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### **CIARA TECHNOLOGIES ANNOUNCES A NEW QUAD PROCESSOR BLADE SERVER BASED ON THE INTEL® XEON™ PROCESSOR MP**

Montreal, Canada, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – Ciara Technologies today announced the introduction of a new Blade Server based on the Intel® Xeon™ processor MP, a new addition to its existing **IXPRO B-Series** blade server offering. This is a double slot blade with up to 16 GB of ECC memory, along with 2 on-board bays for IDE hard disks or optional SCSI hard disks. The Ciara **IXPRO B-Series** Blade Server system based on Intel® Server Compute Blade SBX44 certainly offers the processing power to handle multiple enterprise applications, from web/edge server to mid-tier apps to back-end databases, all within one system enclosure.

The Ciara **IXPRO B-Series** platform is designed for high availability with built-in redundancy and hot swap capabilities. The redundancy is built into the chassis backplane, as well as the power modules and fan blowers. Hot swap capabilities also exist for the power modules and fan blowers, plus the server blades and other plug-in modules have hot plug capabilities. Another key requirement of blade servers is manageability. The Ciara **IXPRO B-Series** blade server product incorporates manageability, with a dedicated management processor on each server blade that reports to a centralized hardware management module in the system. Intel provides a graphical web-based console to control and monitor this management function. In addition, the system comes with deployment manager software, which controls the automated installation of Operating Systems on the server blades (supporting Windows and Linux), along with updates and patches to the Operating Systems.

The communication between server blades is via a Gigabit Ethernet backplane, which is controlled by a dedicated switch module in the system. With a standard Gigabit Ethernet interconnect, the blades communicate as if they were on a LAN, thus requiring no special software to interoperate. The switch management is also incorporated into the central

management console for the system. The blade server is thus a physical consolidation of servers on a Gigabit LAN into a centrally managed system. Another critical element of LANs today is centralized storage. The Ciara **VXPRO B-Series** platform has the ability to connect a Fiber Channel SAN storage array, using optional Fiber Channel interface cards on the server blades connected to a Fiber Channel switch module. This represents the next generation of blade server that will be used for the consolidation of disparate server functionality into a cohesive, scaleable, centrally managed system. Medium to large enterprises will be able to take advantage of this blade server to efficiently manage their server requirements, and in turn reduce administration costs and system downtime.

The Ciara **VXPRO B-Series** platform consists of a high availability 7U rack mount chassis, with slots for up to 14 server blades. The server blade also supports dual Intel® Xeon™ processors with 533 MHz system bus and up to 8 GB of ECC memory, along with 2 on-board bays for IDE hard disks or optional SCSI hard disks.

#### **About Ciara Technologies:**

Ciara Technologies designs, develops, manufactures, markets, services, and supports a variety of computer systems. These computer systems include personal computers, graphic workstations, network servers, network storage products and the newly announced VX Rack™ Beowulf Cluster system.

Incorporated in 1984, Ciara has achieved its 20th year in business in the Information Technology field. Ciara products are CSA, DOC, EPA certified and built under the ISO 9001 standards and regulations. Ciara Technologies is a world-class provider of high-density computing solutions, including individual rack-mounted computer servers and supercomputer clusters, as well as other software integration services.

The company's state of the art servers and supercomputer clusters are primarily based on the Intel IA32 or IA64 architecture and utilize Linux Operating Systems, the fastest growing segment of the server market. The company also offers servers with the Microsoft Server 2000/2003 Operating Systems. We are proud to be recognized by Intel as an " Intel Premier Provider".

Ciara Technologies High Performance Computing team has been installing supercomputer clusters for a number of years. The growth of Ciara enabled us in February 2003, to move to an ultra-modern plant of 576,000 sq ft, with the capability of producing more than 300,000 units per year. We are now the largest Canadian manufacturer of personal computers.

For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.ciara-tech.com](http://www.ciara-tech.com)

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