

EICON's Diva for Windows Family First to Provide Comprehensive ISDN Connectivity for Remote Laptop and Internet Users Alike

Eicon Technology has introduced DIVA for Windows, remote access ISDN adapter cards, for the Australian market. The DIVA for Windows card for PCs and laptop computers gives teleworkers and power Internet users access to remote networks via ISDN at a lower cost and requiring less expertise than current ISDN technologies.

Laptop users can now enjoy the advantages of ISDN connectivity previously limited to desktop users. Available in versions for both desktop systems (ISA bus) and laptops (PCMCIA Type II bus), the DIVA for Windows cards support the Windows 95, Windows NT and Windows 2.x operating systems. Both these cards provide ISDN Basic Rate Interface (BRI) connectivity and eliminate the need to purchase an external ISDN terminal adapter (TA). Databases, office e-mail, network files and the Internet can be accessed easily, by simply inserting a DIVA for Windows card into the laptop.

Alex Gostin, Eicon's technical marketing manager Asia-Pacific, said: "ISDN has been proven as a technology that supports the definitive shift from analogue to digital communications. With the announcement of the DIVA family, Eicon is squarely addressing the growing demands of the ISDN market. Eicon is the first company to provide comprehensive and cost-effective ISDN solutions which are specifically designed to take full advantage of Windows 95 and Windows NT."

Endorsements and specifications

The products have been strongly endorsed by Microsoft. The DIVA PCM card is the only ISDN PCMCIA

adapter on the Microsoft Hardware Compatibility List. The DIVA PCM card in combination with Eicon's Windows 95 drivers was the first ISDN adapter to receive Microsoft's Designed for Windows 95 accreditation. In addition, the latest DIVA for Windows 95 drivers were the first to support the new Microsoft ISDN Accelerator Pack version 1.1 which supports multilink PPP to enable 128 kbps operation.

The cards utilise a unique digital signal processing chip (DSP) to provide the most efficient processing of information.

The DIVA for Windows cards provide a number of application programming interfaces (APIs) for developers and are AUSTEL approved. In addition, the DIVA for Windows cards are certified for ISDN connection worldwide including ETSI approval. This enables customers to immediately connect to Telstra's ETSI based OnRamp service once it is launched.

Comprehensive fulfilment of ISDN market needs - two usage scenarios

The growth in ISDN uptake largely falls into two scenarios. The DIVA for Windows cards were designed specifically to meet these situations:

1. Remote ISDN access to a central LAN

A teleworker travelling between branch and corporate offices with ISDN needs access to the corporate LAN. The combination of a laptop with a DIVA PCM card makes for the most portable solution. Today most teleworkers are using Windows 95 while power users are rapidly moving towards the Windows NT 4.0 desktop.

2. Remote ISDN access to the Internet and on-line services

Eicon's DIVA ISA card also helps connect the power user that requires regular Internet access. The DSP architecture of the DIVA card enables large volumes of data to be transferred in the background while the user continues to use their Microsoft Office or other applications concurrently. With standard multilink PPP support a bandwidth of 128kbps is available.

Pricing and Availability

The DIVA for Windows cards will be available in Australia from December 1st. The ISA bus card will retail (ex tax) for \$1050 and the PCMCIA Type II bus card will retail (ex tax) for \$1195.