



News

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Russound and Life|ware Partner to Extend Hardware and Software Based Home Automation Solutions

Partnership To Result in Russound Smart Media Console (SMC) To Be Pre-Loaded with Life|ware and Russound to Distribute Life|ware Software Bundles

DENVER, CO, September 4, 2007— Building on a strategic marketing agreement first announced in Fall 2006, Russound, the #1 brand in multiroom audio, today announced a second agreement with Life|ware™ that will bring about availability of six Smart Media Console (SMC) models pre-loaded with Life|ware software as well as Life|ware software available in custom configured bundles for Russound.

“No company knows the custom installation space better than Russound, so the launch of our line of Smart Media Consoles is big news,” commented Jeff Kussard, Russound’s Vice President of Strategic Development. “Changes in the marketplace, combined with feedback from our dealers and installers, demonstrated the need for Media Center products that offer a variety of features and benefits. To assist us with our change in direction, we partnered with Life|ware, who we entered into a marketing agreement with last year.”

The SMC models are based upon the Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor and Windows Vista® Ultimate operating system. The SMC models are divided into three platforms, based upon processor speed, video cards, and storage space. Each platform is available with either an ATSC/NTSC tuner card, or a CableCARD™ slot. All six models feature DVD drives, RF

keyboards and remotes, two front-mounted and six rear mounted USB 2.0/1.1 inputs, front-mounted composite A/V and S-Video outputs, front- and rear-mounted FireWire jacks, rear-mounted optical S/PDIF output, and 7.1 channel audio outputs. The first four models are equipped with DVI-I, HDMI (video only), S-Video, component video, and composite video connection. The two models at the higher end feature Dual DVI-I, component video, S-Video, and composite video accommodations.

Life|ware is home control software that seamlessly merges the best of digital entertainment with simple, intuitive whole-house control. Life|ware expands the power and flexibility of the Windows Media Center platform to manage live television, music, digital photos and videos to lighting, security, HVAC, and multiroom audio distribution. The Life|ware software bundles provide custom installers a simple turnkey solution for enabling advanced home automation and integration systems with Russound's Smart Media Consoles, allowing faster installs and less programming for integrators.

“This partnership with Russound is part of Life|ware's best-of-business mentality to bring smart solutions to dealers in the custom space,” said Steve Cashman, Life|ware's Vice President of Sales. “We have seen more and more custom dealers specifying jobs with the Windows Media Center platform. By providing them with a host of Ready Smart Media Consoles and Life|ware software bundles we are simplifying the installation process and increasing their job profitability with one simple partnership.”

“Without a doubt, Life|ware is the clear-cut champion when it comes to simplifying home automation functions in the Media Center platform, so it's only natural for the category leader in multiroom audio to join forces with the brand leader in home automation software,” said Kussard. “For Russound, this means we will enjoy a jumpstart in the Media Center Systems integration space while our dealers will benefit from being able to offer Russound Smart Media Consoles that are pre-loaded with Life|ware, so all they have to do is ‘turn the key’ to get it up and running.”

With US MAP prices range from \$5499 to \$10,999 for the six SMC models, and \$1600 to \$4150 for the Life|ware software , the products will be available Q4 of 2007.

About Russound

Since 1967, innovation, quality and reliability have been the pillars of the Russound product tradition. Located in Newmarket, N.H., Russound offers the products and expertise customers need to enjoy multiroom audio and video systems in the home. The company pairs powerful systems using the latest technologies with intuitive controls to give customers high-performance, easy-to-use solutions. For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.russound.com.

About Life|ware, from Exceptional Innovation

Based in the Westerville suburb of Columbus, Ohio, Exceptional Innovation produces Life|ware™ home control software and hardware for digital living. Life|ware creates a lifestyle experience that allows consumers to enjoy their digital entertainment, wherever and whenever they want, as well as manage their lighting, multi-room audio, HVAC, security, appliances and other subsystems, through a single interface by integrating the digital entertainment functionality of Media Center with whole-house automation and control. Led by software industry professionals with extensive experience with distributed computing based on open standards and open architecture, Exceptional Innovation combines Microsoft development expertise with years of home control experience to deliver simple, seamless, life-enhancing solutions for the digital home.

Life|ware™ is a trademark of Exceptional Innovation, llc in the United States and other countries.

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