

For Immediate Release

Promise Debuts World's First Family of "Hot Swap" Ultra ATA RAID 1, 3, & 5 Internal Subsystems

SuperTrak100 Pro™, SuperTrak66 Pro™, SuperTrak Pro™, and FastTrak100 Pro™ Offer Flexible, Low-Cost RAID Choices for Entry-Level to Mid-Range

San Jose, Calif. – Promise Technology, Inc. today announced release of the first "hot swap" family of Ultra ATA RAID subsystems – combining fault tolerant ATA RAID controllers and "hot swap", removable drive carriers – for Ultra ATA/100 or Ultra ATA/66 drives.

"Now MIS and IT managers have the flexibility of implementing proven, fault-tolerant RAID solutions that support continuous server operation at price points up to three times less than similar Ultra2 SCSI RAID approaches," said a company spokesman. "Once again, Promise stands alone in our industry. No other company offers multiple "hot swap" ATA RAID subsystems as standard storage solutions for typical RAID environments."

The family includes:

SuperTrak100 Pro – designed for RAID 3 & 5 operation, includes the 6-channel SuperTrak100 RAID 5 card, onboard i960RD RISC processor, 16MB cache memory, and (3) SuperSwap "hot swap" removable drive carriers with housings for Ultra ATA/100 drives;

SuperTrak66 Pro – designed for RAID 3 & 5 operation, includes the 4-channel SuperTrak66 RAID 5 card, onboard i960RD RISC processor, 16MB cache memory, and (3) SuperSwap "hot swap" removable drive carriers with housings for Ultra ATA/66 drives;

SuperTrak Pro – designed for RAID 3 & 5 operation, includes a dedicated 4-channel SuperTrak RAID 5 card, onboard i960RD RISC processor, 16MB cache memory, and single 4-drive internal "hot swap" enclosure with carriers for Ultra ATA/66¹ or Ultra ATA/33 drives;

FastTrak100 Pro – designed for RAID 1 operation, includes the 2-channel FastTrak100 RAID 0,1 card and (2) SuperSwap "hot swap" removable drive carriers with housings for Ultra ATA/100 drives.

All subsystems (except SuperTrak Pro) bundle the minimum number of SuperSwap "hot swap" chassis/housings necessary for RAID 5 operation (SuperTrak100 Pro and SuperTrak66 Pro) or RAID 1 operation (FastTrak100 Pro). Users may add more SuperSwaps to maximize each individual controller card's maximum number of supported drives to expand storage capacity and/or support "hot" standby of a failed drive. Each SuperSwap requires a 5.25" drive bay.

¹ SuperTrak Pro will operate Ultra ATA/66 drives in UDMA/33 mode only

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Promise Debuts First Hot Swappable Controller Line

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The SuperSwap chassis use patent-pending ATA Sideband Technology™ that identifies drive connection status and electronically protects drive and PC components during “hot swap” operations. In addition, SuperSwap communicates with the array management utility provided in each kit to allow monitoring of the enclosure for temperature, fan status, and voltage regulation.

“Our ATA RAID 3 & 5 subsystems offer price differences greater than 3-to-1 when compared with even inexpensive Ultra2 LVD SCSI RAID configurations,” said the Promise spokesman. “We are the only manufacturer to provide a complete product line for network professionals seeking reliable, economically-sensible ATA RAID 3 or 5 storage solutions.”

“As the pioneer of the ATA RAID concept and the acknowledged industry leader of this product category, we are dedicated to assuring that consumers continue to have a complete and comprehensive selection of ATA RAID controllers and subsystems that offer SCSI RAID functions at one third of SCSI pricing.”

The company’s SuperTrak100 Pro™, SuperTrak66 Pro™, and SuperTrak Pro™ internal subsystems are designed for midrange-level networks with easy initial setup and across-network array management tools dedicated to ATA RAID. The Promise FastTrak100 Pro™ is designed for performance-oriented, entry-level networks supporting up to 15 users.

SuperTrak100 Pro and FastTrak100 Pro both use the world’s leading Ultra ATA/100 controller ASIC with more than 250, 000 units sold from June to mid-August. SuperTrak66 Pro uses the world’s leading Ultra ATA/66 controller ASIC used in more than 1 million PCs sold since its 1999 introduction. SuperTrak Pro uses the world’s leading Ultra ATA/33 controller ASIC used in millions of PCs sold since 1997-8.

Promise Debuts First Hot Swappable Controller Line
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ATA RAID Subsystems Benefits

The **ATA RAID subsystems** support “hot swapping” of failed drives providing for continuous operation without powering down a system in the event of a failed drive. The supplied “hot swap” enclosure – either SuperSwap™ (found in SuperTrak100 Pro or SuperTrak66 Pro) or SuperTrak Pro 4-drive chassis -- fully protects drives and PC electronics when drives are removed and/or replaced in a running system. In addition, the **SuperTrak controllers** communicate with SuperSwap’s LED displays to indicate drive status (failed, rebuilding, normal) and power/activity status.

With these products, Promise Technology expands its line of ATA RAID products, ranging from FastTrak66 for single workstations or low-end servers, to SuperTrak100, which provides the only six-drive ATA RAID 5 solution for midrange server requirements.

Users may optionally choose to purchase additional SuperSwap chassis for their kits. FastTrak100 Pro supports two additional chassis for RAID 0+1 operation. SuperTrak66 Pro supports one additional chassis for expanded storage or “hot spare” support. SuperTrak100 Pro supports three additional chassis for expanded storage and “hot spare” support.

Suggested list price for the ATA RAID family are as follows:

SuperTrak100 Pro	\$799
SuperTrak66 Pro	\$699
SuperTrak Pro	\$599
FastTrak100 Pro	\$499

About Promise

Promise Technology, Inc., headquartered in San Jose, is a worldwide leader in Ultra ATA RAID storage controllers and subsystems. 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.

***Promise Debuts First Hot Swappable Controller Line
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Product Line Chart

Model	SuperTrak100 Pro	SuperTrak66 Pro	SuperTrak Pro	FastTrak100 Pro
Description	6-channel RAID card (3) SuperSwap chassises	4-channel RAID card (3) SuperSwap chassises	4-channel RAID card (1) 4-drive chassis	2-channel RAID card (2) SuperSwap chassises
Drive Types Supported	Ultra ATA/100, Ultra ATA/66	Ultra ATA/66, Ultra ATA/33, EIDE	Ultra ATA/66, Ultra ATA/33, EIDE	Ultra ATA/100, Ultra ATA/66
Recommended RAID Level for "Hot Swap"	RAID 5	RAID 5	RAID 5	RAID 1
RAID Levels Supported by Kit	RAID 5, 3, 0+1, 1, 0	RAID 5, 3, 0+1, 1, 0	RAID 5, 3, 0+1, 1, 0	0+1, 1, 0
Burst Data Transfer Rate	Up to 100MB/sec burst; up to 133MB/sec burst rate across PCI bus	Up to 66MB/sec burst; up to 133MB/sec burst rate across PCI bus	Up to 33MB/sec burst; up to 133MB/sec burst rate across PCI bus	Up to 100MB/sec burst; up to 133MB/sec burst rate across PCI bus
# of Drives Supported by Kit	3	3	4	2
Max. # of Drives Supported by Card	6 (requires additional SuperSwap chassises)	4 (requires additional SuperSwap chassis)	4	4 (requires additional SuperSwap chassis)
# of Independent Data Channels	6	4	4	2
Dedicated RISC Processor	i960RD	i960RD	i960RD	None
Cache Memory	16MB included (supports up to 128MB SIMM)	16MB included (supports up to 128MB SIMM)	16MB included (supports up to 128MB SIMM)	None
MSRP	\$799	\$699	\$599	\$499

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