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Coactive Enhances Residential Gateway to Enable Multiple Home Networks

Coactive Connector® to Deliver Simultaneous Powerline and Twisted Pair Connections to Home Appliances and Devices

INTERNATIONAL CES2000, Las Vegas, Nevada, January 6, 2000 -- Coactive Networks, a leading provider of commercial and residential gateways for connecting devices, appliances, and control systems to the Internet, today announced that its Coactive Connector® product line will now simultaneously allow communications to home devices over existing electrical wiring and unshielded twisted pair wiring. The Coactive Connector already communicates with home devices such as lights and appliances by simply plugging them in to an electrical outlet, and this new feature makes it easier to include home systems such as security and climate control, which might be better suited to a wired connection.

Coactive's residential gateway is unique in enabling home e-services that go beyond PC Internet access. The Coactive Connector provides a continuous Internet connection to multiple devices — everything from lighting to security systems to dishwashers — using existing wiring. That means consumers have access to everything in their homes from anywhere they are. By delivering a single affordable gateway to multiple devices, Coactive enables appliances and devices talk to each other as well as to communicate with their owners. So the oven can download sophisticated cooking instructions from a web site. Or commuters can turn on the heat so the house warms up before they arrive home but doesn't stay on all day, wasting energy. If the iron is left on, it can send a page, so the homeowner can switch it off remotely before any problems occur.

Coactive's open approach to device communications takes full advantage of Internet standards, connecting all of the electronic devices in our lives to the evolving world of Internet appliances. So consumers can use a web browser from work to program the VCR, or use a mobile phone to turn on the porch lights. A security alarm not only notifies the resident away from home but can be programmed to turn on lights throughout the house. And users can both see what triggered the alarm and take action in response.

"This isn't just where we're going, this is what is happening now," says Coactive president David Gaw. "We've been delivering connectivity in commercial settings for years, and have recently seen the market for our residential offering explode. The consumer friendly e-services enabled by our gateway today will only get more exciting as we continue to support additional home networks." Gaw also notes that several electric utility and telecommunications companies, in Europe and the U.S., are in the process of testing and rolling out multiple consumer e-services using Coactive products.

"Delivering on the promise of the residential gateway means enabling the Internet to reach every electronic device in the home," said Tricia Parks, president of Parks Associates, a Dallas-based market research and consulting firm focused on the home networking and broadband industries. "Coactive's gateway products facilitate this important process."

The Coactive Connector is based upon Coactive's IOConnect Architecture™, a patent-pending embedded distributed object technology which provides the reliability, scalability, and manageability required for complex and mission-critical systems. The dual powerline and twisted pair option will be available on both the Coactive Connector 1000 Series commercial gateway and the Coactive Connector 2000 Series residential gateway during the first quarter of 2000. Coactive is demonstrating its residential gateway at the International Consumer Electronics Show (Booth No. 6046, North Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center).

About Coactive Networks

Coactive Networks delivers open solutions for connecting devices and control systems to enterprise networks and the Internet. The company offers a full line of routers, thin servers, and gateways for enabling a new class of e-services, and is dedicated to enabling the Internet to reach all of the devices, appliances, and computers in homes and businesses. Coactive is a privately held corporation based in Sausalito, CA. Detailed information on Coactive products, news announcements, training, and support is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.coactive.com>.

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