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Linear Technology Announces the Missing Link for Energy Harvesting Applications

MILPITAS, CA -- December 1, 2009 -- Linear Technology Corporation (NASDAQ-LLTC), a leading, independent manufacturer of high performance linear integrated circuits, today announced the release of its first device in a new family of energy harvesting products. The LTC3108, an ultralow voltage DC/DC converter and power manager is designed specifically to collect and dispense surplus energy, creating extremely low voltages from heat sources. Linear plans to introduce additional devices in the coming months that scavenge power from vibration, light, moisture and electromagnetic systems.

“Non-traditional energy sources exist all around us,” said Linear Technology Vice President & Power Products Group General Manager, Don Paulus. “They include heat generated from natural sources as well as the by-product of industrial processes, solar cells and even galvanic energy from moisture. The missing link in the energy harvesting chain has been a simple and practical method of capturing this unused energy and converting it into useable power. Our new DC/DC converter with its power manager is capable of taking extremely low levels of current from heat to power a wireless transmitter or sensor, solving the problem.”

Energy harvesting affords the opportunity to charge, supplement and even replace batteries in systems where they are inconvenient, impractical, expensive or dangerous. It eliminates the need for wires to carry power or to transmit data. Smart wireless sensor networks or “mesh” networks can now monitor and optimize complex industrial processes in remote field

installations as well as building heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Wasted heat from solar panels and internal combustions engines can also be harvested. Now we have the capability to charge consumer electronics with harvested energy. Other applications include building automation, avionics and automated metering.

According to Paulus, energy harvesting has been an emerging market for several years, but the technology just wasn't in place for it to break out commercially. With this latest development, energy harvesting is poised to become a multi-million dollar industry.

Linear Technology Corporation was founded in 1981, became a public company in 1986 and joined the S&P 500 index of major public companies in 2000. Linear Technology products include high performance amplifiers, comparators, voltage references, monolithic filters, linear regulators, DC-DC converters, battery chargers, data converters, communications interface circuits, RF signal conditioning circuits, uModule[®] products, and many other analog functions. Applications for Linear Technology's high performance circuits include telecommunications, cellular telephones, networking products such as optical switches, notebook and desktop computers, computer peripherals, video/multimedia, industrial instrumentation, security monitoring devices, high-end consumer products such as digital cameras and MP3 players, complex medical devices, automotive electronics, factory automation, process control, and military and space systems. For more information, visit www.linear.com.