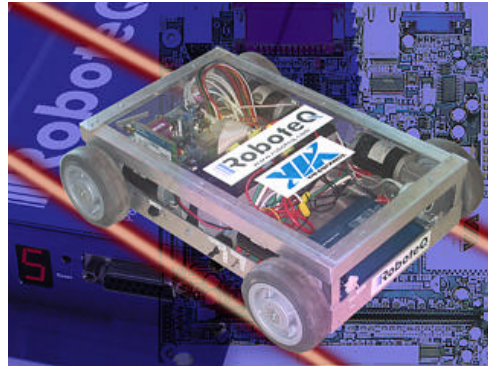


Press Information For Immediate Release

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High resolution photo at:
www.roboteq.com/pict/robovia.jpg



At a Glance:

- Mobile robot design platform
- Combines Roboteq DC motor controller and VIA's mini-ITX
- Equipped with webcam and 802.11 wireless LAN
- Drawings and software available free of charge

Applications:

- Autonomous or remote controlled robotic vehicles
- Telepresence systems
- Remote Medicine
- Underwater robots (ROVs)
- Hazardous material handling, bomb disposal robots
- Surveillance, military, and exploration robots

Roboteq with VIA Technologies Publishes Reference Design for Emerging "PC-Bot" Market

Phoenix, AZ October 20, 2003 – Roboteq, Inc., the leading developer of motor controllers for the mobile robotics industry, announces the publication of a PC-Bot demonstrator platform featuring the company's new AX2550 DC Motor Controller and VIA Technologies EPIA Mini-ITX mainboards. PC-Bots allow the PC community to extend the utility of the PC into new spaces via web cameras with motion detection software and motors and wheels that add new levels of mobility to entertainment, utility and security applications.

The battery-operated, 4 wheel drive, 1.5 by 2 foot robot uses the VIA mainboard to interface to an 801.11 wireless LAN card and an USB video camera. This set-up provides live video to a remote operator who can drive the robot and obtain telemetry data using a laptop computer. The motherboard is connected to the Roboteq motor controller via its RS232 port. The robot is a technology platform that users interested in robotics are encouraged to adopt and to which they can add functionality and intelligence. Mechanical and electrical drawings, assembly instruction and software for this robot are published on Roboteq's website at <http://www.roboteq.com/robovia.shtml> and can be used as a basis for one's own robot design.

The low power consumption, numerous connectivity options and small 17cm x 17cm size of VIA EPIA Mini-ITX mainboards are ideally suited to mobile robotic designs. The x86 platform enables significant computational functionality and flexible software development options. Roboteq's AX2550 further simplifies projects by connecting with various motors on mobile robotics applications.

"Where the VIA EPIA Mini-ITX provides the ideal PC brain for mobile robots, Roboteq's AX2550 acts as the neurological connection to mobile robots muscles," states Timothy Brown, Robotics Program Manager at VIA Technologies, Inc. "Together they provide hobbyists, researchers and commercial developers alike a simple solution to building robust mobile robotic applications"

"VIA's EPIA Mini-ITX mainboards are the perfect companion for our motor controller," says Martina Senn, Roboteq's Marketing Manager. "Their low power, small size and outstanding computing capabilities, combined with our controller's exceptional power, simple interface, and rich operating options will undoubtedly stimulate a wealth of robotic creations."

About Roboteq and the AX2550

Founded in 2002, Roboteq's has been shipping around the world controllers used in over 100 autonomous and remote controlled robot models. These controllers can drive two DC motors at up to 40V and 120A each, a level of power suitable for practically any robotic design.

About VIA Technologies and the VIA Robotics Initiative

VIA Technologies, Inc. is the foremost fabless supplier of market leading core logic chipsets, low power x86 processors, advanced connectivity, multimedia, networking and storage silicon, and complete platform solutions that are driving system innovation in the PC and embedded markets. The VIA Robotics Initiative, described at <http://www.viatech.com/en/robotics/robotics.jsp>, is the first phase of VIA's efforts to promote PC architecture and VIA platforms for the robotics industry. By highlighting some of the ongoing projects using existing VIA EPIA-Series mainboards, VIA intends to validate design strategies that are highly applicable for today's robot markets. This will lay the groundwork for platform advances that will continue to progress the future development of robot-specific technologies and products into mainstream markets.

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