



Press Release

IIT Bombay Develops Compact Microstrip Antennas for Innoviti's Vaayu Range of Wireless Adaptors

Bangalore, August 2005: Innoviti Embedded Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a Bangalore based company developing consumer communication products, today announced that it has now started shipping its award winning vaayu product with custom antennas designed by Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay under an agreement entered into with IIT Bombay.

vaayu™, a wireless adaptor for dial-up modems, designed by Innoviti, is an innovative product that allows you to make your laptop's existing dial-up modem wireless, without having to pay any extra "monthly rentals" for going wireless. It allows the consumers to "go wireless on their own" and has been designed without any software installation or configuration being required on the users laptop. Its innovative design has won it the Design Excellence Award for the Best Consumer Electronics Product from Businessworld and NID in 2004. "A key element of the design was a requirement that there should be no external antenna, as that firstly spoils the aesthetics and secondly is subject to breakage. We posed the problem to Prof. Girish Kumar of Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay, and he designed an extremely compact microstrip antenna for us, that meets our performance requirement, is easy to manufacture and best of all fits inside the already packed product. Innoviti is proud to be associated with IIT Bombay in this venture, and is engaging with the institute on various such optimizations", said Ashok Baragi, Vice President Engineering, Innoviti.

"vaayu™ was designed to be an extremely small product and already packed with electronics, hence the antenna constraints were very severe. There were ground planes on the bottom and dielectrics on the top, all affecting the performance. Designing an antenna that would meet Innoviti's performance requirement under these constraints was a challenging problem, and we are glad that we could offer a solution that finally met their requirement," said Prof. Girish Kumar, EE Dept., IIT Bombay.

The antenna designed by IIT Bombay was used to replace an earlier ceramic antenna that Innoviti was using, giving it a cost advantage and ease of manufacturing. Besides, the ceramic antenna was imported and the microstrip is locally manufactured using standard PCB manufacturing processes, thus providing for an import substitute that is easier to control for Innoviti. Innoviti could achieve an almost 30% reduction in the antenna cost and cut down the lead time from 6 weeks to 2 weeks using this import design.

vaayu™ is currently being distributed nationally through online retail and through channel partners in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. It is available through retail showrooms in Chennai and Bangalore. In the next 3 months, the company will be expanding partners to the north of the country. The product has three design patents awarded and two pending.

About Innoviti

Innoviti Embedded Solutions is focused on developing consumer communication products for the world markets. Its aim is "simplifying communications" by delivering truly simple-to-use communication products that make communication a more enjoyable experience. It was founded in late 2002 by a team having extensive experience in communication technologies and product business.

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