

Wireless Power is the Next Wave in Powering Electronic Devices Says Frost & Sullivan

Cape Town – 25 February, 2009 – Wireless power is emerging as a popular concept due to the need for a convenient means to power personal and portable electronic devices. Researchers are considering several technologies for such applications.

New analysis from Frost & Sullivan (<http://www.technicalinsights.frost.com>), the growth partnership company, entitled “**Wireless Power Supplies and Contactless Energy Transfer**”, finds that induction based wireless power could represent the next wave in powering portable electronics. It could also enable new applications in other sectors such as healthcare for powering implants to increase patient convenience and quality of life.

“Wireless power has tremendous potential in various industries including consumer electronics, automotive, and process control,” say Frost & Sullivan Technical Insights Research Analysts Sharmishta S. and Agata Jozwicka. “The power and energy industry is investing substantially in research on large-scale wireless energy transfer. Space-based solar power systems are attracting attention as an alternative form of energy to meet energy demands in the long term.”

As home automation is catching on, several companies have developed wireless power technologies such as charging pads for use in homes and offices to power personal electronic devices.

Meanwhile, universities are researching ways to improve efficiency over longer ranges. Wireless power transfer is highly efficient at short distances, but there tends to be substantial power losses when the transfer distance increases.

In the case of power-hungry devices such as industry machines or even laptops, the transfer should be efficient enough to enable rapid recharging and should not interfere with the continuous working of the device during the recharge. Even wired chargers are not considered completely reliable since they heat up while charging, dissipating energy through heat.

To quell such consumer apprehensions and increase customer acceptance of the technology, scientists are studying techniques such as resonant induction, microwaves, and lasers, although these methods currently limit the amount of power that can be transmitted.

“The other problem here is that some of these devices are large and so there have to be trade-offs between the size of the devices, the proximity between the transmitter and receiver, and the amount of power to be used for

recharge,” note the analysts. “There is a need for complementary electronics capable of working at higher frequencies to improve the efficiency of the wireless power transfer.”

Even if all these performance requirements are met, potential users will still be wary about the safety of wireless energy transfer.

“This challenge is especially pertinent for personal and household devices, where the users are concerned about the impact of electromagnetic fields, microwaves, or even radio waves on their health,” the analysts observe. “In order to accelerate the adoption of this disruptive technology in a conservative end-user market, it must be ensured that energy transfer technologies operate within regulation norms.”

If you are interested in an analysis, which provides manufacturers, end users, and other industry participants with an overview, summary, challenges, and latest coverage of wireless power supplies and contactless energy transfer, send an e-mail to Patrick Cairns, Corporate Communications, at patrick.cairns@frost.com, with your full name, company name, title, telephone number, company e-mail address, company website and country. Upon receipt of the above information, an overview will be sent to you by e-mail.

Wireless Power Supplies and Contactless Energy Transfer, a part of the **Technical Insights** subscription, provides a technology overview and outlook for wireless energy transfer systems. The study provides insights into technologies such as electromagnetic induction, microwave, lasers, and resonance that can aid energy transmission wirelessly to power devices used in home, offices, and industries. Further, this research service includes detailed technology analysis and industry trends evaluated following extensive interviews with market participants. Interviews with the press are available.

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