



550 Meridian Avenue
San Jose, California 95126
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Phone: +1-408-938-5200
Fax: +1-408-790-3800
Email: sales@echelon.com

PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver Discontinuation Notice

The introduction of the low-cost PL 3120® and PL 3150® Power Line Smart Transceivers last year resulted in a mass migration of customers towards those products and away from the older, more expensive PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver. Despite the significantly lower production volume of the PLT-22 transceiver, Echelon continued offering the transceiver as a convenience to our customers. Recently, however, ON Semiconductor announced the discontinuation of a key component of the PLT-22 transceiver, and no ON replacement part will be forthcoming.

Additionally, Echelon has embarked upon a comprehensive program to eliminate lead (Pb) from all of our products in compliance with new international regulations. The PLT-22 transceiver would require a significant redesign to create a lead-free package, an economically unjustified effort given the discontinuation of the ON component.

Therefore, Echelon has discontinued the Model 50090-03 PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver and the Model 53001-01 PLA-21 Power Line Amplifier and has removed them from our latest Price List. The discontinued PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver has been replaced by Model 15310-1000 PL 3120 and by Model 15320-960 PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers, which offer substantially greater functionality at a significantly lower cost. Excluding distributors and customers with volume purchase agreements, **the last date to place orders for these products is 15 June 2004. All deliveries must be scheduled for delivery by 30 November 2004.** Customers with volume purchase agreements will be individually notified about last-buy orders dates and delivery schedules. PLEASE CONTACT ECHELON SHOULD YOU HAVE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

Key differences between the PL 3120 / PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers and the PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver

- The PL 3120 and PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers integrate a Neuron® core together with the power line transceiver in a single integrated circuit (IC). The IC uses external discrete interface circuitry that was integrated into the PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver PCB assembly.
- The PL 3120 and PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers consume less receive and transmit current than the PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver.
- The PL 3120 and PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers incorporate a Neuron core, and may not be connected to an external Neuron Chip. The PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver required connection to an external Neuron Chip, and communicated with the Neuron Chip through a Special Purpose Mode interface. Echelon will shortly publish a method for implementing routers using the PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceiver – a PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceiver-based router will be implemented differently than one using the PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver.

- The PL 3120 and PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers Development Support Kits (DSK) include the schematic and bill of materials for a low-cost power line amplifier that can be incorporated on the customer's printed circuit board. The PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver required the use of a PLA-21 Power Line Amplifier.

Feature	PL 3120 / PL 3150 Power Line Smart Transceivers	PLT-22 Power Line Transceiver
Neuron Chip Interface	Internal Neuron core	Special Purpose Mode interface to an external Neuron Chip
Packaging	Surface mount IC	Thru-hole Single In-Line Package (SIP)
Discrete Circuitry	External	Integrated on SIP
Current Consumption	Lower – permits the use of smaller, lower cost power supplies and packaging	Higher
PCB Layouts	Single and double sided, 2- and 4-layer PCB layout designs provided in the Power Line Transceiver Design Support Kits.	None
Amplifier	Published schematic and BOM	PLA-21 Power Line Amplifier

We hope this information helps you with your inventory planning. Please contact your local Echelon representative or me should you have questions about the information we have provided. I can be reached by phone (+1-408-938-5200), fax (+1-408-790-3800), or e-mail (vdhingra@echelon.com) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vijay Dhingra
Product Marketing Manager