

**Contacts:**

ZF Micro Devices, Inc.  
Renee Bula  
(650) 965-3800  
[rabela@zfmicro.com](mailto:rabela@zfmicro.com)

Shotwell Public Relations, Inc.  
Debbie Swanson  
(408) 530-8081  
[debbie@shotwellpr.com](mailto:debbie@shotwellpr.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**ZF MICRO DEVICES REVOLUTIONIZES X86 BIOS MANAGEMENT  
ON THE ZFX86 PC-ON-A-CHIP**

**ZEB Utility Gives Developers Flexibility to Establish and Modify Custom  
Default BIOS Settings**

**PALO ALTO, CA, July 25, 2001** **ZF Micro Devices, Inc.** has announced today the ZF Edit BIOS (ZEB) Utility is now shipping with the ZFx86 Integrated Development System. The ZEB utility will enable developers to create a new customized BIOS image that matches their exact application needs without requiring access to source code, and without the need to re-compile or understand the details of the BIOS structure. ZF's ZEB utility can save developers considerable effort, money and time, which is consistent with ZF's on-going strategy to enable customers to bring profitable and innovative products to market faster than their competitors.

"ZF Micro Devices has created a set of technical material, including various software utilities, to help resolve design and manufacturing bottlenecks present in virtually every product cycle," said David Feldman, President and CEO of ZF Micro Devices. "The ZEB utility will remove bottlenecks by allowing users to easily customize the embedded BIOS. The output file from the ZEB utility creates a binary image ready to be downloaded into the target product avoiding all need to re-compile or understand the BIOS source code. This binary image also allows the manufacturing control and repeatability by removing all manual intervention in the product test and configuration cycle." said Feldman.

## **ZF Edit BIOS (ZEB) Utility**

The ZEB utility allows a software engineer to create a new unique BIOS image that matches the exact product configuration without requiring access to source code, and without the need to re-compile or understand the details of the BIOS structure. Both the BIOS and the ZEB use a pointer table to locate complex variables that need changing.

### **Using the ZEB Utility**

The ZF Edit Bios utility, ZEB.EXE, enables developers to establish and automate custom default BIOS settings. ZEB is ideal for those embedded systems with no battery-backed CMOS storage, and allows additional debug flexibility when bringing up new designs. ZEB runs on either DOS or Windows. The ZEB utility supports the creation of a debugging BIOS that outputs POST Codes on the serial port. The utility also allows developers to incorporate their own splash screen into their customized BIOS version. For more detailed information or to download a copy of the utility, refer to the ZF Micro Devices website, [www.zfmicro.com/downloadtable.html](http://www.zfmicro.com/downloadtable.html).

### **About ZFx86 FailSafe PC-on-a-Chip Microcontroller**

ZF Micro Devices provides the ZFx86 PC-on-a-Chip, to enable customers to deliver innovative products faster. A low power consumption device measuring only 35mm by 35mm, the ZFx86 comes bundled with the run-time license for a fully implemented PhoenixBIOS™ from Phoenix Technology. The ZFx86 is a fully x86 PC compliant microcontroller, and has been tested to run with a wide variety of O/S's, including DOS, Linux, Windows 95/98/NT and Windows CE 3.0. Every ZFx86 Integrated Development System includes Red Hat Linux and LynuxWorks BlueCat™ Linux, LynuxWorks™ development tools for creating compact custom Linux embedded applications. Including the software with the chip means OEMs no longer have to pay costly license fees or go through the expensive and time-consuming requirement of porting third party software and searching for unique peripheral drivers.

The ZFx86, with the FailSafe™ System is the only X86 PC-on-a-Chip microcontroller that boots autonomously on application of power and can operate even if system DRAM and Flash are unavailable. The patented FailSafe™ System also allows upgrades over the Internet, while eliminating the possibility of irrecoverable crashes. Using its proprietary Z-Tag™ interface, the ZFx86 can re-program system Flash at a fast 1.5M-bits per second, rather than the usual 19.2Kbaud, reducing potential downtime dramatically.

With an expanding range of reference design material available from the ZF Micro Devices web site ([www.zfmicro.com](http://www.zfmicro.com)), the ZFx86 microcontroller delivers key enabling technologies for embedded applications. The ZFx86 is available from distributor stock on a worldwide basis.

### **About ZF Micro Devices**

ZF Micro Devices has pioneered FailSafe systems since its founding in 1995. ZF Micro Devices enables its customers to bring profitable, innovative, crash-immune systems to market faster than their competitors, by delivering ultra-low power PC systems at a chip size and price. The company recently changed its name from ZF Linux Devices. Corporate headquarters are located at 1052 Elwell Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303 USA: toll-free: 800-683-5943; tel: 650-965-3800; fax: 650-965-4050; e-mail: [info@zfmicro.com](mailto:info@zfmicro.com); web: [www.zfmicro.com](http://www.zfmicro.com). In Europe, ZF Micro Devices can be reached at +33-(0) 1-41-80-04-10. In South America, call +54-11-4543-0049.