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[Financial Press Releases](#)
[Media Contacts](#)
[Trade Shows](#)
[Webcasts](#)

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[Agere Systems Home](#) > [News & Events](#) > [Press Release](#)

Agere Systems Introduces Single-Chip SONET Framers for Low-Cost Network Access Products, Ethernet Over Sonet Protocol

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ALLENTOWN, Pa.- Agere Systems (NYSE: AGR.A), the world leader in communications components, today announced enhanced versions of its synchronous optical network/synchronous digital hierarchy (SONET/SDH) framer chips that support the emerging Ethernet over SONET (EoS) protocol for next-generation metropolitan area optical networks and 3G wireless infrastructure. Their enhanced, multi-protocol capabilities allow virtually any type of data traffic to be mapped into SONET/SDH networks, improving efficiency, cost-effectiveness and time-to-market for network equipment vendors, while reducing power and system costs. The new Agere framer chips are targeted to lower-cost network access products and applications including digital subscriber line access multiplexers (DSLAMs), 3G wireless base stations, routers, voice gateways and traffic aggregation systems.

Designated TDAT042G5LT and TDAT04622LT, the Agere devices map data and time-division multiplexed (TDM) traffic onto SONET/SDH frames and serve as protocol framing engines for EoS and Level 2 protocols such as high-level data link control (HDLC), asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) and point-to-point protocol (PPP). They integrate TDM and data mapping framers for ATM, EoS and packet-over-SONET (POS) onto a single chip. Because of their high level of integration, Agere's SONET framers enable a single circuit board to interface to multiple rate networks and multiple data rates (OC-48, OC-12 or OC-3), thus offering greater flexibility while reducing equipment size and component count.

The TDAT042G5LT addresses 2.5 gigabit-per-second (Gbit/s), or OC-48, data rates; the TDAT04622LT targets 622 megabit-per-second (Mbit/s), or OC-12, applications. The TDAT042G5LT provides a single OC-48, quad OC-12, or quad OC-3 interface while the TDAT04622LT provides a single OC-12 or a quad OC-3 interface.

"Integration of multiple functions in the block diagram is critical for Ethernet applications to be cost effective," said Allan Armstrong, director of optical transport semiconductor research at RHK, Inc. "Agere's new SONET framer addresses this issue by increasing the level of integration outside the optical transponder module, supporting access and aggregation applications such as cellular base stations, ATM switches, and access routers."

The TDAT042G5LT and TDAT04622LT enable system solutions by interfacing with other Agere products, including the company's 2.5 Gbit/s transponders; the clock synthesizer, data multiplexer and the clock recovery, data demultiplexer chips (TTRN012G5 and TRCV012G5); the ATM port controller (APC); the PayloadPlus(tm) family of network processors and the PI(tm) family of protocol-independent switch fabric solutions, including the PI-Scheduler and the PI-ATM layer processor.

"The major trends we are seeing in this market are for more cost-effective aggregation products which support EoS, access to SONET networks and packet-over SONET (PoS) devices," said Brian Schreder, director of marketing for Agere Systems' transport group. "Agere's SONET framers are among the first to address these applications in a single chip solution and offer a compelling cost/performance advantage for customers."

Production volumes are available now. Unit pricing is under US\$100 in quantities of 10,000. The chips are available in 680-pin plastic ball grid array (PBGA) packaging.

For more product information, customers may visit Agere's Web site at <http://www.agere.com/> or contact one of Agere's regional sales offices. Customers in the U.S. may also call the Agere Systems Customer Response Center at 1-800-372-2447 and ask for Dept. A07. Customers in Canada may call 1-800-553-2448. Customers outside those countries may call +1 610 712 4323. Fax inquiries may be directed to +1 610 712 4106, or email queries to docmaster@agere.com. Written inquiries should be sent to Agere Systems, Room 30L-15P, 555 Union Boulevard, Allentown, Pa. 18109, USA.

Agere Systems is the world's No.1 provider of components for communications applications with leadership in optical components and integrated circuits. This dual capability uniquely positions Agere to deliver integrated solutions that form the building blocks for advanced wired, wireless, and optical communications networks. Agere also designs and manufactures a wide range of semiconductor solutions for communications-related devices used by consumers such as cellular phones, modems, and hard disk drives for personal computers and workstations. In addition, the company supplies complete wireless computer networking solutions through the ORINOCO(tm) product line. More information about Agere Systems is available from its Web site at <http://www.agere.com/>.

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This release contains forward-looking statements based on information available to Agere as of the date hereof. Agere's actual results could differ materially from the results stated or implied by such forward-looking statements due to a number of risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, completion of the distribution or sale of Agere stock by Lucent Technologies Inc., customer demand for our products and services, control of costs and expenses, timely completion of employment reductions and other restructuring activities, price and product competition, keeping pace with technological change, dependence on new product development, reliance on major customers and suppliers, availability of manufacturing capacity, components and materials, general industry and market conditions and general domestic and international economic conditions including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations. For a further discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties, see the prospectus filed by Agere with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2001, and Agere's subsequent reports on Form 10-Q. Agere disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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