

For Immediate Release

FastTrak66 from Promise Technology Delivers World's Fastest ATA Drive Data Transfers

Exceeds Ultra2 SCSI-level performance and supports data redundancy at half the cost

San Jose, Calif. – Promise Technology, Inc. today announced **FastTrak66**, the first and only Ultra ATA/66 RAID card for desktop PCs or entry-level servers that can double the performance of new Ultra ATA/66 hard disk drives.

FastTrak66 enables users to achieve sustained data transfer rates easily exceeding that of a single Ultra ATA/66 or Ultra2 SCSI drive. This is achieved by using **FastTrak66** to link ("stripe") multiple Ultra ATA/66 drives in a RAID array, resulting in double the performance versus a single drive. Such performance gains are important to users of applications that require a great deal of data throughput, like audio/visual programs, graphics, CAD or other large, data-intensive applications.

For entry-level servers or corporate desktop PCs, **FastTrak66** supports continuous data redundancy with multiple drives. If a drive fails, **FastTrak66** uses the remaining working drive(s) to store or retrieve data. Once a failed drive is replaced, **FastTrak66** rebuilds the data to the replacement drive.

"Today's PCs require maximum performance from all components in a computer system, from processors to hard disk drives," said Sam Sirisena, Promise's vice president of sales and marketing. "**FastTrak66** is an economical and immediate way for users to increase both the performance and functionality of their PCs, which extends their investment," he added.

FastTrak66 supports as many as four Ultra ATA/66 hard disk drives (it is also compatible with Ultra ATA/33 and EIDE drives), which can be configured in four different types of RAID arrays: spanning (JBOD), striping (RAID 0), mirroring (RAID 1) or striping and mirroring (RAID 0+1).

In JBOD spanning, **FastTrak66** simply combines the storage capacity of different drives resulting in one huge "virtual" drive. In RAID 0 striping, **FastTrak66** links two (minimum), three, or four drives in an array and "stripes" the data across all drives. This allows data to be both written to and read from the drives more quickly because multiple drives perform the task of a single drive. In RAID 1 mirroring, identical data is written to two drives simultaneously, assuring continuous, real-time backup on every save function.

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Since each **FastTrak66** supports up to four ATA drives, users may also elect to simultaneously stripe two pairs of drives and use them to mirror each other (RAID 0+1). In this configuration, up to two drives can fail (in certain cases) and all data will still be protected. The RAID 0+1 configuration provides both performance improvement and the assurance of constant data backup.

For RAID 1 mirrored arrays, an unassigned third drive can also be used as a "hot" spare with **FastTrak66**. In the event that a failed drive must be replaced, **FastTrak66** recovers data from the existing drive and rebuilds the spare drive in the background without having to take the PC "offline."

"This kind of performance and functionality could previously only be found in SCSI RAID systems, which cost far more," said Sirisena. "Now, the performance of striping and convenience and reliability of data mirroring is available to a broader range of critical desktop computer applications with a more limited budget."

FastTrak66 follows Promise's successful introduction earlier this year of the Ultra ATA/66 controller card, the first PCI card to take advantage of the new Ultra ATA/66 data transfer rates. Promise has shipped more than 250,000 Ultra ATA/66 controller cards in the last two months.

FastTrak66 will begin volume shipments in June and has a suggested retail price of \$149.

Promise Technology, Inc., headquartered in San Jose, is a worldwide leader in Ultra ATA controllers and peripheral I/O solutions that improve system performance, including Ultra ATA storage, subsystems, and ATAPI performance peripherals. The company has an impressive track record of design innovations and product introductions since its founding in 1988. Promise developed the first IDE caching controller, the first Ultra ATA controller card, and the first controller to offer IDE RAID for desktop PCs (FastTrak). For more information, visit Promise Technology's web site at www.promise.com.

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