



NEWS

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Marketing Contact:

Calto Wong
Director of Technical Marketing
ESS Technology, Inc.
(510) 492-1718
calto.wong@esstech.com

Media/Analyst Contact:

Rebecca Mack
Bergman Mack & Associates
(949) 981-4496
rebecca@bergmanmack.com

McIntosh Laboratory Chooses ESS's Sabre Reference Audio D/A Converter For Its New MCD500 SACD/CD Player

Truly Exceptional Sound for the Most Discriminating Audiophiles

FREMONT, Calif., August 28, 2008 — ESS Technology, a leading provider of high performance audio/video solutions, today announced that its Sabre Reference eight-channel audio D/A converter (ES9008) is incorporated in the new McIntosh Laboratory MCD500 SACD/CD Player (MSRP: \$6500), scheduled for availability this month.

The MCD500, housed with a rigid aluminum die-cast mechanism base with aluminum die-cast tray, is a two-channel SACD/CD player supporting SACD, hybrid SACD, CD, CD-R and CR-RW disc playback. Both balanced and unbalanced outputs with fixed or variable volume are provided, together with a low-impedance headphone output. The MCD500 can also be used as standalone D/A converter through its coaxial or optical digital audio input.

The MCD500's analog stereo output will surpass the expectations of the most demanding audio enthusiasts with its wide dynamic range, extremely low distortion, exceptionally wide sound stage and jitter-free music clarity offered by the ESS Sabre Reference 8-channel D/A converter in Stereo Quad Balanced mode. With patented multi-bit Hyperstream™ modulator with Revolver Dynamic Matching and time-domain Jitter Eliminator, the ESS Sabre Reference

has become the new standard for true studio-quality audio D/A conversion through its unprecedented dynamic range of up to 134dB and ultra low distortion of -118dB.

The Sabre Reference supports SPDIF stereo and multi-channel digital audio in PCM or DSD formats, featuring click-free soft mute and volume control, de-emphasis, zero detect, programmable roll-off filter characteristics and can be configured to output mono, stereo, 4- or 8-channel audio in current or voltage modes for performance optimization.

Ron Evans, VP of Engineering for McIntosh Laboratory, said, "The MCD500 was designed to meet the demands of the most discriminating audiophiles. The ESS Sabre Reference D/A converter enables MCD500 to reproduce CD and SACD music with extreme precision and elegance. The sound is truly exceptional."

Robert Wong, vice-president of marketing and worldwide sales for ESS Technology, said, "We are excited that McIntosh has selected the Sabre Reference for its new flagship SACD/CD player. Through our patented groundbreaking technologies, the Sabre Reference has become the industry's benchmark for audio D/A converters offering studio-quality jitter free performance with unprecedented richness and clarity for every serious music enthusiast."

About ESS Technology

ESS Technology, Inc. designs and markets high-performance audio/video products for the consumer market.

ESS's Vista™ product line features high-definition solutions such as the Phoenix and Phoenix-II series of HD-Enhanced DVD processors, 1080p video up-converters, HDMI transmitters, the Sabre series of Hyperstream™ audio digital-to-analog converters and other products for digital television.

ESS's Sabre Hyperstream™ audio digital-to-analog converter series, consisting of *Sabre Reference* and *Sabre Premier*, is the world's first 8-channel audio DAC solution to bring true professional digital audio to the mass consumer home entertainment market. The *Sabre* series has already been designed into the world's most prestigious audiophile equipments for 2008 shipment, including Blu-ray players, CD/SACD players, and A/V preamps.

ESS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Imperium Partners LLC, is headquartered in Fremont,

California, and has R&D, sales, and technical support offices worldwide. ESS Technology's web site address is: <http://www.esstech.com>.

About McIntosh Laboratory

In an era where the rate of change is as amazing as the changes themselves, McIntosh is all the more remarkable. For almost 60 years, the McIntosh brand continues to represent high performance, superlative engineering and limitless pride of ownership. State-of-the-art technology infused with hand craftsmanship and the details McIntosh is famous for continue to be the key values found in every piece of equipment. Products built to last for decades of flawless performance demand nothing less than an equal level of commitment to customer support and service as well. It's no wonder satisfied customers the world over view their McIntosh products as investments worthy of being passed down through generations. McIntosh Laboratory, Inc. is a D&M Holdings company.

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