automation market. Using state-of-the-art tools, the company rapidly creates reference designs and prototypes and turns those designs into working products. With more than 15 years of experience working with software and hardware automation systems in commercial applications, CasaWorks is now focusing on emerging technologies necessary to implement automation in homes. For more information, see the CasaWorks Web site at http://www.casaworks.com.