

## TechHome Integration: Easy, Dependable and Profitable

### So what is TechHome integration?

Simply, it's the easiest way to add value to the homes you build and sell. A TechHome integrator makes it easy for you by doing quality, trouble-free technology installation in the homes you build. The range of possibilities are many, but quite simply they can install custom home theater systems, security systems, lighting controls, structured wiring, multi-room audio video and much more.

### Do my customers really want this?

Think about it, how excited would you be to move into a new house and have it pre-wired for surround sound, have a 50" plasma installed and ready to use, or be able to play music from your MP3 player anywhere in your house, all that and the cost is merely a modest addition to the overall mortgage. Studies prove this too, consumers are starting to expect and demand technology installed in the home.

### How do I sell technology to potential homebuyers?

We're not surprised you ask. Research shows that homebuyers are interested in incorporating technology into their home, but they're unsure how to go about it or where to turn. You may be uncertain as well, but with the help of a local TechHome integrator, you can be the customer's solution. TechHome integrators sell technology and related services everyday, so they will work with you to refine your offerings and provide valuable sales information for your customers. This tool kit is just the beginning. Visit TechHome.com to find a TechHome integrator in your area for customized resources.

### Is this going to hold up my schedule, or create problems that will come back to haunt me?

That's where a qualified TechHome integrator comes in. Professional integrators are there to make your life easy, by doing quality, trouble-free installations that make you look good to your customers.

### Am I really going to make money off technology in the home?

Not only is it the best way to differentiate the homes you sell from others, but it's an easy add-on that will certainly make you money.

Visit **TechHome.com** today and use the referral database to locate a qualified TechHome integrator near you.

### **TechHome Integration**





### TechHome.com

### MYTHS VS. FACTS

### **MYTH #1**

You'll break-even, or worse lose money on technology installations.

### **FACT**

Installed technology is an easy addon and can be wrapped right into a customer's mortgage. You'll be missing out on potential profits if you don't offer installed technology in the home.

### **MYTH #2**

Having installed technology as a feature in the homes you build will slow down production schedules.

### **FACT**

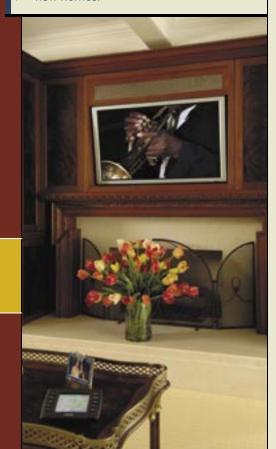
TechHome integrators provide quality, dependable workmanship that keeps your projects on schedule.

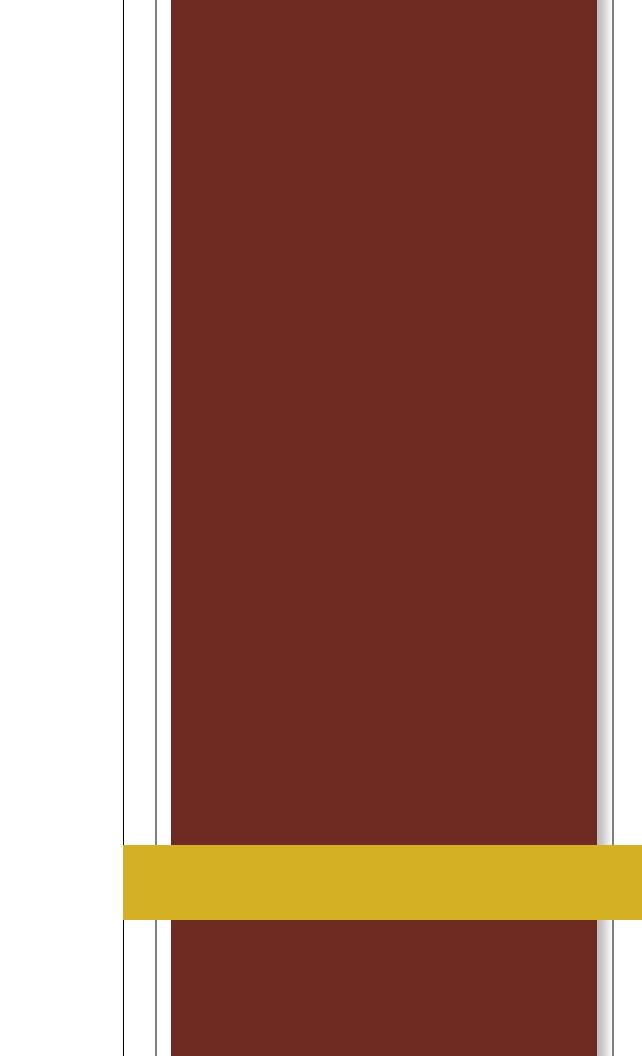
### **MYTH #3**

My customers aren't interested in technology in the home.

### FACT

79% of homebuilders agreed that home technologies are important to marketing new homes.





## Show your homebuyers the value of installed technology

HE TECHHOME RATING SYSTEM is designed to help you evaluate and compare the level of installed technology in the home. It's a great tool for showing homebuyers how their home rating is based on six key technology categories. How do the homes you're selling rate? Use this simple rating system to demonstrate the increased home value that installed technology offers. It's a great selling point to consumers and a sure way to close deals.

### **EASY TO USE**

- Fill out the attached form
- Follow the scoring instructions on the following page

### **Need more copies, visit TechHome.com**

- Download a free copy of the form and instructions
- Search our nationwide database to find qualified installers in your area

### What the system measures

- Measure your ability to work from home, safeguard your family and enjoy entertainment
- Protect the future value of your real estate investment
- Maximize return on investment when you sell your home
- Understand how installed technology can enhance your lifestyle

### **Evaluate your home based on the following categories**

- Home entertainment
- **■** Communications
- PC networking and Internet sharing
- Home security
- Home comfort, convenience and energy management
- Structured wiring system

Visit **TechHome.com** for more copies of the TechHome Rating System.

Nearly 100% of builders surveyed said that they would like to use a national home technology rating system to help market new homes.

Source: CEA State of the Builder Technology Market Study





### **Rate Your Home**





TechHome.com



## Add Value to Your Home Using the TechHome Rating System

	Check	(These two columns are for information purposes only.)	
	Marks	# of Rooms	Comments
. Home Entertainment  I Cable TV (Jacks)  I Satellite TV (DBS Small Dish or Large Dish)  I In-Wall Speakers Installed  I Multi-Room In-Wall Audio/Video  I Home Theater Pre-wire			
Add total number of check marks here:			
2. Communications  Telephone Extensions/Jacks  (must have a minimum of three to qualify for check mark)			
Add total number of check marks here:			
B. PC Networking & Internet Sharing (permanently installed systems only)  Ethernet Local Area Network (LAN)  Fiber or Other (please describe)  High Speed/Broadband Internet Access (fill in circle if available)  O DSL Available  Cable Internet Service Available  Satellite Dish Based In Use			
Add total number of check marks here:			
I. Home Security System Installed CCTV Camera(s) Installed			
Add total number of check marks here:			
5. Home Comfort and Convenience  Multi-Room Lighting Control System  Home Automation System (specify brand)  Programmable Thermostat or Multi-Zoned HVAC  Energy Management System  Window Covering Controls			
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### **Final TechHome Rating**

Add total number of check marks in all five categories (including points from the bonus category) and divide by two (round any decimals of five or above up to the next highest whole number).

	Fi	inal	Tec	hΗ	lome	Rating:	
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### Using the CEA TechHome Rating System

THE TECHHOME RATING SYSTEM is designed to let you rate the technological infrastructure present in a home across five categories. The final TechHome Rating will be a number between one and ten, with ten being the most technologically sophisticated.

To rate a home, put a check in the first column—marked "Check Marks"—for each system present in the home. Count the number of checkmarks under each category, and place that number on the line marked "total."

The Number of Rooms Column and the Comments Column are for information purposes only and do not affect the final TechHome Rating.

Please note that there is a Bonus Category (Structured Wiring) that can qualify the home for additional points.

To calculate the final TechHome Rating add the total number of check marks in all five categories and the bonus category for a total of no more than 20. Divide this number by two and round any decimals of five or above to the next higher whole number. The result is your TechHome Rating.

### **Home Entertainment**

- Cable TV (Jacks)—Wall plates/jacks with a threaded "F" connector commonly used to distribute a video signal from a VCR, cable television service or other video source to televisions over coaxial cable. These coaxial cables and jacks also can provide high-speed Internet connectivity and PC networking services.
- Satellite TV (Small Dish or Large Dish)—Small dish or Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) is a subscription service that uses high-powered satellites to broadcast a digital TV signal to small 18" dish antennas. Large dish satellite TV, or a C-Band satellite system, uses lower powered satellites to transmit an analog signal to larger dishes.
- In-Wall Speakers Installed—Audio loudspeakers recessed in walls or ceilings, typically as part of a home theater or whole house audio system.
- Multi-Room In-Wall Audio/Video Wiring—Wiring inside the walls that could drive detached, in-wall or in-ceiling audio loudspeakers located in another part of a room or in other rooms in the house for home theater, music or paging/intercom functions.
- Home Theater Pre-wire—Concealed speaker wires that could drive detached, in-wall or in-ceiling audio loudspeakers located to provide front left, center and right main channels, at least two side or rear channels and a subwoofer.

### **Communications**

■ Telephone Extensions/Jacks—Any jack that provides access to telephone services from inside or outside of the home. Among the many types of telephone jacks in use, wall plates with the familiar square, four-pin RJ-11 jack are the most common.

### **PC Networking and Internet Sharing**

Ethernet Local Area Network (LAN)—A network of personal computers and peripheral devices configured to share information within the home. Ethernet is the most common computer network and is usually characterized by RJ-45 jacks.

- Optical Fiber or Other Network—An optical fiber, or fiber optic, network refers to the high-speed transmission of data to the home as light pulses along a glass or plastic wire or fiber.
- High-Speed or Broadband Internet Access—A connection to the Internet that transfers data faster than a traditional telephone modem (dial-up) connection. The most common services are digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modems or direct broadcast satellite (DBS).
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)—A dedicated digital high-speed broadband connection that is leased from the local phone company to provide a high bandwidth, always-on Internet connection.
- Cable Modem—A device that provides high speed Internet access through the local cable television system.
- Satellite Dish-Based Internet—A high-speed connection that uses a small dish antenna and digital transceiver to connect to the Internet.

### **Home Security**

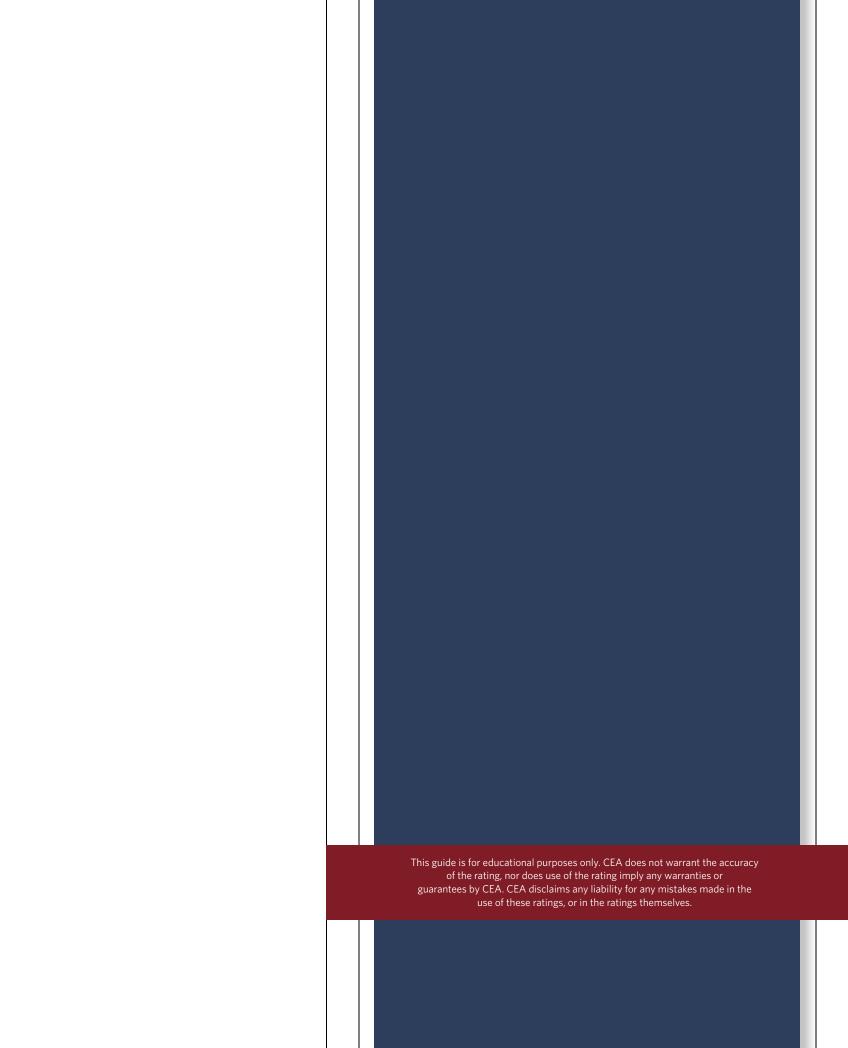
- Home Security System—A system designed to detect the presence of an intruder or other hazard in a residence or surrounding area. Most are professionally installed, will sound an alarm at the site, and report to a central station for a monthly fee.
- CCTV Cameras—Closed circuit television (CCTV) systems distribute video signals from surveillance cameras to monitors within the home.

### **Home Comfort, Convenience and Energy Management**

- Multi-Room Lighting Control System—These systems coordinate large numbers of lights without using the switches in each room. Programmable lighting scenes can be activated automatically or from remote controllers, touch screens, keypads or telephones.
- Home Automation System—Coordinates and controls a home's appliances and systems including, lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), and security systems so they can work together to improve the safety, comfort and convenience of a home.
- Programmed Thermostat or Multi-Zone HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning)—A temperature management system that automatically adjusts the temperature based on time of day and/or can maintain different temperature settings in separate parts of the house.
- Energy Management System—A system that manages the energy consumption of a home's systems and appliances to maximize their operational efficiency.
- Window Covering Controls—These devices, which may include a motorized track mounted above the windows, open and close shades and drapes.

### **Structured Wiring System**

A multipurpose system of in-wall wire and cable that can be continuously reconfigured to provide updated services to the homeowner. A consortium of home networking organizations created the Wiring America's Homes (WAH) program to define and promote structured wiring based on an established industry standard (TIA 570-A). The WAH Minimum Wiring Recommendation requires the presence of one four-pair UTP Cat 5 cable and; one RG-6 coaxial cable to key rooms in the house, including home office/den/study, kitchen, family/great room, and each bedroom. All cables are strung in a star formation to the distribution box. A distribution box is a stand-alone piece of equipment containing distribution devices for voice, data and video. Most structured wiring systems are professionally installed and all should meet industry standards.



# Setting the standard for successful multi-room audio installations

### ANSI/CEA-2030, Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard

As a builder, whether you're doing the installations yourself, or using a qualified TechHome integrator, you want multi-room audio wiring installed to the specifications of an accredited standard.

The Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard provides a detailed blueprint for builders who want to add distributed audio to the homes they sell to go along with the CAT-5 computer cables and RG-6 television cables that are commonly used in new home construction today.

### What does the standard cover?

The standard provides detailed information about cabling and connectors for use in multi-room audio systems and distribution networks. It also provides ample graphics and charts with suggested set-ups.

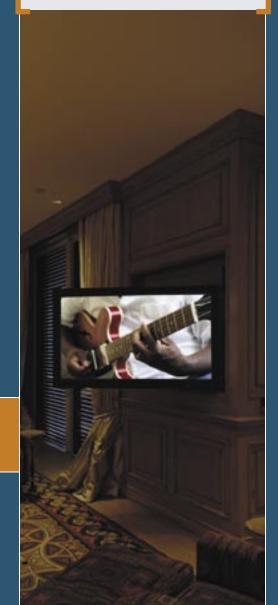
What is a multi-room audio system and distribution network and how does it help the homeowner? Include sample diagrams from standard here.

- Multi-room audio systems include audio sources, a distribution network and speakers. Audio sources may be things such as radio receivers, satellite receivers, CD players, DVD players or Internet streaming devices.
- Distribution networks consist of a head end location where audio signals enter the home and/or originate as well as a network of wires that transport analog and digital signals throughout a home. Distribution networks are typically designed to permit the homeowner to exercise audio control over different rooms (frequently referred to as "zones") independently. Each zone has at least one speaker in it and the audio to the speakers in each zone is typically controlled by either a volume control or a volume control with extended control functionality. Control over enhanced functionality features is commonly provided with keypads and/or touch screens.

### How do I get started?

Contact a TechHome integrator near you and make sure they are using the Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard. Or visit IHS Global Engineering Documents at **global.ihs.com** to get your copy today. While jam packed with useful information the standard is available for the low price of \$42. About 1 in 4 builders say home technology helps boost their bottom line.

Source: CEA State of the Builder Technology Market Study

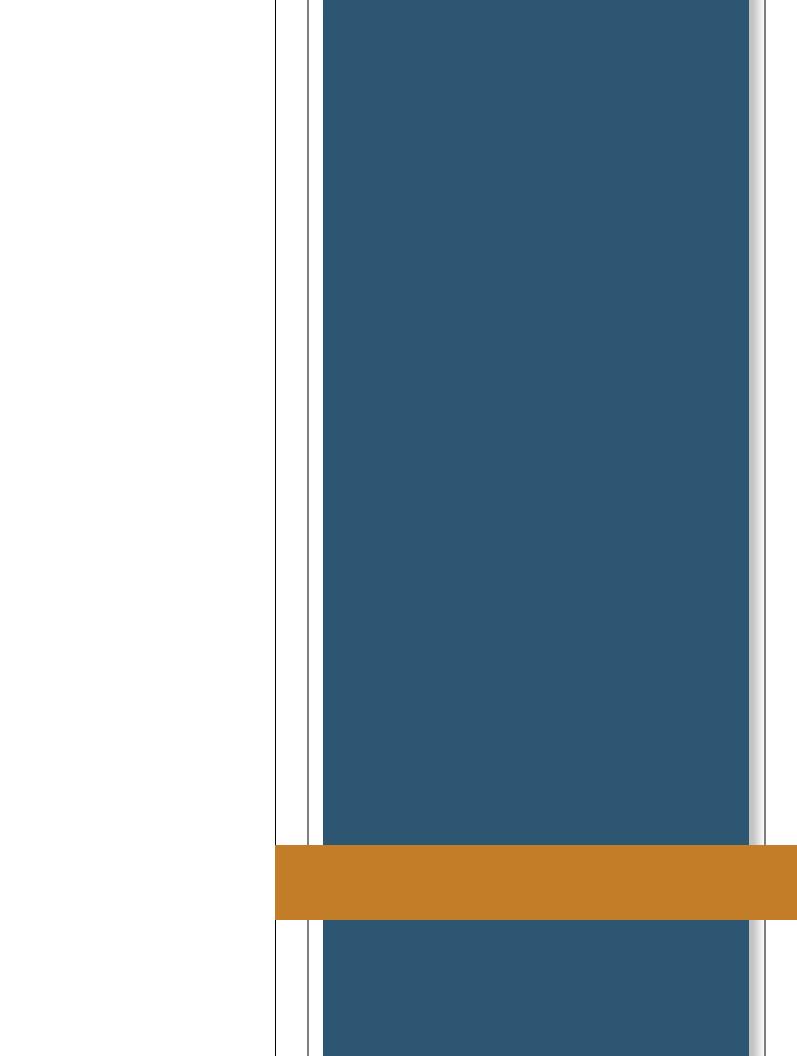


### **Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard**





TechHome.com



# TechHome.com: The best way to find a qualified TechHome integrator near you!

### **The Installer Locator**

Take advantage of the Consumer Electronics Association's® (CEA's) Tech-Home Installer Locator. Whether you're interested in structured wiring installation, help with a complex home network or designing a home theater system, you can find professional integrators in your area who can help make things easy for you and your customer.

### Also at TechHome.com: TechHome Rating System

The TechHome Rating System is designed to help you evaluate and compare the level of installed technology in the home. Use this simple rating system to demonstrate the increased home value that installed technology offers. It's a great selling point to consumers and a sure way to close deals. The rating system brochure has been included in this packet. Encourage your clients to keep a copy on file in case they plan to sell their home down the road.

### More Resources: ANSI/CEA-2030, Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard

This recently issued standard for multi-room audio cabling was designed specifically for homebuilders. This standard provides guidelines on how to install wiring for audio entertainment in the home. For more details on this standard see the detailed information sheet in this packet.

Almost 59% of homes sold today have broadband access, up from 52% a year ago.

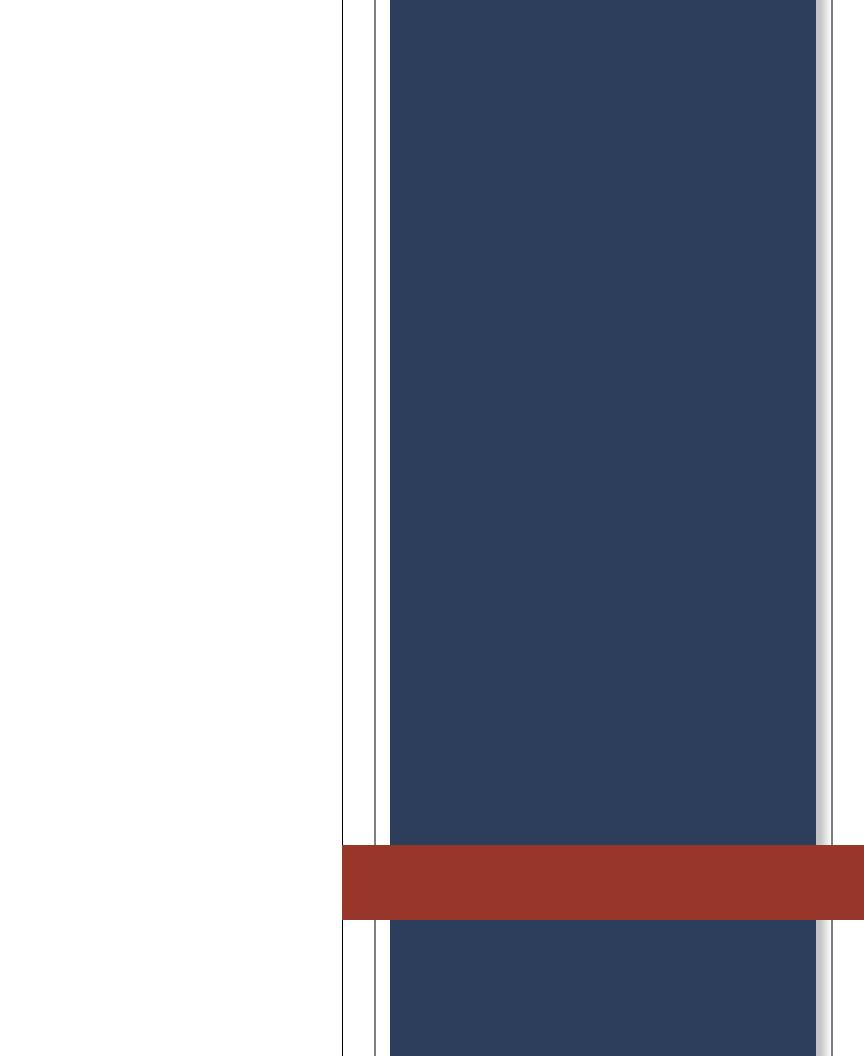
Source: CEA State of the Builder Technology Market Study

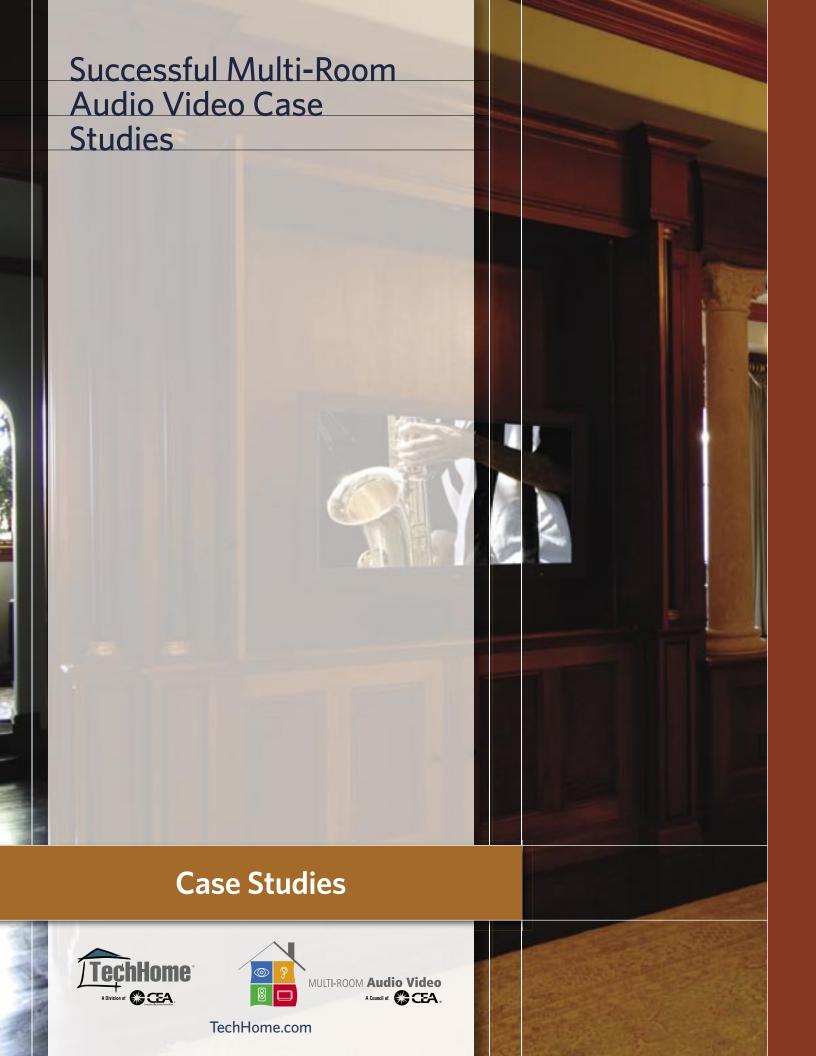
### TechHome.com





TechHome.com







### Scaling Up to Multi-Room Audio Video: Wiring for the Future

Capturing a New Channel of Customers by Flipping the Switch to Whole-House Automation

ODAY'S SLEEK ONE-TOUCH MULTI-ROOM audio systems are built to control everything under the roof, from surround-sound home theater to the proverbial kitchen sink. But to find out what secret component is driving the charge to home automation, look past the spectacular flat-screen TV and peer under the sink, behind the walls, and up in the ceiling—it's structured wiring.

Yes, the lowly wire has emerged as a victorious giant in today's fully automated home, driving everything from multi-room audio to satellite radio, HDTV, home theater, video surveillance, remote monitoring, Internet cameras, residential security, panic alarms and even HVAC controls.

Ask Stuart Forchheimer, president and owner of Homesafe Security Systems (Homesafe) and he'll tell you how swift the stream runs to multi-room audio video. Founded on security alone, Homesafe is now fully immersed in the home automation business. Homesafe has 29 employees and prewires between 2,000 and 2,500 individual homes a year and has seen its revenue shift to 50 percent multi-room audio, video and other structured wired installations.

What swept into the world of home automation was a seachange in the security business and a sudden technological burst in multi-room audio and video. As competition between





big, branded home security companies tightened, market prices dropped and profits on installations began to diminish. Simultaneously, multi-room audio, as well as other structured wiring backbones emerged as a "must-have" for new home-buyers. New speaker technologies and multi-room, multi-source capabilities have helped transform ordinary living spaces into luxurious retreats. When home theater with HDTV and flat panels burst onto the scene, it was apparent that specialized wiring companies could easily get in on the fast-moving market without missing a beat.

"Suddenly we were selling what everybody wanted," said Forchheimer, "Just as the housing boom took off, amazing high-end options exploded on the home entertainment scene. Our customers were getting bombarded with home theater choices - from widescreen HDTV, wall-hugging LCDs, and projectors of all sizes to multi-room, multi-source audio with amazing options from satellite and cable. Everything was contingent on structured wiring. Since we were already in their houses - dropping lines for security systems, installing control panels and monitoring their fire and security systems - it was a natural for our customers to turn to us for professional advice on how to wire the house for the future."

The business case decision to migrate from strictly security to distributed audio was easy, but the actual merge is a very methodical process. Education is the key. It is necessary to expand our knowledge base and by developing relationships, educating builders and bringing a high level of comprehensive technical support as well as sales and marketing that the typical electrical contractor doesn't provide.

### **Building Relationships**

One of the biggest challenges in educating its builders was to shift their thinking away from wiring the house as merely another cost and to instead communicate the value-added aspects of structured audio and video wiring. To do so takes spending time with each builder on an individual basis, offering both basic services and a full suite of home automation offerings for those who want to maximize their potential with the homebuyer, and build additional revenue streams.

The builder relationship is a critical foundation; it starts with sharing new technology and information about multi-room audio video and staying on top of all of the latest technologies. Every time a new television comes out, staff must be educated so they can give expert advice to the homebuyer.

Every installation should be viewed as an opportunity to move beyond the typical homeowner/contractor relationship and to develop a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship as their one-stop reference point for technology. The goal is to provide service that makes customers want to call or refer their friends for any structured wiring or audio video needs. Make the investment of time to educate individuals on new technologies as well as designing the infrastructure around their lifestyle and their future needs - it pays off.

### **Smarter Customers Need More Personalized Attention**

For a hands-on look, offer retail and wholesale customers a glimpse of the 21st century's fully-automated home in a personalized showroom. It provides the venue to gather information about its prospective customers and their lifestyle choices. You might want to provide the client an initial free consultation including a personal interview to learn the individual's tastes and needs, and a technical evaluation of the housing blueprints. This will lay the ground work to offer recommendations custom-tailored to the individual homeowner.

Customers are getting smarter. Working with customers during the construction process allows you to guide them in decision-making and helps them to understand how technologies, appliances, and furniture design work together. Nowadays, consumers go online and educate themselves; they ask really advanced questions about audio video components and wiring.

Industry experts estimate the cost for installing basic wiring alone ranges between \$800 and \$1,000. Then depending on the complexity of the system, upgrades to distributed audio, computer networking, security, interior components and all the labor involved - the project can run up to tens of thousands for a typical four bedroom house. Of course, this does not include the equipment costs for HDTV home theater systems or flat panel LCD screens.

As equipment costs have fallen, the technologies have gotten more complicated. Contractors are running RGB+, coax (RG6) quad-shielded wire, CAT 5(e), fiber optic, serial digital coax, RG11, AXLINK, CRESTNET and many other wires. A significant point for new homeowners is that they don't want to have anyone less than a professional manage their structured wiring installation.

It takes about a day to set up structured wiring in a typical house and another two or three days to trip out the system for room-to-room surround sound and video. In less than a week, a professional installer can add thousands of dollars of value to the home and endless hours of home entertainment enjoyment.

Trend-watchers say satellite radio is currently taking center stage as the main source for multi-room audio, but in the future the biggest surprises may emanate from the PC. Interconnectivity of audio and video is a trend to watch, especially as it combines with the powerful networking capabilities of the PC to drive many new technologies. One can only imagine how changed our lives will be as all services and utilities in the home are married together. In any scenario, multi-room audio video will play a pivotal role.



### The Magic of Multi-Room Multi-Source Audio Video—Thrills New Homebuyers

Home Entertainment Brings a Song to the Hearts of New Homebuyers, One Custom Installation at a Time

OMEOWNERS NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD. With the touch of a keypad or the click of a mouse, new homeowners can now instantly change the aura of their private abode with sound pulsing, video flashing, lights dimming and doors locking. Yes, thanks to a plethora of increasingly affordable digital home entertainment options and widespread education about digital technology, today's home buying customers can adjust the audio video, lighting, and security systems in their new homes in less time that it takes to spin the dial on their car radio.

Specialty companies like Dennis Sage Home Entertainment design and install custom multi-room audio video and are breaking new ground with homebuilders and homebuyers by delivering multi-room, multi-source audio video solutions at every price level. "Whole-house audio used to be only for the rich and famous," says President and Founder Dennis Sage. "But nowadays our typical installation is within easy

Whole-house audio used to be only for the rich and famous, but nowadays our typical installation is within easy reach of ordinary homebuyers, with must-haves including special options that only rock stars used to rave about.

reach of ordinary homebuyers, with must-haves including special options that only rock stars used to rave about—like surround-sound inside and out, keypad and remote control over all electronic systems and digital everything."

Competition is fierce in the expanding home installation market, with more than 300 audio video designer installers in the Phoenix market alone. Staying on the cutting edge requires continually learning about new products and technologies and offering these to its primary customers - production and custom homebuilders. The interconnectivity of new equipment is always changing as new digital protocols are established, and

new audio video features emerge. A company can easily differentiate itself from the competition with knowledge of the audio video industry. It is important to invest the time to educate building partners on the significant advances in the industry and the cosmetic and architectural options that abound. Sharing knowledge at every stage of decision-making allows the homebuyer to be fully satisfied and confident.

The reason for the growth of the multi-room audio video market is that people want what is being sold. The most popular options are music throughout the house, structured wiring for easy plug and play, surround sound and home theater, and automated controls. Demonstration models of varying complexity right in the builder's model homes can help both builders and their prospective clients to see and hear how different price level options perform in the home.

### If You've Got the Time, Various Options are Available

If "time is money", and "timing is everything", then "pre-wiring a home at conception" is the smartest, most money-saving mantra to fill the ears of prospective homebuyers yet. The exponential time and cost benefits that come from pre-wiring a new home can literally be measured in the thousands of dollars. For starters, structured wiring dramatically increases a home's resale value - an impressive fact that gives new homebuyers strong incentive to roll the minimal costs of wiring right into their mortgage. Managed on the back end, after construction is finished, installation costs increase by 70 percent. Second, pre-wiring for multi-room audio video allows homebuyers with minimal resources the opportunity to economically phase into their home theater investments as their budget allows. Once a home is outfitted with room-to-room structured or infrared (wireless) wiring, the homeowner can design individual spaces with plug-and-play ease and without



the expense and hassle of tearing out walls, floors and ceilings. Finally, fully-wired homes immediately afford customers a more relaxing and upscale lifestyle that they can share with family and friends.

While multi-room home audio video systems often include higher end video sources like flat plasma screens, LCDs and HDTVs; even these options are becoming more affordable as prices have dropped precipitously. In addition, customers like multi-room/multi-source controllers with volume controls that let them adjust the lighting, heating and cooling from keypads and touchscreens conveniently located throughout the house. Visually cool features like speakers built in ceilings, walls, and outdoors are always popular. All of these sophisticated options are reasonably priced when installed during the construction phase.

### **Education is a Must**

As builders become more aware of structured wiring, they are getting better educated so they can converse with prospects about a fully-automated house. Education is the tipping point for many consumer sales, and is the linchpin for growing robust relationships with builders. Knowing the finer points of multi-room audio video is what helps many production and custom homebuilders sell upgrades; especially to novice homeowners. It seems everyone wants multi-room audio but there is still a long way to go in teaching customers about specific products and what will or won't work together.

The education process should take place via a range of venues—from outfitting space within its' builder model homes with sample multi-room audio packages, to participating in trade shows like the International CES; which are packed with the latest audio video technologies and home theater equipment. As a result, builders have seen an 18 percent increase in new customers, with more new homeowners choosing distributed audio/video as a built-in feature of their new home versus a specialty option down the road.

### **The Bottom Line**

The cost for all these options need not blow your budget. Prices for new equipment have plummeted while the heavy volume of new home construction has softened installation costs. Industry sources say an average new home installation of three to five rooms can cost as little as \$1,500, with volume control, speaker selection and surround sound. Of course, complex installations for larger homes with indoor/outdoor wiring and home theaters can run up to \$50,000 or higher.

The fast-growing custom audio/video market has so many new customers helped by learning more about the lifestyle advantages and long-term value of multi-room audio video. With partnerships with reputable builders emerging, the availability of multi-room audio video products, and the affordability of pre-wiring, there's never been a better time to start planning for your own fully-wired home of the future.

### Keen Eye and Ear for Cutting Edge Home Audio Entertainment

Partnering Custom Homebuilders to Leverage Exciting Market for Multi-Room Audio Video

T SOUNDS LIKE A SCENE OUT OF A MOVIE. Guests enrobed in moonlight and music that wafts from the private patio and garden throughout the house, pulsing rhythmically in the club room, the immense living room, the kitchen, bedrooms and baths. Could the ambiance of this scene-stealing enclave possibly be pulling customers off the world famous strip?

Not quite. This rich, luxuriant and attractive abode is anything but unreachable. It's just a typical custom home built in the foothills of Las Vegas and outfitted with multi-room audio video by a custom electronics designer and installer.

Amidst the sparkle of the Las Vegas strip and the quiet lull of the southwest wilderness, Eagle Sentry, a custom electronics designer and installation company, has been stirring the soul of custom homebuyers for nearly two decades with heartthumping home automation, multi-room audio video and architectural elegance. Born as a pure security company, Eagle Sentry has grown along with the technology into an integrated provider of multi-room audio video, structured wiring, lighting systems, control systems, central vacuum, and of course, security. A show of the market strength, today Eagle Sentry now has 85 employees and \$10 million annual revenues, the company is expanding faster than ever to fulfill the demands of the Southwest's burgeoning custom home market.



### **Hot Sounds/Hot City**

Eagle Sentry Vice President and Co-owner, Greg Simmons believes providing multi-room audio and custom integration of wired/wireless solutions makes for happy customers. "We work directly with residential builders to design and install audio video and security systems with a personal touch."

Eagle Sentry's core customers are in the builder market, and their largest component of work is within the realm of audio video, home theater and multi-room audio design and installation. "Education of the builder market is a very large focus of Eagle's corporate strategy," says Simmons.

Nowadays, savvy homebuyers want the glamour that roomto-room multi-room audio video provides, as well as surround-sound in the backyard and front courtyard. But even the most sophisticated audiophiles don't know what technologies are available to them or how various components must be wired to work together. For this, they turn to experts. Professional audio video design teams, working with the custom homebuilder, help new custom homeowners who are contending with a wide array of design and budget issues, sketch out the ideal home audio video and wiring system for the house—without the audio/video project becoming overwhelming.

### **Tips for Creating a Successful Builder Partnership**

To expand the knowledge base of future consumers as well as to strengthen their corporate relationship, Eagle Sentry works with more than 80 builders in the Southwest market. The secret to the success is to share information and educate both their building partners and their prospective customers; the custom homeowner. To this end devise a range of opportunities for customers to learn about typical multi-room audio designs and installations.

First, work through building partners by constructing demonstration models in the builder's model home complex. In this way, prospective customers can truly see and hear what multi-room audio systems are like as they are reviewing all the other components of their future home. Second, partner with multiple independent home design centers throughout your region to showcase audio video designs. This gives people off the street ideas to think about and primes them for their ultimate consultation with a custom homebuilder. Third, have a showroom, an off-site design facility that lets customers see and touch the industries hot, new audio/video technologies. Demonstration installations range from the fantastic (rockwalled great-rooms with automated lighting and music piped throughout) to the sublime (remote control lighting scenes, indoor-outdoor displays, and home theaters of all sizes).

The education works. "Five years ago, we were bringing ideas to the table; now the roles are reversed and we are seeing customers request specific design ideas that they have in mind," says Simmons. Customers demand a full suite of



We work directly with residential builders to design and install audio video and security systems with a personal touch.

audio video products, including multi-room multi-source controllers such as volume controls and keypads; specially designed speakers such as in-ceiling, in-wall, on-wall and outdoor speakers; infrared (IR) distribution systems that offer remote control anywhere in the house; music storage and management systems; racks and mounts and wires that enable the installation of these products.

### The New Home Advantage

Industry estimates put the costs of home theater installations and multi-room audio can start as low as \$5,000 for entry-level systems but the design and installation costs of typical systems range from \$10,000 to \$50,000, depending on their complexity. Very advanced projects can pass the \$250,000 mark.

When pre-wired into new construction, typical systems have theater environment in the family room plus five background rooms, usually the master bedroom, den, bedroom #2, bedroom #3, and back patio. When these relatively modest costs are factored into the mortgage of a new home, adding value to the home and enjoyment to the homeowner's lifestyle becomes exceptionally affordable.

Thanks to an upswing in new construction and the dramatic cost advantages of pre-wiring homes versus tearing out walls, the percentages of pre-wired homes are up dramatically, posting an approximate 30-40 percent increase over a year ago.

Timing is helping to spur sales too; subcontractors are beginning to partner with custom home builders to keep costs down. Pre-wiring a house can be done in as little as a half day for full distributed audio with full theater; and can install equipment in a couple of days depending on the size of the custom home. On the upper end of construction, crews pre-wiring massive installations can take a couple of weeks.

### Technological Advances Expands Popularity

New trends are sweeping the custom home market; now multi-room audio video reaches a much broader customer base than even five years ago. This is especially due to technological advances which are available, enabling complex, multi-room audio systems to be configured at lower cost, as well as the introduction of wireless technologies and all-weather features that are essential for outside environments. There's been a tremendous increase in outdoor distributed audio video; with the backyard emerging as a core part of the typical three to five room distributed audio system.

Simmons remarked, "Pools are very common in our Southwestern market due to the constant heat, and we've seen a substantial push toward backyard speakers popping up under all sorts of camouflage. We've done the usual rock speaker install, but when our customers have an unusual vision in mind we pride ourselves in bringing it to life."

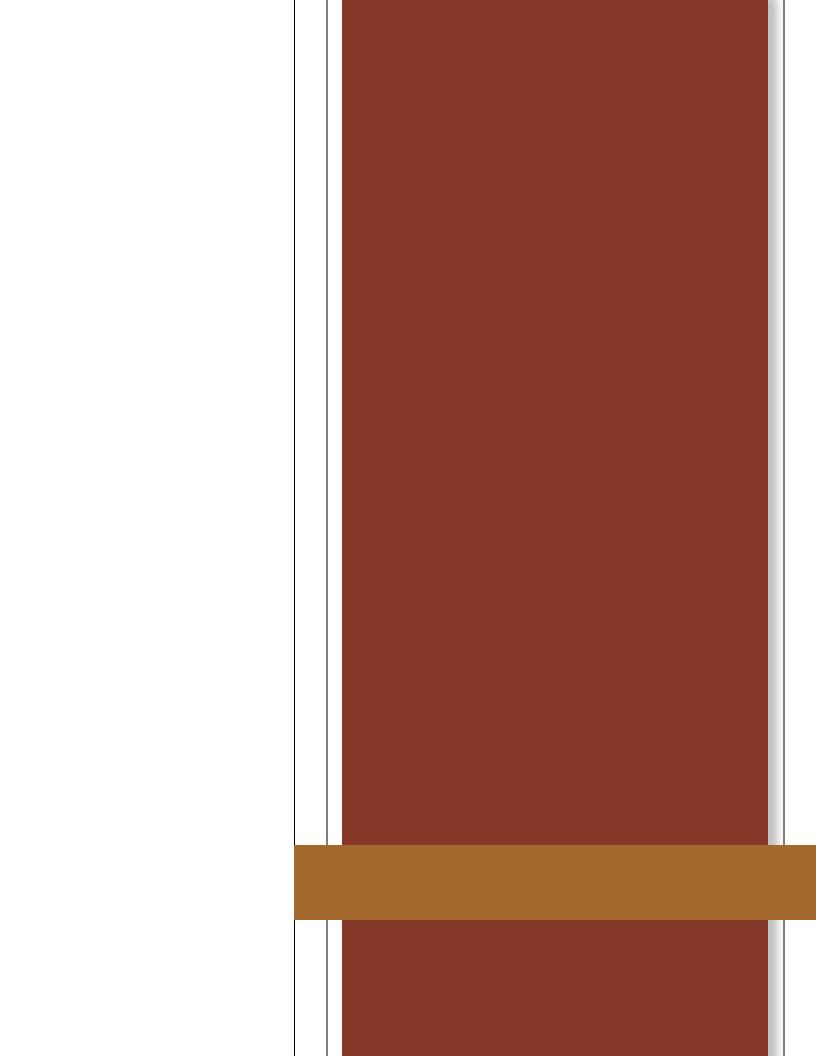
On the subject of trends in multi-room audio, in cutting edge homes, volume controls are becoming a thing of the past—it'll soon be rare to see a knob on the wall. In the next few years expect to see all audio video controls move over to the keypad or touchscreen which gives users substantially more control over volume and single point control over many varied features of the home—including sound, video, lighting, HVAC, and security.

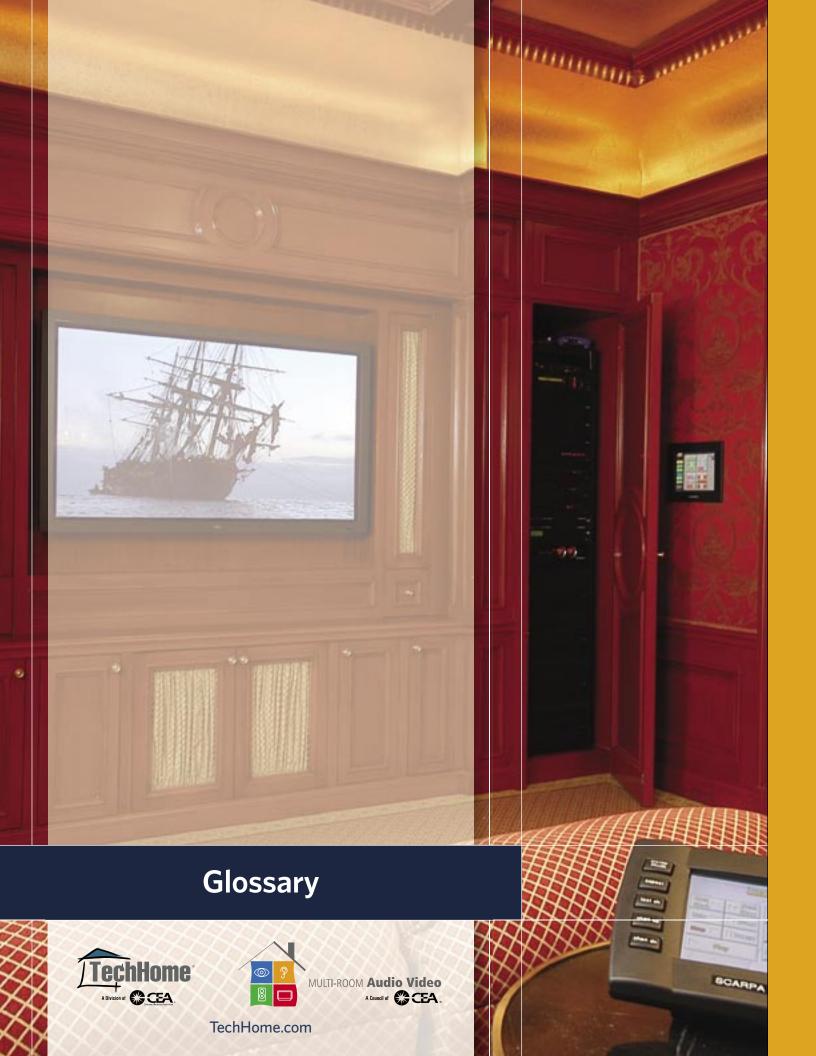
Controlling multiple sources from multiple rooms is another trend that has caught on. One of the biggest changes yet to come is a shift in consumer perception, that thanks to pre-wiring, one can conveniently bring multiple sources throughout the home without burdensome construction of interior or anterior walls.

In terms of what steers the imagination when designing a custom audio video installation, the drivers have shifted from a few years ago. Audio is no longer stand alone now with advances in video technology - especially flat screen, big screen, digital, LCD and HDTV television, and amazing home theater products—the video source is the vortex of home theater. Customers want to maximize their video source, even to the point of showcasing particularly dramatic video sources. Five years from now, new home customers will not be without state-of-the-art audio video. The home of tomorrow will have multiroom audio video as a standard—not a luxury feature.



CASE STUDIES







### **TechHome Integrator Glossary of Terms**

OUR CUSTOMERS MAY FEEL OVERWHELMED by the alphabet soup of acronyms and geek speak of consumer electronics, but don't let the tech talk intimidate them from purchasing these upgrades as part of their new home. With help from TechHome integrators, specialists in designing and installing whole-house technology solutions, we have compiled this comprehensive list of terms encompassing the latest in installed technologies for audio, video, comfort, convenience, structured wiring and security products. These terms will help you become familiar with some of the technologies, products and features available in whole-house installed systems today and will help you explain the real-life applications and benefits these technologies will provide in their new home. More information and reference material also can be found at TechHome.com.

### 1000BaseT

Also called Gigabit Ethernet, this is a new home networking standard for carrying 1 Gigabit/second data a total distance of 100 meters using CAT 5 twisted pair cable. In contrast to 10BaseT and 100BaseT, which use only one pair of wires, 1000BaseT uses all four pairs each operating at 250 Mbps to achieve its high speed.

### 100BaseT

A 100 megabit/second twisted pair network. It uses Category 5 (CAT 5) wiring. It can be run a maximum of 100 meters.

### 10BaseT

A 10 megabit/second network. The 10 indicates 10Mbps and T for twisted pair wires. With Category 3 cable as the minimum wiring requirement, it can be run a total of 100 meters. This wiring scheme has become very popular due to the low cost of the wiring, simple installation, low cost adapters and strong commonality between adapters.

### 5.1 Channel Surround

An audio system that can reproduce five full-range discrete channels of sound: left, center, right, surround left and surround right, plus a low-frequency effect channel for bass. The term can also be used to describe the type of soundtrack a software title or broadcast contains.

### **6.1 Channel Surround**

An audio system that can reproduce six full-range discrete channels of sound: left, center, right, surround left, surround right and rear, plus a low-frequency effect channel for bass. The term can also be used to describe the type of soundtrack a software title contains.

### 7.1 Channel Surround

An audio system that can reproduce seven full-range discrete channels of sound: left, center, right, surround left, surround right, rear left, rear center and rear right, plus a low-frequency effect channel for bass. The term can also be used to describe the type of soundtrack a software title contains.

### **Amplified Volume Control Systems**

Amplified Volume Control Systems is a single-wire solution that delivers music to multiple rooms via a central control box. Some of these systems make use of CAT 5 cable to deliver the un-amplified audio signal to each room, where an in-wall amplifier and speakers reproduce the music.

In the consumer electronics world, analog technologies are those that use traditional methods of receiving, recording and/or reproducing content or communications. Examples of analog technologies include VHS VCRs, cassette tapes and NTSC (standard) cable and TV broadcasts.

### ANSI/CEA-2030 Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard

This standard provides detailed information to homebuilders and contractors about cabling and connectors for use in multi-room audio systems and distribution networks.

### **Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL)**

A form of DSL broadband service, it is called "asymmetric" because most of its two-way bandwidth is devoted to the downstream direction, sending data to the user.

### **Audio Distribution Amplifier**

These are amplifiers that distribute the input from a single audio component to multiple audio outputs or locations.

### **Automated Meter Reading (AMR)**

A system that allows utility companies to collect consumption data from customers' meters remotely using either wired or wireless technologies.

### A/V Receiver (Receiver)

An audio or audio/video component that combines a tuner, preamplifier and power amplifier in a single chassis. A typical A/V receiver will decode surround sound formats and offer numerous audio and video inputs for switching between multiple audio and video source components.

When placed on each end of a cable run, these devices allow for the transmission of audio and video signals over twisted pair CAT 5(e) cabling. BALUNs can be used to send composite, S-video, component video and stereo and digital audio signals from source component (e.g. cable box) to receivers or video displays throughout the home.

### **Bandwidth**

The term bandwidth is used most commonly to refer to the amount of data that can flow across or through a wire, device or other transmission path, such as airwaves. For most consumer technologies, bandwidth is measured in megabits per second (Mbps).

### **Bluetooth**

A wireless device-to-device technology that allows compatible devices such as laptops, cell phones and personal digital assistants, to name just a few, to share data and voice communications over a short-range wireless network. Popular uses of the technology include hands-free kits for Bluetoothenabled cell phones that allow users to make and receive calls via a wireless headset.

### **Bridge**

A bridge is a device that connects two similar networks together to increase the distance or number of devices a given type of network can handle.

### **Broadband**

Broadband refers to telecommunication that provides multiple channels of data over a single communications medium. Typical examples of consumer broadband services are high-speed Internet delivered via cable, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) or fiber-optic networks.

### **Cable Modem**

A cable modem is a device that enables you to connect to the Internet and send/receive data via your local cable TV provider.

### Category 5 Cable (CAT 5 Cable)

Network cabling that consists of four twisted pairs of copper wire terminated by RJ45 connectors and is capable of up to 100 Mbps over distances of up to 100 meters. Commonly used for data and telephone, it now is widely used for distribution of audio signals and is often used in new home construction.

### Category 5 Enhanced Cable (CAT 5(e) Cable)

Supports short-run 1000baseT (1,000 Mbps) networking by utilizing all four wire pairs. CAT 5(e) is backward-compatible with CAT 5 cabling.

### Category 3 Cable (CAT 3 Cable)

Used for medium-speed communications of up to 10 megabits over distances of up to 100 meters. The FCC has specified that new homes use a minimum of CAT 3 wiring for telephones in new home construction.

### Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)

CRT refers to the traditional glass picture tubes that have been used in analog TVs since their inception. CRTs are also used in some rear projection TVs.

### Cluster

A hardware connection between two or more PCs that forms a closed network or internal network for sharing data and processing tasks among connected PCs.

### **Coaxial Cable**

Coaxial (coax) wiring is often used to distribute video signals but can also be used for other types of communications. There are several varieties of coax cable used in homes such as RG59 and RG6, the latter of which is recommended for all new wiring for cable and satellite TV.

### **Communicating Thermostat**

A thermostat that enables homeowners to remotely control and monitor HVAC settings and room temperature. Communicating thermostats typically provide two-way communication via CAT-5 cabling for control by a home automation system.

### **Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)**

The national trade association representing the consumer technology industry and producer of the International Consumer Electronics Show® (CES).

### **Dedicated Wire**

Wiring that is installed specifically for communications. It includes twisted pair wiring used for Ethernet networks, coax wiring used for cable TV, etc.

### **Digital**

Digital describes electronic technology that generates, stores and processes data in terms of two states: positive and non-positive. Positive is expressed or represented by the number 1 and nonpositive by the number 0. Thus, data transmitted or stored with digital technology is expressed as a string of 0's and 1's.

### **Digital Cable Ready (DCR)**

A feature of a TV or video display that allows plug-and-play connectivity to analog and digital cable without the need for a set-top converter box.

### **Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT)**

A digital wireless telephone technology that is expected to make cordless phones much more common in both businesses and homes in the future. Formerly called the Digital European Cordless Telecommunications standard because it was developed by European companies, DECT's new name reflects its global acceptance.

### **Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)**

A technology for bringing high-bandwidth information to homes and small businesses over ordinary copper telephone lines.

### **Digital Television (DTV)**

DTV is the transmission of television signals using digital rather than conventional analog methods. The most popular variety of DTV is High-Definition TV (HDTV). Digital television can be received via cable TV, satellite, over-the-air (antenna) and fiber optic service.

### **Digital Versatile Disc (DVD)**

A CD-sized laser disc used to store and playback high-quality audio and video.

### **Digital Video Recorder (DVR)**

A video component (set-top box) with an integrated hard drive for recording and time-shifting television programming. DVRs may contain an integrated tuner for receiving cable, over-the-air, satellite and/or HDTV broadcasts. The most popular example of a DVR is TiVo. DVR functionality can also be integrated into other devices such as a home computer or television.

### Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and Do-It-For-Me (DIFM)

DIY and DIFM are slang terms to refer to consumers who enjoy installing their own electronics and those who prefer help from a professional, respectively.

### **Dolby Digital**

A digital audio format found on DVDs and HDTV broadcasts that provides up to six channels of audio: left, right, center, left surround, right surround and a low frequency effects (subwoofer) channel. This format is often referred to as 5.1channel surround sound.

### **DLP**®

A micro-display video technology that uses an all-digital chip to project and display images. This technology is found in thin rear-projection TV sets and home theater projectors.

A digital audio format found on DVDs and other software titles that provides up to six discrete, full-range audio channels plus a low frequency effects (subwoofer) channel. DTS decoding is a feature found on many home theater receivers and preamp processors. See also Dolby Digital.

### **DVD-Audio (DVD-A)**

A high-resolution, multi-channel audio disc format that uses Meridian Lossless Packing encoding to achieve super highfidelity sound reproduction in either stereo or multi-channel surround.

### **Ethernet**

Ethernet is the most widely installed local area network (LAN) technology, which uses coaxial cable or special grades of twisted pair wires.

### **Existing Wiring**

Existing wiring includes telephone wires, coax cabling and power line wiring already in most homes today.

### Fiber Cable

A generic term used for both plastic and glass fiber optic cables. There are numerous types of fiber cables with varying characteristics. Fiber optic cabling is used for high-speed communications in many areas with very high-speed communications requirements.

### **Firewall**

A firewall is a set of related programs located at a network gateway server that protects the resources of a private network from users from other networks. (The term also implies the security policy that is used with the programs.)

### **Gigabit Ethernet**

This is a new home networking standard for transmitting 1 Gigabit/second data a total distance of 100 meters using CAT 5 twisted pair cable. In contrast to 10BaseT and 100BaseT, which use only one pair of wires, 1000BaseT uses all four pairs each operating at 250 Mbps to achieve its high speed.

### **High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI)**

A single high-bandwidth cable that can carry both digital audio and video signals from an HDTV receiver, DVD player, etc. to a video display and/or a multi-channel audio receiver/processor.

### **High-Definition Television (HDTV)**

A term used to describe a set of characteristics of either a television broadcast or consumer electronics product, usually a television or set-top-box. In either case it refers to a broadcast or product that can deliver at least 720-progressive or 1080-interlaced lines of resolution while offering Dolby Digital multi-channel audio. HDTV programming can be received via cable TV, satellite, over-the-air (antenna) or fiber optic video service.

### **Home Automation**

Systems that provide convenient, centralized access, usually via keypad or PC, to various controls and appliances within a home. Home automation systems allow for the remote control of such things as: lighting, thermostats, locks, pet care, pools and spas, lawn watering, blinds and curtains, multi-media (A/V) systems, etc.

### **Home Network**

A home network interconnects electronic products/systems, enabling remote access to and control of those products/systems, and any available content such as music, video or data.

### Hub

When referring to structured wiring, the hub is the location where telecommunications lines coming from outside the home and in-home structured wiring running to each room meet; usually in a dedicated utility cabinet. Many hubs are powered and have telephone, home network and cable/antenna/satellite distribution blocks for sending data and signals to each room.

### Hybrid Fiber/Coax (HFC)

A telecommunications technology in which fiber optic cable and coaxial cable are used in different portions of a network to carry broadband content (such as video, data, and voice). Typically, a local cable TV company might use fiber optic cable from its distribution center to serve nodes located close to business and residential users, and from these nodes use coaxial cable to individual businesses and homes.

### **IEEE 1394**

A technology that also goes by the trademarked names of FireWire (Apple Computer), i.LINK (Sony) and DTVLink (CEA), this high-speed hardware and software-based networking solution delivers data at rates of between 100 and 800 Mbps. Designed for technologies requiring isochronous data transfer (consumer electronics, digital video, etc.), this technology is embodied in a thin cable that provides for "hot-pluggable" connections between devices. A significant advantage of IEEE 1394 is that it is the only connector offering a consumer solution for recording HDTV programming.

### **IEEE 802.11b**

Most commonly known as "WiFi," 802.11b is a wireless local-area networking standard. Many PC and networked home entertainment devices use 802.11b, which is capable of speeds up to 10 Mbps.

### **IEEE 802.11g**

Offering speeds up to 54 Mbps, 802.11g is a wireless localarea networking standard that is also backward-compatible with 802.11b devices.

### In-Ceiling, In-Wall, On-Wall Speakers

Speakers can be installed in ceilings, walls and floors as necessary or desired to blend subtly with room decor. Today's in-wall and in-ceiling speakers are capable of the kind of performance associated with free standing speakers except they can be flush-mounted or hidden almost anywhere.

### Infrared (IR)

A point-to-point, line of sight signal transmission medium, used predominantly for entertainment remote control functions.

### **Infrared (IR) Extender Systems**

IR extender systems control virtually every aspect of an infrared controllable A/V system from any location. These systems are comprised of three parts. They are IR Keypads/Sensors, IR Main System Units, and IR Flashers.

### **Integrator**

Also known as a TechHome integrator, these installation professionals install a variety of home-specific electronic products, such as multi-room audio video, home lighting controls, security systems, custom home theaters and structured wiring.

### Interoperability

The ability of a system or a product to work with other systems or products without special effort on the part of the customer.

### **Internet Protocol Telephony (IP Telephony)**

A general term for the technologies that use the Internet Protocol's packet-switched connections to exchange voice, fax, and other forms of information that have traditionally been carried over the dedicated circuit-switched connections of the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Using the Internet, calls travel as packets of data on shared lines, avoiding the tolls of the PSTN. The challenge in IP telephony is to deliver the voice, fax, or video packets in a dependable flow to the user. Much of IP telephony focuses on that challenge. See also VoIP.

### **Isochronous**

From the Greek for "equal" and "time," isochronous data transfer pertains to processes that require timing coordination to be successful, such as voice and digital video transmission.

### **LCD**

A video display technology that uses a liquid crystal display, rather than the traditional picture tube, to display video images. Many of today's flat panel TVs and monitors use LCD technology to achieve a super-thin cabinet design.

### **Line Level**

The relatively low signal level (typically in the 0.5–5 volt range) output by most audio and audio/video source components, separate processors, etc. Line level outputs include RCA-style stereo outputs, composite video, S-video and component video.

### **Local Area Network (LAN)**

A network of personal computers and peripheral devices configured to share information over a short distance, usually within one home or building.

### **Megabits Per Second (Mbps)**

Mbps stands for millions of bits per second or megabits per second and is a measure of bandwidth (the total information flow over a given time) on a telecommunications medium.

### Megabytes

As a measure of computer processor storage and real and virtual memory, a megabyte (abbreviated MB) is 2 to the 20th power byte, or 1,048,576 bytes in decimal notation.

### Megahertz (MHz)

MHz is a unit of alternating current (AC) or electromagnetic (EM) wave frequency equal to one million hertz (1,000,000 Hz) and is commonly used to express microprocessor clock speed. The unit is occasionally used in measurements or statements of bandwidth for high-speed digital data, analog and digital video signals, and spread spectrum signals.

### **Mesh Network**

A network configuration where data is routed between nodes (devices) on the network. This node-to-node connection offers improved reliability and expanded range compared to other network configurations.

### Modem

Short for modulate/demodulate, a modem modulates outgoing digital signals from a computer or other digital device to analog signals for a conventional copper twisted pair telephone line and demodulates the incoming analog signal and converts it to a digital signal for the digital device.

### MPEG-1 Audio Layer-3 (MP3)

MP3 is an audio format where the original sound file is "compressed" to a fraction of its size while preserving sound quality during playback. MP3 files (identified with the file name suffix of ".mp3") can be easily created from audio CDs and are also available for downloading from a number of online music stores.

### **Multi-Room Audio Distribution**

Multi-room audio refers to any audio system that can distribute sound to speakers in multiple listening areas. In its most basic form, a multi-room audio setup contains a source component, like a CD player, an amplifier, like a home theater receiver, and is connected to speakers in at least two different rooms. A more robust setup would contain multiple source components, speakers in many rooms of the home and separate keypads or LCD touchscreens in each listening location for selecting the source and volume for that individual room. A key feature of mid- to high-end systems is the ability to listen to different sources in different rooms simultaneously with full system control from each room.

### **Multi-Room Network**

Multi-room networks can be built by connecting two cluster networks together or by extending a single cluster into a second room.

### **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)**

A non-profit association that services the housing industry in the U.S.

### **National Electrical Code (NEC)**

Maintained by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), NFPA 70, or the National Electrical Code(r), provides "practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity." More specifically, the NEC(r) covers the installation of electric conductors and equipment in public and private buildings or other structures (including mobile homes, recreational vehicles and floating buildings), industrial substations and other premises (such as yards, carnivals and parking lots). The NEC also covers installations of optical fiber cable.

### **No-New-Wires**

No-new-wires is a term commonly used to include any networking technology that does not require new wiring to be installed. There are three different media that can be termed no-new-wires. These are further divided into wired media such as telephone and power line wiring, and wireless media such as radio frequency (RF), and IR light.

A membership group within CEA consisting of professional audio, video, home theater and custom electronics specialty dealers.

### **Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS)**

The wiring used in older homes and many newer homes for telephone service. It is a solid conductor, untwisted wire that is unsuitable for most data applications. Due to its prevalence in U.S. homes, several protocols have been developed that can be run over POTS wire. These include HomePnA and XDSL. The FCC has specified that new home construction and new wiring in homes should not use POTS wire for telephone cabling any longer. CAT 3 is the minimum wire recommended.

### Plasma TV

A type of flat-panel video display that uses a special gas sandwiched between layers of glass. When the gas is electrically charged, the gas moves into a "plasma" state and illuminates phosphors, which produce a picture.

### **Powerline Carrier (PLC)**

Sending electronic information such as on/off commands, through a home's AC powerlines.

### **Powerline Carrier Communications (PLC)**

Powerline carrier that uses the existing power cabling found in homes and commercial buildings to connect devices. Speeds range from 60 bps to over 10 Mbps. Depending on the technology; it is used for controls and data networking.

### Radio Frequency (RF)

RF waves can be transmitted and received through walls and other physical barriers and differs from IR technology, which requires a clear line-of-sight between transmitter and receiver.

### **RF Modulator**

A device that converts line-level audio and video signals (such as the output of a source component) to a RF that can then be received by a radio or TV tuner. A common application is to convert the output from a video source component, like a DVD player, to a RF signal that can be distributed to any TV in the home by tuning to an unused channel.

### **Residential Gateway**

A device that allows customer premise equipment connected to in-home networks to access and use services from any external network regardless of media.

### **RG59**

RG59 is an older form of coaxial cable installed in most homes built before the 90's. It has a 20-gauge center conductor and is not as well shielded as RG6. It is also smaller in overall diameter. It uses an "F" style connector. RG59 does not carry the higher cable channels, satellite TV or DTV signals clearly and is not recommended for use with cable modems.

### RG6

RG6 cable is now specified for most new coaxial cabling in homes. It uses an 18-gauge center conductor and typically is quad-shielded (four shields: two foil and two braids). It too uses an "F" connector, which can be connected to those used by RG59. However, the connectors are different due to the RG6 cable's thickness. It is suitable for distribution of all cable and satellite system video as well as for cable modem distribution.

### **Router**

A device used to connect two networks, and most commonly used in residential applications to connect a home network to the Internet.

### **Security System**

A security system is designed to detect unauthorized intrusion into a home, and can also be used to alert the homeowner or authorities in the case of fire, smoke, flooding and more. Monitored systems are connected via telephone or Internet to a central monitoring station. Many custom-designed systems can integrate home automation and convenience features with the security functions.

### **Shared Wire**

Wiring that can be shared for multiple purposes. A shared wire might be telephone wiring that is used for voice phone calls as well as for XDSL Internet access or HomePnA data networking. Other examples of wires that can be shared include coax and power lines.

### **Structured Wiring**

A system of low-voltage wires (not power line) designed to carry electronic signals throughout a home.

### **Systems Integration Amplifiers**

While traditional power amplifiers work well in traditional "stereo" systems, home theater and multi-room systems require an amplifier to do more than just drive speakers. Look for amplifiers that deliver exceptional sound quality, tested reliability, and are designed to integrate many different components into one system.

### **Systems Integrator or Installer**

This specialist works with you and the builder to install your multi-room audio/video, comfort/convenience or security system.

### **TechHome**

A membership group within CEA comprised of integrators, distributors and manufacturers of home control and networking products.

### **Telecommunications**

Any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems.

This is a set of certification standards created by Lucasfilm Ltd. for A/V components and speakers. Products that bear this trademark must meet certain minimum standards of performance, which includes special circuitry that re-equalizes the high frequencies to compensate for the differences between cinema and home theater playback and Timbre Matching, an EQ circuit that smoothes the transitions between front and surround speakers.

### **Twisted Pair Cabling**

Cable constructed of two braided wires, each with its own dielectric insulation twisted together to form a single cable. The twisting allows the cable to carry higher frequency signals than the cable could otherwise. Most twisted pair cables used in the home such as CAT 3, 4 and 5 includes four of these pairs of wires within an outer insulating sheathing. There are two basic types of twisted pair cables: Shielded and unshielded. Most applications in the home use unshielded four-pair cable.

### Universal Powerline Bus ™ (UPB)

A proprietary networking standard developed by Powerline Control Systems, Inc. that enables remote control of devices such as lighting, HVAC and appliances using a home's existing powerline (line voltage) wiring rather than dedicated structured wiring.

### **Universal Serial Bus (USB)**

A "plug and play" interface between a computer and add-on devices (such as audio players, joysticks, digital cameras, telephones, scanners, and printers). USB comes in two versions, USB and USB 2.0, the latter offering significantly higher connection speeds.

### **User Interface**

Devices such as volume controls, keypads and LCD touch panels that allow you to control (to varying degrees) all of your home's electronic systems. There are a wide variety of user interfaces available today and most of these interfaces can be seamlessly placed in the wall, while others, such as a touch panel are designed to be displayed on a table or counter. More advanced systems can be integrated with your PC allowing for a friendly interface to control music throughout your home from your home PC.

### Voice Over IP (VoIP)

Voice telephone service delivered via the Internet. A major advantage of VoIP and Internet telephony is that it avoids the tolls charged by ordinary telephone service.

### **Whole-House Network**

A whole-house network involves multiple types of cluster networks connected to each other through devices called gateways. This type of network is the most complex but it also provides the most functionality.

### X-10

A powerline carrier protocol created by X-10 Ltd. that carries control signals across standard electrical wire. The X-10 protocol is typically used in simple control scenarios such as the remote or automatic turning on/off of lights or appliances.

### **ZigBee**

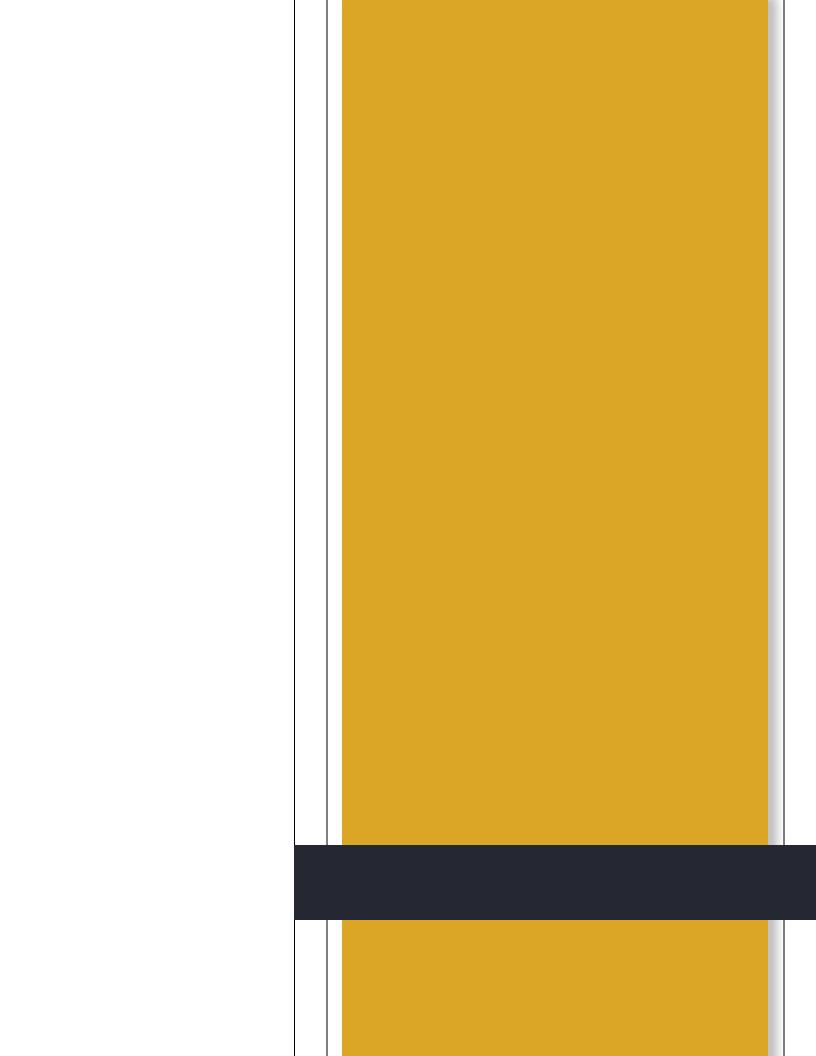
A relatively new wireless home networking standard that allows compatible devices to share small packets of data, such as on/off commands or temperature readings, for example. Similar to other mesh networks, which use device-to-device communication to create multiple, redundant paths for data to flow, ZigBee's conservative range is estimated to reach over 300 feet. Considering its extremely low-power requirements, ZigBee-enabled devices will likely include household appliances, consumer electronics products, light switches, security sensors and controls, key fobs, smoke detectors and thermostats, to name just a few possibilities.

### **ZW**ave

A proprietary, low-power networking standard developed by Zensys Inc., which uses a mesh network to transmit control and sensor data among compatible devices. Like ZigBee, ZWave technology is ultra-low power and can be used in appliances, home automation devices, switches, thermostats, etc.











# **TechHome Integrator Directory**

# **ALASKA**

#### Microcom

Chuck Schumann 1143 E. 70th Ave. Anchorage, AK 99518 PHONE (907) 349-0004 FAX (907) 349-3558 chuck@sateo.com

### **ALABAMA**

# **Advanced Electrical Technology**

Stephen Connick 513 West 1-65 Service Rd., N. Mobile, AL 36608 **PHONE** (251) 344-5987 FAX (251) 344-0308

### **Advanced Electrical Technology**

Franklin Russel 513 West 1-65 Service Rd., N. Mobile, AL 36608 **PHONE** (251) 344-5987 FAX (251) 344-0308 frank@bagrus.com

### Interscapes LLC

Mike Bennett 663 N. Eastern Blvd. Montgomery, AL 36117 **PHONE** (334) 395-6555 FAX (334) 274-1075 mike@interscapesonline.com

# **Interscapes LLC**

Bob Hansen 663 N. Eastern Blvd. Montgomery, AL 36117 **PHONE** (334) 395-6555 FAX (334) 274-1075 bob@interscapesonline.com

### **Interscapes LLC**

Robert Mitchell 663 N. Eastern Blvd. Montgomery, AL 36117 **PHONE** (334) 395-6555 FAX (334) 274-1075 robert@interscapesonline.com

### **ARKANSAS**

### **Audio International**

Travis Dove 705 Autumnbrook Cir. Sherwood, AR 72120 **PHONE** (501) 955-2929 FAX (501) 801-8152 Travis\_Dove@dahx.com

### **Automated Living Inc.**

Robert Troeger 1419 Pebblecreek Dr. Mountain Home, AR 72653 PHONE (870) 425-3578 FAX (870) 425-3578 bobt@smarthome-noark.com

# **ARIZONA**

### **CareFree Home Systems Inc.**

David Marsh PO Box 5942 Carefree, AZ 85377 **PHONE** (480) 226-9991 FAX (623) 434-8580 dmarsh@carefreehomesys.com

# **Diverse Enterprises**

Dan Devoy 1080 E Pecos Rd., Ste. 18-172 Chandler, AZ 85225 **PHONE** (602) 284-5711 dan.devoy@diversellc.com

# **Diverse Enterprises**

Bob McIunkin 1080 E Pecos Rd., Ste. 18-172 Chandler, AZ 85225 bob.mcjunkin@diversellc.com

## F & N Enterprises

Fred Francis 7301 E. 22nd. St., Ste. 5E Tucson, AZ 85710 **PHONE** (520) 290-8119 FAX (520) 290-1696 infoin@fandnenterprises.com

### F & N Enterprises

Steve Mihdliak 7301 E. 22nd St., Ste. 5E Tucson, AZ 85710 **PHONE** (520) 290-8119 FAX (520) 290-1696

infoin@fandnenterprises.com

# Foresight Systems Inc.

Brian Lavender 3184 N. Colorado Chandler, AZ 85225 **PHONE** (480) 835-1615 FAX (480) 889-3065 brianl@foresightsystemsaz.com

# Foresight Systems Inc.

Dan Lavender 3184 N. Colorado Chandler, AZ 85225 **PHONE** (602) 332-1134 FAX (480) 889-3065 danlav@cox.net

### **iWired**

Dean Wall 14666 N. 74th St., Ste. A Scottsdale, AZ 85260 PHONE (480) 922-2500 FAX (480) 922-2505 dean@iwired.com

# **Technology @ Home LLC**

Gerry Behm 26257 North 45th Pl. Phoenix, AZ 85050-8558 **PHONE** (480) 502-4600 FAX (480) 219-2982 technology-1@cox.net

# **CALIFORNIA**

# **Advanced Home Systems**

Robert Cox 259 Mira Mar Long Beach, CA 90803 **PHONE** (562) 505-6992 FAX (562) 342-8210 rcox@advancedhome-systems.net

# **Aladdins Electric of** the North Bay

Michael Hoefer PO Box 7351 Cotati, CA 94931 **PHONE** (707) 795-7207 FAX (707) 795-3907 aladdinelectric@aol.com

### **All Electric**

Thomas Tripolt 635 Goodhill Rd. Kentfield, CA 94904 **PHONE** (415) 461-3509 FAX (415) 461-5643 ttripolt@comcast.net

### **Alliacense**

Mike Davis 21730 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino, CA 95014 **PHONE** (480) 446-4222 mike@tplgroup.net

### **Alliacense**

Mac Leckrone 21730 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino, CA 95014 PHONE (408) 446-4544 FAX (408) 446-5444 mac@tplgroup.net

# **Alliant Solutions Inc.**

Art Feierman 181 Avenida La Pata, Ste. 100 San Clemente, CA 92673 **PHONE** (949) 492-8102 FAX (949) 369-7997 artf@alliantsolutionsinc.com

# **Alpine Technical Services**

Daniel Engler PO Box 9480 Truckee, CA 96162 **PHONE** (530) 582-1446 FAX (530) 550-9016 d\_engler@SBCGLOBAL.NET

# Audio/Video **Entertainment Inc.**

Sean Fields 27601 Forbes Rd., Ste. 13 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 PHONE (949) 348-1245 FAX (949) 348-8446 sean@audiovideoent.com

#### **Audiomation**

Lucas Suimanjaya 3302 Industry Dr. Signal Hill, CA 90804 **PHONE** (562) 597-6155 FAX (562) 597-6145

lucas.suimanjaya@audiomationav.com

### **Audiomation**

Remy Um 3302 Industry Dr. Signal Hill, CA 90804 **PHONE** (562) 597-6155 FAX (562) 597-6145 remy.um@audiomationav.com

### **Beutler Corp.**

Steve Brown 4700 Lang Ave. McClellan, CA 95652 **PHONE** (916) 646-2222 browns@beutler.com

### **Beutler Corp.**

Terry Hrabak 4700 Lang Ave. McClellan, CA 95652 PHONE (916) 646-2222 hrabakt@beulter.com

# **Beutler Corp.**

Joe Klusnick 4700 Lang Ave. McClellan, CA 95652 PHONE (916) 646-2222

klusnickj@beutler.com

# **Beyond Home Theater**

Terence Mulholland 1119 22nd St. #3 Santa Monica, CA 90403 **PHONE** (310) 480-8599 FAX (310) 829-7916 terrym@beyondhometheater.com

### **Builders Sound**

Mike Pickman 4718 Autumn Meadow Dr. Fairfield, CA 94534 **PHONE** (707) 863-0244 mike@builderssound.com

#### **Builders Sound**

Jeff Wallace 4718 Autumn Meadow Dr. Fairfield, CA 94534 **PHONE** (707) 863-0244 jwallace@builderssound.com

# **Cyber Casa Technologies**

Jared Katzenbarger 8758 Noble Fir Ln. Elk Grove, CA 95758 PHONE (916) 712-6639 cybercasatech@yahoo.com

### **Cyber Casa Technologies**

Pradeep Singh 8758 Noble Fir Ln. Elk Grove, CA 95758 PHONE (916) 804-8526 cybercasatech@yahoo.com

### **Delano Associates**

Buzz Delano 2927 Arroyo San Clemente, CA 92673 **PHONE** (949) 940-9077 FAX (949) 940-9177 buzz@delanoassociates.com

### **Digital Day Dream'n**

Theresa Osterhout 35111 F. Newark Blvd., PMB 222 Newark, CA 94560 **PHONE** (510) 760-3157 FAX (209) 239-5787 theresa@digitaldaydreamn.com

# **Digital Ecosystems**

Brian Stokholm 10696 Loma Vista Rd. Ventura, CA 93004 **PHONE** (805) 320-1430 brian@digital-ecosystems.com

# **Digital Ecosystems**

Christina Stokholm PO Box 4590 Ventura, CA 93007 **PHONE** (805) 647-1756 christina@digital-ecosystems.com

### **Direct Grafix**

Erica Horan 405 N Del Sol Ln. Diamond Bar, CA 91765 **PHONE** (909) 967-1258 FAX (909) 861-4279 ehoran@directgrafix.com

# **Direct Grafix**

James Horan 405 N Del Sol Ln. Diamond Bar, CA 91765 **PHONE** (909) 800-8686 FAX (909) 861-4279 jhoran@directgrafix.com

# **Divoy Systems Inc.**

William McKnight 5255 Raven Hill Point San Diego, CA 92130 **PHONE** (858) 663-1633 mcknight@divoy.com

# Dynacom Corp.

Eddy Lee 1366 San Mateo Ave., Ste. 201 South San Francisco, CA 94080 **PHONE** (650) 589-9200 FAX (650) 589-0845 elee@dynacomcorp.com

### **Electronic Home Solutions**

J. Kluska PO Box 50053 San Diego, CA 92150 **PHONE** (858) 842-1938 mike.kluska@electronic-home-solutions.com

### **eLuxe Home**

Joseph Davenport 409 N Pacific Coast Hwy., #337 Redondo Beach, CA 90277 **PHONE** (310) 593-4030 FAX (310) 593-4631 joe.davenport@eluxehome.com

# **Envision Home Automation Inc.**

Mike Moeller 2304 La Mirada Dr. Vista, CA 92081 **PHONE** (760) 889-2170 mike@eha.com

# **Envision Home** Automation Inc.

Mitch Moeller 2304 La Mirada Dr. Vista, CA 92081 **PHONE** (949) 874-4017 mitch@eha.com

# **Exclusive Audio Imaging Inc.**

John Rudow 11179 Hillside Rd. Alta Loma, CA 91737 **PHONE** (909) 581-0429 FAX (909) 581-3841 john@exclusiveaudioimaging.com

# **Exclusive Audio Imaging Inc.**

Sue Rudow 11179 Hillside Rd. Alta Loma, CA 91737 **PHONE** (909) 581-0429 FAX (909) 581-3841 sue@exclusiveaudioimaging.com

# **Home Automation Technologies**

Yakov Reznikov 888 Brannan St., #4050 San Francisco, CA 94103 PHONE (415) 543-0543 FAX (415) 575-9889 softcent@pacbell.net

### **Home Systems Integration**

Miguel Hernandez PO Box 271942 Concord, CA 94527 **PHONE** (925) 917-9283 none@hotmail.com

# **Home Systems Integration**

Teri McDonald PO Box 271942 Concord, CA 94527 PHONE (925) 381-8690 tfm4251@pacbell.net

# **Home Theater Engineering Inc.**

Alisa Daniels 3808 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim, CA 92807-1713 PHONE (714) 632-7300 FAX (714) 632-7340 alisa@hometheatereng.com

# **Home Theater Engineering Inc.**

Terry Lee 33808 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim, CA 92807-1713 **PHONE** (714) 632-7300 FAX (714) 632-7340 terry@hometheatereng.com

# **HomeNetwork Solutions Inc.**

Daniel Jalbert 734 Forester Dr. Corona, CA 92880 **PHONE** (714) 321-6400 danj@homenetworksinc.com

# **HomeNetwork Solutions Inc.**

Teri Jalbert 734 Forester Dr. Corona, CA 92880 **PHONE** (714) 401-9822 terij@homenetworksinc.com

# **HomeXperience**

Steve Rylander 3800 Carasco Ct. El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 **PHONE** (916) 712-7871 steverylander@steverylander.com

# **HomeXperience**

Chris Simon 3800 Carasco Ct. El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 **PHONE** (916) 712-7871 chris\_simon@homexperience.com

# **Hood Branco Innovations Inc.**

Dwight Branco 11637 Deer Park Dr. Nevada City, CA 95959 **PHONE** (530) 265-4939 FAX (530) 265-3592 dwight@hb-innovations.com

# **Hood Branco Innovations Inc.**

Brian Hood 11637 Deer Park Dr. Nevada City, CA 95959 FAX (530) 265-3592 brian@hb-innovations.com

# **Hutchison Consulting**

Deborah Hutchison 1187 Coast Village Rd. Ste. 1-489 Montecito, CA 93108 **PHONE** (805) 565-4855 FAX (805) 695-0282 deborah@hutchisonconsulting.com

# **Hutchison Consulting**

Hall Hutchison 1187 Coast Village Rd. Ste. 1-489 Montecito, CA 93108 FAX (805) 695-0282 hall@hutchisonconsulting.com

# InfiniSys Inc.

Orrin Charm 4872 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Ste. 308 Woodland Hls, CA 91364 **PHONE** (818) 887-0500 FAX (818) 887-0590

# **Left Coast Home**

Greg Matuskovic 6965 El Camino Real Ste. 105573 Carlsbad, CA 92009 **PHONE** (760) 685-0005 greg@leftcoasthome.com

# M1 Systems

Michael Fricke 24307 Magic Moutain Pkwy. Ste. #327 Santa Clarita, CA 91355 FAX (661) 272-0690 m1systems@sbcglobal.net

### **Metro TechHome**

Keil Keves 2144 Caminito Del Baro Del Mar, CA 92014 **PHONE** (858) 509-0192 FAX (858) 509-0192 keil@metrotechhome.com

### **Metro TechHome**

Leah Robbins 2144 Caminito Del Baro Del Mar, CA 92014 **PHONE** (858) 509-0192 FAX (858) 509-0192 leah@metrotechhome.com

# **Morningside Technology**

Phillip Arneson 1 Stanford Dr. Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 PHONE (858) 518-8098 FAX (760) 202-9351 phila47036@aol.com

### **Music Giants Inc.**

Tony Fisch 6312 Arrowhead Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90068 **PHONE** (323) 461-7878 FAX (323) 467-1991 tony@fischconslting.com

### Napa Valley Stereo

Ricardo Cruz 1199 Partrick Rd. Napa, CA 94558-9743 **PHONE** (707) 301-0299 FAX (707) 224-8859 napavalleystereo@starband.net

### **Napa Valley Stereo**

James Hunter 1199 Partrick Rd. Napa, CA 94558-9743 **PHONE** (707) 224-4566 FAX (707) 251-8859 jimhunter@starband.net

# **Next-Wave Media Solutions**

Joey Rudolph 940 W. Arrow Hwy., Unit D Upland, CA 91786 **PHONE** (714) 381-5856 FAX (909) 982-9817 jrudolph@next-wavemediasolutions.com

# **North Bay Electric**

Dean Jebb 411 Escalona Dr. Santa Cruz, CA 95060 **PHONE** (831) 429-8309 FAX (831) 429-8309

# **Nova Innovative System** Design

Robert Johnson 2742 W. Crescent Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801 PHONE (714) 952-9566 FAX (714) 952-9577 nisdesigns@aol.com

# **Nova Innovative System** Design

Robert Johnson 2742 W. Crescent Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801 **PHONE** (714) 952-9566 FAX (714) 952-9577 nisdesigns@aol.com

# **NS Holdings**

Marc Booth 15 Enterprise, Ste. 550 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 **PHONE** (949) 448-4300 FAX (949) 448-4330 mbooth@nicholaslabs.com

### **NS Holdings**

Tom Bratkovich 15 Enterprise, Ste. 550 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 **PHONE** (949) 448-4300 FAX (949) 448-4330 tbratkovich@nsholdings.com

### **Onteriors**

Karen Davis 9820 Towne Centre Dr. Ste. 250 San Diego, CA 92121 **PHONE** (858) 875-8253 FAX (858) 875-8275 kdavis@onteriors.com

# **Onteriors**

Dan Merrill 9820 Towne Centre Dr. Ste. 250 San Diego, CA 92121 **PHONE** (858) 455-1234 FAX (858) 455-5368 dmerrill@onteriors.com

# **Peiser Solutions**

Dave Peiser 1106 2nd St. Encinitas, CA 92024 **PHONE** (760) 632-0068 dave@peisersolutions.com

# **RCS—Residential Control Systems**

Michael Kuhlmann 11460 Sunrise Gold Cir. Ste. A Rancho Cordova, CA 95742-6572 **PHONE** (916) 635-6784 FAX (916) 635-7668

# **RCS—Residential Control Systems**

mkuhlmann@resconsys.com

Bruce Wiens 11460 Sunrise Gold Cir. Ste A Rancho Cordova, CA 95742-6572 PHONE (916) 635-6784 FAX (916) 635-7668

### **RIMI Security Systems Inc.**

bwiens@resconsys.com

Michael Hanyecz 330 S La Brea Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90036 PHONE (323) 938-2061 FAX (323) 938-2168 michaelh@rimisecurity.com

### **Semaphoric Smart Homes Inc.**

Matthew McKenna 17328 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 319 Encino, CA 91316 **PHONE** (818) 674-7873 FAX (818) 337-2253 matt@semaphoric.com

# **SmartSolutions**

Matt Turner 1945 Camino Vida Roble, Ste. L Carlsbad, CA 92008 **PHONE** (760) 431-9855 FAX (760) 431-9817 mturner@smartsolutionsinc.net

# SoHo Sounds Inc.

**Roger Sessions** 6635 Redwood Dr., Ste. 2112 Rohnert Park, CA 94928 **PHONE** (707) 588-9299 FAX (707) 940-4248 roger@sohosounds.com

### **Sound Video & Automation**

Paul Agneta 30211 Banderas, Ste. 200 RSM, CA 92688 **PHONE** (858) 922-1014 FAX (949) 589-2238 paulagneta@soundvideoautomation.com

#### **Sound Video & Automation**

Bill Bryan
30211 Banderas, Ste. 200
RSM, CA 92688
PHONE (949) 546-0266
FAX (949) 589-2238
billbryan@soundvideoautomation.com

### **Strawflower Electronics**

Douglas Mackintosh 160 San Mateo Rd., Ste. E Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 PHONE (650) 726-8181 FAX (650) 726-6015 HMBRS1@attbi.com

# **Strawflower Electronics**

Ian O'Malley 160 San Mateo Rd., Ste. E Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 PHONE (650) 726-8181 FAX (650) 726-6015 HMBRS1@attbi.com

### **Trend Focus**

Mark Geenen 101 First St., Ste. 522 Los Altos, CA 94022 PHONE (650) 917-8320 FAX (650) 917-0282 mark@trendfocus.com

### Viking Systems Inc.

Gerry Joyce 4871 Clarendon Dr., San Jose, CA 95129-4314 PHONE (408) 777-8104 gerry.joyce@vikingsys.com

# Viking Systems Inc.

David Stewart 4871 Clarendon Dr. San Jose, CA 95129-4314 PHONE (408) 777-8104 FAX (408) 777-8031

david.stewart@vikingsys.com

# Vision Systems Automation Inc.

Neal Edmiston 5970 Lakeshore Dr. Cypress, CA 90630 PHONE (562) 493-4932 FAX (562) 493-4390 n.edmiston@vissys.com

# Vision Systems Automation Inc.

Michael Shaw 5970 Lakeshore Dr. Cypress, CA 90630 PHONE (562) 493-4932 FAX (562) 493-4390 mike@vissys.com

# Vision Systems Automation Inc.

Jeff Sneddon 5970 Lakeshore Dr. Cypress, CA 90630 PHONE (562) 493-4932 FAX (562) 493-4390 jeff@vissys.com

### Walter's Home Audio & Video

Walter Roman 1377 N. Fifth Ave. Upland, CA 91786 PHONE (800) 205-5070 FAX (909) 985-0999 wroman10@aol.com

### **COLORADO**

# **180 Digital Interiors**

Mark Farr 3151 S Vaughn Way, Ste. 400 Aurora, CO 80014 PHONE (303) 395-8872 FAX (303) 306-1754 mfarr@180connect.net

# **180 Digital Interiors**

Bryan Gates 3151 S Vaughn Way, Ste. 400 Aurora, CO 80014 PHONE (303) 395-8868 bgates@180connect.net

### **ADT Security Services, Inc.**

Daniel Geiger 14200 E. Exposition Ave. Aurora, CO 80012-2512 PHONE (303) 306-5903 FAX (303) 306-5735 dgeiger@adt.com

# **Alpine Vista Home Theaters**

Michael Orlowski 265 Overlook Dr. Breckenridge, CO 80424 PHONE (970) 453-4046 orlowski@alpinevista.com

# **Ambient Systems**

Keith Pharris 3460 Larkspur Dr. Longmont, CO 80503 PHONE (303) 447-6807 keith@ambientsystems.biz

# **Bond Electric Co.**

David D. Johnson 360 Park Ave., PO Box 2049 Fraser, CO 80442 PHONE (970) 726-8018 FAX (970) 726-5933 david@bondelectric.com

# **Rocky Mtn Security Services**

Tim Howell
(DBA Integrated Systems),
2171 S. Grape St.
Denver, CO 80222
PHONE (303) 698-2698
FAX (303) 698-2064
bbtsts@quixnet.net

# SaaviHome Tyler Lantzy

595 St. Andrews Ln. Louisville, CO 80027 PHONE (303) 665-2238 FAX (303) 939-8253 tlantzy@saavihome.com

# **Tech Dwellings**

Douglas Fletcher 536 E. 2nd Ave. Denver, CO 80203 PHONE (303) 698-1132 douglas@techdwellings.com

### **Tech Dwellings**

Scott Thring 536 E. 2nd Ave. Denver, CO 80203 PHONE (303) 698-1132 sthring@techdwellings.com

### CONNECTICUT

# **Hometronics Lifestyles**

James Sweeney 6 Way Rd. Middlefield, CT 06455 PHONE (860) 349-7002 FAX (860) 349-7087 jim@sase-sound.com

### J.P. Freeman Laboratories LLC

Joseph Freeman
PO Box 485
Newtown, CT 06470-0485
PHONE (203) 426-6023
FAX (203) 426-1668
joe@jpfreeman.com

## J.P. Freeman Laboratories LLC

Megan Lewis
PO Box 485
Newtown, CT 06470-0485
PHONE (203) 426-6023
FAX (203) 426-1668
meg@jpfreeman.com

# J.P. Freeman Laboratories LLC

David Terrett
PO Box 485
Newtown, CT 06470-0485
PHONE (203) 426-6023
FAX (203) 426-1668

### **KENCO Home Systems**

Kenneth Bereski 359 Cedarwood Dr. Orange, CT 06477 PHONE (203)799-7233 FAX (203)799-8375 kencohomesystems@bigfoot.com

### **Lights Camera Action**

Anthony Pavia 88 Danbury Rd., Rt. 35 Ridgefield, CT 06877 PHONE (203) 438-7000 FAX (203) 324-2652 appaviaelectric@att.net

# **PC & TV AV Connections**

Hans Van Der Ven 181 Riverbank Dr. Stamford, CT 06903 PHONE (203) 322-0729 Hans VDV@optonline.net

### **Structured Solutions**

David Febbraio PO Box 4437 Danbury, CT 06813 PHONE (877) 210-0855 dave@structuredsolutions.org

# DELAWARE

# **Delta Home Services LLC**

Tim Precht
PO Box 9541
Newark, DE 19714-9541
PHONE (302) 854-1647
deltacc@comcast.net

### **Electronic Home Solutions Inc.**

Manny Alvarez 9 Homestead Ln. Hockessin, DE 19707 PHONE (302) 234-3391 FAX (302) 234-0302 malvarez1960@comcast.net

### Martec Inc.

Mark B. Carlson 100 Carlson Way, Ste. 3 Dover, DE 19901 PHONE (302) 744-9566 ext. 111 FAX (302) 744-9567 markc@martecav.com

### **Smartis Inc.**

Ryan Hargett 1378 Lynnbury Woods Rd. Dover, DE 19904 PHONE (302) 465-2163 FAX (302) 424-3208 ryan@smartisinc.com

### **Smartis Inc.**

Scott Hargett 1378 Lynnbury Woods Rd. Dover, DE 19904 **PHONE** (302) 653-8355 FAX (302) 424-3208 scott@smartisinc.com

# **FLORIDA**

### **Arcon Electric**

George Flores 209 Marshall Dr. Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547 **PHONE** (850) 862-7823 FAX (850) 862-1461 C4ever4@home.com

# **Atlantic Smart Technologies**

Rick Clark 4521 PGA Blvd. #341 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 **PHONE** (561) 776-0066 FAX (561) 776-4655 rickc@atlanticsmart.com

# **Atlantic Smart Technologies**

Bill Slater 4521 PGA Blvd. #341 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 **PHONE** (561) 776-0066 FAX (561) 776-4655 bills@atlanticsmart.com

### **Ava Innovations LLC**

Joseph Bartlett 1031 Cape Coral Pkwy. Ste. 209 Cape Coral, FL 33904 PHONE (239) 549-9044 FAX (239) 549-9034 joe@avainnovations.com

### **Ava Innovations LLC**

Julia Ettari 1031 Cape Coral Prwy. Ste. 209 Cape Coral, FL 33904 PHONE (239) 549-9044 FAX (239) 549-9034 julia@avainnovations.com

### AVI / eConsulting LLC

Vinny Barber 2640 Cherokee Rd. St. Cloud, FL 34772 **PHONE** (407) 892-4036 FAX (407) 892-6125 vinny@avi-econsulting.com

#### Biztex Inc.

Michael Omara 2890 Griffin Road, Ste. 5 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 **PHONE** (954) 964-1099 FAX (954) 964-1934 michael@biztex.com

#### Biztex Inc.

Daniel Roller 5111 N.W. 108 Ave. Sunrise, FL 33351 **PHONE** (954) 964-1099 FAX (954) 964-1934 daniel@biztex.net

# **Boca Information Sciences Group**

Rick Mancinelli 301 Yamato Rd., Ste. 2195 Boca Raton, FL 33431 PHONE (561) 982-8400 FAX (561) 981-4850 rmancinelli@bisginc.com

### **Boca Theater and Automation Inc.**

Jeff Galea 9704 Clint Moore Rd. Ste. A-106 Boca Raton, FL 33496 **PHONE** (561) 999-9024 FAX (561) 208-8448 jeff@bocatheater.com

# **Boca Theater and Automation Inc.**

Nancy Galea 6091 NW 43rd Terrace Boca Raton, FL 33496 PHONE (561) 999-9024 FAX (561) 208-8448 nancy@bocatheater.com

# **Boca Theater and Automation Inc.**

Kim Morrell 6091 NW 43rd Terrace Boca Raton, FL 33496 **PHONE** (954) 461-5222 FAX (561) 208-8448 kimmie@bocatheater.com

### **Comet Electric Inc.**

Kris Lissau 197 65th Terrace N. West Palm Beach, FL 33413 **PHONE** (561) 689-4401 FAX (561) 686-1581 admin@cometelectricinc.com

### Comet Electric Inc.

Peter Lurtz 197 65th Terrace N. West Palm Beach, FL 33413 **PHONE** (561) 689-4401 FAX (561) 686-1581 peter@cometelectricinc.com

### **EFW Enterprises**

Gene White 5694 Hale Rd., Bldg # 2 Venice, FL 34293 **PHONE** (941) 493-9676 FAX (941) 496-9008 efwhite@gte.net

# **Emerald Coast Audio**

John Rosenberg PO Box 4625 Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 PHONE (850) 428-2324 FAX (850) 231-6900

### ETC Inc.

Rob Doherty 2921 N. Australian Ave. West Palm Beach, FL 33407 PHONE (561) 881-8118 FAX (561) 882-0110

# ETC, Inc.

William Maronet 2921 North Australian Ave. West Palm Beach, FL 33407 **PHONE** (561) 881-8118 FAX (561) 882-0110 bmaronet@msn.com

# **FulTECH Solutions Inc.**

Harry Corbett 4905 Belfort Rd., Ste. 110 Jacksonville, FL 32256 **PHONE** (904) 992-6624 FAX (904) 992-6903 hcorbett3@msn.com

# **FulTECH Solutions Inc.**

Dan Fulmer 4905 Belfort Rd, Ste. 110 Jacksonville, FL 32256 **PHONE** (904) 992-6624 FAX (904) 992-6903 dfulmer@fultechsolutions.com

# **Gordon's Light and Sound**

Gordon Deans 3001 Cottageville St. Deltona, FL 32738 PHONE (407) 221-4768 jsmithelectric@msn.com

### **Gordon's Light and Sound**

Cory Dudley 3001 Cottageville St. Deltona, FL 32738 **PHONE** (386) 574-8518 rcorydudley@aol.com

### **Horne Systems & Designs Inc.**

Alton Horne 5633 Sarah Ave. Sarasota, FL 34233 **PHONE** (941) 921-7816 FAX (941) 921-5706

# **Horne Systems & Designs Inc.**

Rick Horne 5633 Sarah Ave. Sarasota, FL 34233 **PHONE** (941) 921-7816 FAX (941) 921-5706 rch.hsd@gte.net

# InfiniSvs Inc.

Jennifer Holtz 482 Fentress Blvd., Ste. N Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1298 **PHONE** (386) 238-0072 FAX (386) 238-1555 jenniferh@electronicarchitect.com

### InfiniSys Inc.

Rochelle Holtz 482 Fentress Blvd., Ste. N Daytona Beach, FL 32114 **PHONE** (386) 238-0072 FAX (386) 238-1555 rochelleh@electronicarchitect.com

### InfiniSys Inc.

Tony Leggieri 482 Fentress Blvd., Ste. N Daytona Beach, FL 32114 **PHONE** (386) 238-0072 FAX (386) 238-1555 tonyl@electronicarchitect.com

# InfiniSys Inc.

Kim Secord 482 Fentress Blvd., Ste. N Daytona Beach, FL 32114 **PHONE** (386) 238-0073 FAX (386) 238-1555 kims@electronicarchitect.com

# InfiniSys Inc.

Tom Stender 482 Fentress Blvd., Ste. N Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1298 **PHONE** (386) 238-0072 FAX (386) 238-1555 toms@electronicarchitect.com

### **Innovative Home Technologies**

Matthew Wilbanks 1418 NE 57th Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 PHONE (954) 614-6663 matt@innovativehometech.com

#### James D. Inc.

James Doucett 4054 Eastridge Cir. Pompano Beach, FL 33064 PHONE (954) 942-5298 kwid@bellsouth.net

### **Jeup Enterprises**

Jim Jeup PO Box 6354 Brandon, FL 33508 PHONE (813) 508-4378 flybynightindustries@hotmail.com

### **Martek of Palm Beach**

David Gratton
12189 US Hwy. 1
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
PHONE (561) 626-0333
FAX (561) 626-8869
digratton@yahoo.com

### Mr. Hook-it-up

Rob Wheeles 1915 North Orange Ave. Orlando, FL 32804 PHONE (321) 228-3692 FAX (407) 896-8043 rob@mrhookitup.com

# **Net Ramp Inc.**

Ivan Farkas 13371 SW 45th Dr. Miramar, FL 33027 PHONE (954) 364-7925 FAX (954) 337-0995 ifarkas@net-ramp.com

## **S&S Electric Co. Inc.**

Shawn Smith 105 Douglas Rd. E. Oldsmar, FL 34677 PHONE (813) 855-6692 FAX (813) 855-4284 ssmith@ss-electric.com

# **SentryNet**

David Avritt 517 North Baylen St. Pensacola, FL 32501 PHONE (601) 335-6400 FAX (601) 332-5072 davavritt@sentrynet.com

### **SentryNet**

Ikie Lloyd 517 North Baylen St. Pensacola, FL 32501 PHONE (601) 335-6400 FAX (601) 332-5072 illoyd@sentrynet.com

### **SLC Development LLC**

Chris Duca 3800 Fowler St., Unit 1 Ft Myers, FL 33901 PHONE (239) 275-4888 FAX (239) 275-3106 slcdev@earthlink.net

# **Smartforce Consulting Group Inc.**

Candido Arreche 3373 Foxmeadow Ct. Longwood, FL 32779 PHONE (407) 435-7955 FAX (407) 829-8905 candido.arreche@smartforce.cc

### TecHome Inc.

Kevin Moreland 40 Frontier Dr. Palm Coast, FL 32137 PHONE (407) 234-7659 kmoreland@techomesolution.com

# **Vector Systems Design Inc.**

Steven W. Dussinger 5217 Lady Rose Ct. Lutz, FL 33558 PHONE (813) 781-9710 sdussin1@tampabay.rr.com

# **Wireless Home Inc**

Matt Peters 9641 Falconer Way Estero, FL 33928 PHONE (800) 995-9434 FAX (866) 328-0708 matt@buywifi.com

### **GEORGIA**

# Ask-Kay Electrical Contractors Inc.

Steven Askea 2970 Ask-Kay Dr. Smyrna, GA 30082 PHONE (770) 436-6101 FAX (770) 436-7466

# **AVI Inc.**

Jack Baird 1115 Alpha Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30004 PHONE (770) 640-1120 FAX (770) 640-7294 jackb@avi.tv

### **AVI Inc.**

Ed Jones 1115 Alpha Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30004 PHONE (770) 640-1120 FAX (770) 640-7294 edj@avi.tv

### **AVI Inc.**

Mike Kevneoy 1115 Alpha Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30004 PHONE (770) 640-1120 FAX (770) 640-7294 mikek@avi.tv

### **AVI Inc.**

Tim Lubben 1115 Alpha Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30004 PHONE (770) 640-1120 FAX (770) 640-7294 timl@avi.tv

# AVI Inc.

Jerry Thames 1115 Alpha Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30004 PHONE (770) 640-1120 FAX (770) 640-7294

# **Butler Consulting**

Brad Butler 15 Redwood Cir. Savannah, GA 31419 PHONE (912) 927-3122 FAX (912) 927-3122 bkvflashbs@aol.com

# **Digital Interiors Inc.**

George Ide 5935 Shiloh Rd. E., Ste. 330 Alpharetta, GA 30005 PHONE (404) 713-4397 FAX (770) 844-5834 gide@atlgeorgia.com

# **Digital Interiors Inc.**

Ron Rimawi 5935 Shiloh Rd. E., Ste. 300 Alpharetta, GA 30005 PHONE (770) 844-5800 FAX (770) 844-5834 rrimawi@atlgeorgia.com

# eHomeXtreme Inc.

Melanie Blanchard 3521 Vintage Trail Woodstock, GA 30189 PHONE (678) 445-5557 FAX (678) 445-0397 melanie@ehomex.com

### eHomeXtreme Inc.

Rodney Blenchard 3521 Vintage Trail Woodstock, GA 30189 PHONE (678) 491-1189 FAX (678) 445-0397 rodneyb@ehomex.com

### **FusionPoint**

Carol Lee 4900 Mercer University Dr. Macon, GA 31210 PHONE (478) 405-2734 FAX (478) 471-1425 carollee@fusionpoint.net

# **FusionPoint**

Leland Lee 4794 Mercer University Dr. Macon, GA 31210 PHONE (478) 405-2723 FAX (478) 471-1425 Iwlee@fusionpoint.net

# Household Automation Systems

Dave Yoset 1000 Churchill Ct., Ste. 1012 Woodstock, GA 30188 PHONE (678) 445-0783 FAX (678) 445-0184 dave@householdautomation.com

# Household Automation Systems

Jack Yoset 4528 Blackwater Trail Marietta, GA 30066 PHONE (678) 445-0783 FAX (678) 445-0184 jack@householdautomation.com

### Link Your House Inc.

Nick McCulloch 3475 Holcomb Bridge Rd. Ste. 202 Norcross, GA 30092 PHONE (770) 209-0086 FAX (770) 729-5173 info@linkyourhouse.com

### **Mr. Smart Home**

Ed Frisbee 1890 Gleaton Rd. NE Conyers, GA 30013 PHONE (404) 806-0999 ed@mrsmarthome.com

# **Tech Homes Inc.**

Jeff Braddock 4461 Bretton Ct., Ste. 400 Acworth, GA 30101 PHONE (770) 529-5526 FAX (770) 966-1041 jeff@techhomesinc.com

#### **Tech Homes Inc.**

Paul Hendrix 875 Westfield Row Acworth, GA 30102 **PHONE** (770) 310-7002 FAX (770) 218-3140 paul@tech-homes.net

# **IOWA**

### **Omnitel Communications**

Ronald Laudner 608 E. Congress Nora Springs, IA 50458 **PHONE** (641) 749-2531 FAX (641) 749-9510 rilir@omnitelcom.com

# **IDAHO**

### dBtronix

**Thomas Smith** 1626 Hollipark Dr. Idaho Falls, ID 83401 **PHONE** (208) 552-2505 FAX (208) 522-5001

tes@dbtronix.com

### **Lighting Concepts Corp.**

Ryan Moore 356 4th Avenue W. Twin Falls, ID 83301 **PHONE** (208) 733-2021 FAX (208) 733-2231

# **ILLINOIS**

# **ALLSMART Solutions**

Bill McFarland

Country Court, 394 Peterson Rd. Libertyville, IL 60048 **PHONE** (847) 247-4810 FAX (847) 247-9412 bill.mcfarland@allsmartsolutions.com

## **Automated Lifestyles Inc.**

Robert Kowalski 925 N. East Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302 **PHONE** (708) 606-4282 FAX (708) 660-9965 bob@bighometheater.com

### C & H Industries Inc.

Amy Cano 165 Kirkland Cir. Oswego, IL 60543 PHONE (630) 978-2266 ext. 105 amycano@attglobal.net

### **Digital Home Technologies**

John Goldenne 346 N. Northwest Hwy. Ste. 100 Palatine, IL 60067 PHONE (847) 776-1296 FAX (847) 776-1297 john@adigitalhome.com

### **DISTek Integration Inc.**

Matt Dickinson PO Box 300 Carthage, IL 62321 **PHONE** (217) 357-3100 FAX (978) 418-7961 matt@distek.com

### **Homerun Technology**

Tim McManus 910 S Michigan Ave. Ste. 1111 Chicago, IL 60605 **PHONE** (312) 786-1979 FAX (312) 986-1989 timmc11@aol.com

# **Homerun Technology**

Jay Severin 910 S Michigan Ave. Ste. 1111 Chicago, IL 60605 **PHONE** (312) 786-1979 FAX (312) 986-1989 jseverin@hotmail.com

### LouisClark Ltd.

Brian Post 3041 Hartzell St. Evanston, IL 60201 **PHONE** (847) 864-0271 FAX (847) 864-0662 bpost@louis-clark.com

# Miracle Technologies Inc.

Ron Mocogni 224 Burchell Ave. Highwood, IL 60040 **PHONE** (847) 702-8831 FAX (847) 748-8131 ron@miracletechinc.com

# **Nugget Enterprises Inc.**

Robert Fabbrini 88 Dundee Ln. Barrington Hills, IL 60010 **PHONE** (847) 363-0480 FAX (847) 277-7030 rfabbrini@nuggetinc.com

# **Satellite Innovations Inc.**

Christopher Kemikem 654 Albion Ave. Schaumburg, IL 60193 **PHONE** (847) 301-8000 FAX (847) 301-1061 info@satelliteinno.com

# **INDIANA**

# **Home Automation Advantage**

Blake Ellis 10 W. Market St., Ste. 1720 Indianapolis, IN 46204 PHONE (317) 464-5355

bellis@homeautomationadvantage.com

### **Home Automation Advantage**

Jerry Ellis 10 W. Market St., Ste. 1720 Indianapolis, IN 46204 **PHONE** (317) 464-5355 jellis@homeautomationadvantage.com

# SchillingTECH Inc.

**Todd Schilling** 9123 Wicker Ave. St John, IN 46373 **PHONE** (219) 365-4150 FAX (219) 365-4172 todd@schillingtech.com

### Schneider Electrical Inc.

Jeff Guthrie 5821 Bayer Dr. Evansville, IN 47712 **PHONE** (812) 985-0639 FAX (812) 833-0727 sales@schneiderelectrical.com

#### Schneider Electrical Inc.

Pamela Schneider 1005 East Third St. Mount Vernon, IN 47620 **PHONE** (812) 838-4089 FAX (812) 838-0727 pamela@schneiderelectrical.com

# **KANSAS**

### **Digital Home Ideas Inc.**

Bethany Butler 5007 Marion Shawnee, KS 66218 **PHONE** (913) 481-5683 bbutler@lewisellis.com

### Digital Home Ideas Inc.

Ryan Butler 5007 Marion Shawnee, KS 66218 PHONE (913) 481-4609 ryan@dhideas.com

# Digital Home Ideas Inc.

Russel Rhoades 5007 Marion Shawnee, KS 66218 PHONE (816) 729-1096 russell@dhideas.com

# **Infinity Digital Design**

Gregory Clayton 17891 Highview Rd. Tonganoxie, KS 66086 **PHONE** (913) 219-6776 gregormail@yahoo.com

# **KENTUCKY**

### **Home Technologies Corp.**

Frank Allen 4157 Olympic Blvd. Erlanger, KY 41018 **PHONE** (859) 692-2380 FAX (859) 692-2381 fallen@sanpro.com

# **LOUISIANA**

# **Quicklink Audio Video**

Louis Fourquet 2109 General Jackson Pl. Bossier City, LA 71112 **PHONE** (318) 741-917 FAX (206) 337-1667 lou4ket@bellsouth.net

# **MASSACHUSETTS**

# **Above Average Systems Inc.**

Nancye Araneo One Still Dr. Hudson, MA 01749 **PHONE** (978) 562-3776 FAX (978) 562-4677 naraneo@aboveadvantagesystems.com

# **Above Average Systems Inc.**

Raymond Delisle One Still Dr. Hudson, MA 01749 PHONE (978) 562-3776 FAX (978) 562-4677 raydelisle@aboveaveragesystems.com

### **Access Connections Inc.**

Robert Gaetz PO Box 2426 Littleton, MA 01460-3426 **PHONE** (978) 952-6246 FAX (978) 952-6557 bob@access-connections.com

# **Access Connections Inc.**

Anne Pelagatti PO Box 2426 Littleton, MA 01460-3426 PHONE (978) 952-6246 FAX (978) 952-6557 anne@access-connections.com

### Alync Inc.

Scott LaRosa 308 West Central St., Ste. B Franklin, MA 02038 **PHONE** (508) 528-7333 FAX (508) 528-7774 ScottL@Alync.com

# **Audio Video Design**

Carolyn Dandurand 170 Needham St. Newton, MA 02464 **PHONE** (617) 965-4600 FAX (781) 237-4852 cdandurand@avdesigns.com

# **Audio Video Design**

**Brad Smith** 170 Needham St. Newton, MA 02464 PHONE (781) 237-8666 FAX (781) 237-4852 info@avdesigns.com

# **Audio Video Design**

Julia Wagner 170 Needham St. Newton, MA 02464 **PHONE** (617) 965-4600 ext. 124 FAX (617) 965-6553 jwagner@avdesigns.com

# **Automated Homes of New England**

26 Wainwright Rd. Winchester, MA 01890-2366 **PHONE** (781) 729-0852 FAX (781) 729-7163 richardshook@automatedhomes.net

# Avix Inc.

Richard Shook

Jim Carroll 911 Main St. Osterville, MA 02655 **PHONE** (508) 428-1199 FAX (508) 428-1166 jcarroll@avixinc.com

### Avix Inc.

Matt Frias 911 Main St. Osterville, MA 02655 PHONE (508) 428-1199 ext. 109 FAX (508) 428-1166 mfrias@avixinc.com

# **Home Genius Inc.**

Nicholas Sollecito 376 Milford Rd., Swansea, MA 02777 **PHONE** (508) 672-4021 FAX (508) 677-4914 ynd@aol.com

### **Home Systems**

Kenneth Wacks 9 Pinewood Rd. Stoneham, MA 02180 **PHONE** (781) 662-6211 FAX (781) 665-4311 kenn@mit.edu

### **Interactive Home Systems**

John Umina PO Box 1270 Concord, MA 01742-1270 **PHONE** (978) 369-4937 FAX (978) 369-4937 johnu@ihomesys.com

# LightFrog

Singu Srinivas 75 Second Ave., Ste. 610 Needham, MA 02494 PHONE (617) 719-7169 ssrinivas@lightfrog.com

### **LightFrog**

Michael Wexler 75 Second Ave., Ste. 610 Needham, MA 02494 PHONE (917) 710-2741 mwexler@lightfrog.com

# **Marshall Smart Homes Inc.**

96 Old Farm Rd, Centerville, MA 02632 PHONE (508) 275-3064 FAX (508) 771-0799

edm@marshallsmarthomes.com

### **One Connection Inc.**

**Edward Marshall** 

Gerard Lynch 475 R Merrimac St. Newburyport, MA 01950 **PHONE** (508) 509-1883 FAX (419) 735-6700 glynch@one-c.com

# **One Connection Inc.**

Thomas Moss 740 Quaker Hwy. Uxbridge, MA 01569 **PHONE** (886) 663-8324 FAX (508) 476-9994 tmoss@one-c.com

# **Total Home Technology**

David Ducharme 1935 Revere Beach Pkwy. Everett, MA 02149 **PHONE** (781) 397-0990 dducharme@totalhometech.com

### **Total Home Technology**

Sarah Ducharme 1935 Revere Beach Pkwy. Everett, MA 02149 **PHONE** (781) 397-0990 sducharme@nengroup.com

# **MARYLAND**

### **Apple Electrical Services Inc.**

Dick Cissel 11237 Somerset Ave. Beltsville, MD 20705 **PHONE** (301) 345-9409 FAX (301) 345-9530 dick@apple-electric.biz

# **Digital Solutions**

Chris Foster 185 Woodcrest Dr. Elkton, MD 21921 **PHONE** (443) 466-6756 FAX (410) 620-5043 chrsfstr@yahoo.com

# **Digital Solutions**

Frank Kyle 185 Woodcrest Dr. Elkton, MD 21921 **PHONE** (443) 309-8622 FAX (410) 6205-043 digitalsolutions@baybroadband.net

### **Electronic Home Solutions**

Rodney Grow 37 Calabash Ct., Rockville, MD 20850 PHONE (301) 294-4581

# Leading Edge Design & **Systems**

Derek Gordon 7763 Old Telegraph Rd. Bldg. A, Ste. 1 Severn, MD 21144 PHONE (410) 787-7036 FAX (410) 787-9462 dgordon@leds.com

# Leading Edge Design & **Systems**

Joseph Gordon 7763 Old Telegraph Rd. Bldg. A, Ste. 1 Severn, MD 21144 **PHONE** (410) 787-7036 FAX (410) 787-9462 igemail@leds.com

### **Questron Inc**

George Hall 8310 Guilford Rd., Ste. B Columbia, MD 21046 **PHONE** (410) 720-5600 FAX (410) 720-5269 ghall@questron-inc.com

# **Signals Communication** Systems Inc.

R.E. Fox 11438 Cronridge Dr., Ste. Z Owings Mills, MD 21117 PHONE (410) 363-2555 FAX (410) 363-6099 signals4u@aol.com

# **Signals Communication** Systems Inc.

R.W. Harry 11438 Cronridge Dr., Ste. Z Owings Mills, MD 21117 **PHONE** (410) 363-2555 FAX (410) 363-6099 signals4u@aol.com

### **Smart Homes Plus LLC**

Jennifer Sullivan 48127 Peachtree Way Lexington Park, MD 20653 **PHONE** (301) 863-3776 FAX (301) 863-5250 smarthomesplus@chesapeake.net

### **Smart Homes Plus LLC**

Mickey Sullivan 48127 Peachtree Way Lexington Park, MD 20653 **PHONE** (301) 863-3776 FAX (301) 863-5250 smarthomesplus@chesapeake.net

### **Smartech Homes Inc.**

Jerry Stuckle 9920 Brixton Ln. Bethesda, MD 20817 **PHONE** (301) 469-6605 FAX (301) 365-9166 jstuckle@smartechhomes.com

# **MICHIGAN**

### **Detroit Media Servers Inc.**

David Shogan 516 Simon Ct. Royal Oak, MI 48067 **PHONE** (248) 672-4681 FAX (253) 981-0517 dshogan@detroitmediaservers.com

### **Detroit Media Servers Inc.**

William Strait 21943 Audrey Warren, MI 48091 PHONE (246) 672-4681 FAX (253) 981-0517 bstrait@detroitmediaservers.com

#### **Grand Home Automation Inc.**

Dean Rockwell PO Box 638 Grandville, MI 49468 **PHONE** (616) 530-6000 FAX (616) 530-1806 sales@grandhome.com

# **HDCI- Heneveld Dynamic Consulting Inc.**

4539 Hemlock Dr. Holland, MI 49423 PHONE (616) 335-6206 FAX (616) 335-5582

Helen Heneveld

helen@hheneveld.com

# **Intellimation Systems**

Jerry Zalewski 676 Mildred Ave. Temperance, MI 48182 **PHONE** (734) 847-6312 FAX (734) 847-6312 jwzalewski@intellimation-systems.com

### **Patriot Systems Inc.**

Dennis Andersen PO Box 99 Troy, MI 48099 **PHONE** (888) 889-5001 FAX (877) 570-4022 dandersen@patriotsystems.net

### **Patriot Systems Inc.**

Brian Ervin PO Box 99 Troy, MI 48099 **PHONE** (888) 889-5001 FAX (877) 570-4022 bervin@patriotsystems.net

# **MINNESOTA**

# A Plus Systems / A Plus **Security Inc.**

Jeffrey Domas 317 N. Second St. PO Box 3585 Mankato, MN 56002 PHONE (507) 625-6554 FAX (507) 388-7887 jpdomas@aplusworld.com

# **Connect Home Theater and Automation**

Jeremy Wolfson 2405 Annapolis Ln. N. Ste. 200 Plymouth, MN 55441 **PHONE** (763) 253-5353 FAX (763) 252-2165 connect1jw@gwest.net

### **Custom Home Integration Inc.**

Pete Baker 11485 Valley View Rd. Eden Prairie, MN 55344 **PHONE** (952) 934-4955 FAX (952) 934-1109 peteb@customhomeintegration.com

### **Cybermation Inc.**

Susan Ardolf 415 3rd Street N., Ste. 200 Waite Park, MN 56387 PHONE (320) 255-7027 FAX (320) 252-1989

### **Cybermation Inc.**

Thomas Ardolf 415 3rd Street N., Ste. 210 Waite Park, MN 56387 PHONE (320) 255-7027 FAX (320) 252-1989 tom@rte-cyber.com

### **Cybermation Inc.**

Marjorie LaTour 415 3rd Street N., Ste. 210 Waite Park, MN 56387 **PHONE** (320) 252-6830 ext. 103 FAX (320) 252-1989 marjorie@rte-cyber.com

### **Dreamtree LLC**

Jeff Hemming 4560 Pleasant St. SE Prior Lake, MN 55372 **PHONE** (952) 440-6639 jeff.hemming@rcliving.com

### **EHome LLC**

Silke Putscher PO Box 102 Excelsior, MN 55331 **PHONE** (952) 548-5757 FAX (952) 548-5751 silke@livingwireless.com

# **EHome LLC**

Wolfgang Putscher PO Box 102 Excelsior, MN 55331 FAX (952) 470-2250 putscher@livingwireless.com

# **Home Techniques Inc.**

Eric Levy 6524 Kurtz Ln. Eden Prairie, MN 55346 **PHONE** (952) 906-3331 FAX (952) 906-3331 eric.levy@hometechniques.com

### Home Techniques Inc.

Dennis Sherwood 6524 Kurtz Ln. Eden Prairie, MN 55346 **PHONE** (952) 906-3331 FAX (952) 906-3331 dennis.sherwood@hometechniques.com

### **Magic Homes LLC**

Robert Christensen 1326 Helmo Ave. N. Oakdale, MN 55128 PHONE (651) 702-7191 FAX (651) 702-7155 bobc@magichomesllc.com

# **Northland Sight & Sound**

David Mann 553 Hayward Ave. N., Ste. 260 Oakdale, MN 55128 PHONE (651) 458-8600 FAX (952) 841-6301 dave@northlandss.com

### **Select Integrated Systems**

Chad Alfords 15757 228th Ave. Elk River, MN 55330 PHONE (763) 670-9278 FAX (763) 263-0564

# **Select Integrated Systems**

Adam Bergerson 15757 228th Ave. Elk River, MN 55330 **PHONE** (763) 923-4863 FAX (763) 263-0564

adamb@selectintegratedsystems.com

# Summit Audio/Video & **Telecommunications Inc.**

Bryan Herman Deane 1225 View Ct. Hastings, MN 55033 **PHONE** (612) 605-6805

FAX (612) 605-5364

bryan.deane@summitavonline.com

# Summit Audio/Video & **Telecommunications Inc.** Micaela Fasbender

1225 View Ct. Hastings, MN 55033 **PHONE** (612) 605-6805 FAX (612) 605-5364

info@summitavlonline.com

# **Superior Solutions Audio-**Video

Mark Ingham 3802 Strathmore Ln. SE Rochester, MN 55904 **PHONE** (507) 358-0088

mark@superiorsolutions-ht.com

# **MISSOURI**

# **Experionics LLC**

Craig Miller 8216 Brentwood Industrial Ct. Saint Louis, MO 63144 **PHONE** (314) 645-7600 FAX (314) 645-7501 craig.cet@birch.net

# **Experionics LLC**

Jenny Owens 12430 Tesson Ferry Rd. Ste. 354 Saint Louis, MO 63128-2702 **PHONE** (314) 894-7500 FAX (314) 892-2560 jennyocet@hotmail.com

### ForresterTech LLC

Ben Forrester 605B North Boonville Ave. Springfield, MO 65806 **PHONE** (417) 864-6444 ext. 18 FAX (417) 864-6445 ben@forrestergroup.com

### ForresterTech LLC

Ray Forrester 605B North Boonville Ave. Springfield, MO 65806 **PHONE** (417) 864-6444 ext. 17 FAX (417) 864-6445 ray@forrestergroup.com

# **Root Diligence**

Robert Wood 7144 Oak St. Kansas City, MO 64114 PHONE (816) 210-2221 rwood@rootdiligence.com

# **Summit Smart Homes**

Vicki Fredrick 10208 E 350 Hwy. Raytown, MO 64138 **PHONE** (816) 743-1100 FAX (816) 743-1200 vfredrick@summitsi.com

### **Summit Smart Homes**

**Judy Shields** 10208 E 350 Hwy. Raytown, MO 64138 **PHONE** (816) 743-1100 FAX (816) 743-1200 jshields@summitsi.com

# **Everything Computers & Communications**

Paul Kingsley 1615 Westward Dr. Gulfport, MS 39501 **PHONE** (228) 871-5672

# **NORTH CAROLINA**

# Comtec, Your Audio-Video Connection

Linda Fish 1900 Hendersonville Rd. Biltmore Forest, NC 28803 PHONE (828) 687-2888 FAX (828) 687-9997 lindaf@comtecati.com

# Comtec, Your Audio-Video Connection

Mike Ridenour 1900 Hendersonville Rd. Biltmore Forest, NC 28803 PHONE (828) 687-2888 FAX (828) 687-9997 miker@comtecati.com

### **Custom Electronics Group**

Ron Markle 518 North Flint St., Lincolnton, NC 28092 PHONE (704) 748-2247 ron\_et@bellsouth.net

### **Custom Electronics Group**

Scott Markle 518 North Flint St. Lincolnton, NC 28092 PHONE (704) 735-0537 FAX (704) 748-1783 ceg@bellsouth.net

### **Electronic Installations Inc.**

Howard Miller
PO Box 15127
Wilmington, NC 28408
PHONE (910) 799-2901
FAX (910) 799-3247
jimmieo@cape-fear.net

### **Electronic Installations Inc.**

Jim O'Daniell PO Box 15127 Wilmington, NC 28408 PHONE (910) 799-2901 FAX (910) 799-3247 jimmieo@cape-fear.net

# i-Net Pros

Rob Pavone PO Box 627 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 PHONE (919) 342-0851 FAX (919) 342-0852 rob@i-netpros.com

## **Triad Digital Technologies LLC**

Kirk Muscat 5402 Ashmont Dr. Greensboro, NC 27410 PHONE (336) 316-0196 FAX (336) 316-0196 kmuscat@triad.rr.com

# **NORTH DAKOTA**

# **Electronic Systems For Living Inc.**

Candace Christianson 1459 Interstate Loop Bismarck, ND 58503 PHONE (701) 222-3902 FAX (701) 222-4815

# **Electronic Systems For Living Inc.**

Christopher Conley 1459 Interstate Loop Bismarck, ND 58503-5560 PHONE (701) 222-3902 FAX (701) 222-4815 chris@e-s-l.net

# **NEBRASKA**

# E3 Technologies Inc.

Richard Egger PO Box 330 Elkhorn, NE 68022 PHONE (402) 315-9733 FAX (402) 315-9809 info@eee333.com

# E3 Technologies Inc.

Jason Welter PO Box 330 Elkhorn, NE 68022 PHONE (402) 525-6400 FAX (402) 315-9809 info@eee333.com

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

# Lifestyle Professionals - Audio & Video of NH

E. Holgate PO Box 357 Portsmouth, NH 03802 PHONE (603) 498-7193 FAX (603) 418-8776 aholgate@pavnh.com

# Lifestyle Professionals - Audio & Video of NH

Akim Reforsado PO Box 357 Portsmouth, NH 03802 PHONE (617) 875-0635 areforsado@pavnh.com

# **NEW JERSEY**

# Acoustical Concepts Corporation

Peter Sepesi 157 S. 10th Ave. Manville, NJ 08835 PHONE (908) 431-4311 FAX (908) 431-4313 pete@acousticalconcepts.com

# Aggressive Home Automation & Design

Nick Tamburri 51 Malvern St. Newark, NJ 07105 PHONE (973) 344-4616 FAX (973) 344-4616 info@aggressivehome.com

### **Audio Video Solutions Inc.**

PO Box 360 Montville, NJ 07045 PHONE (973) 335-2412 FAX (973) 263-9904 dslavitt@avsolutionsinc.net

# **Frankentek Inc.** Chuck Flamini

David Slavitt

PO Box 603 Medford Lakes, NJ 08055 PHONE (609) 654-6888 FAX (609) 654-2494 chuck@frankentek.com

### Frankentek Inc.

Marc Franken 708 Stokes Rd. Medford, NJ 08055 PHONE (609) 654-6888 FAX (609) 654-2494 marc@frankentek.com

### Frankentek Inc.

Mike Pavluk 708 Stokes Rd. Medford Lakes, NJ 08055 PHONE (609) 654-6888 FAX (609) 654-2494 mike@frankentek.com

# Franklin Central Communications

Lewis Chirlin 640 Franklin Ave., Ste. 1 Nutley, NJ 07110 PHONE (973) 235-9350 lew@franklincentral.com

# Franklin Central Communications

Carl Mandelbaum 640 Franklin Ave., Ste. 1 Nutley, NJ 07110 PHONE (973) 235-9350

carlmandelbaum@msn.com

# Haynes Electronic Security Systems Inc.

Joseph D'Agostino One New York Ave. Newark, NJ 07105 PHONE (973) 817-8300 ext. 117 FAX (973) 817-7011 joedagostino@haynessecurity.com

### J/A/V Integrated Systems LLC

Susan Direso 20 Golf View Dr. Voorhees, NJ 08043 PHONE (856) 795-7841 FAX (856) 795-7819 susan@javsystems.com

### J/A/V Integrated Systems LLC

Jason Smith 508 Leone Rd. Woolwich Twp., NJ 08085 PHONE (856) 905-1532 FAX (856) 241-2151 partners@javsystems.com

# **Lashen Electronics Inc.**

Scott Kaminsky 21 Broadway Denville, NJ 07834 PHONE (973) 627-3783 FAX (973) 625-9501 scott@lashen.com

# **Living Intelligent Inc.**

Mitchell Arthur 62 Washington Ave. Westwood, NJ 07675 PHONE (201) 263-1400 FAX (201) 263-1405 info@livingintelligent.com

# Living Intelligent Inc.

Bill Carroll 35 Charles St., Ste. C Westwood, NJ 07675 PHONE (201) 263-1402 FAX (201) 263-1405 bcarroll@livingintelligent.com

### **Next Gen Home**

Evan Koenig 1 Mill Pond Rd. Perrineville, NJ 08535 PHONE (732) 236-1870 evankoenig@nextgenhome.biz

# **Next Gen Home**

Sandy Koenig
1 Mill Pond Rd.
Perrineville, NJ 08535
PHONE (732) 792-7444
sandykoenig@nextgenhome.biz

# **Progressive Projection LLC**

John McClure 7 Iversen Ct. Rockaway, NJ 07866-4319 PHONE (201) 625-7878 FAX (201) 625-0086 progprojjm@aol.com

### **Sawyers Control Systems**

Patrick Callahan 133 County Rd. 513 Frenchtown, NJ 08825 **PHONE** (908) 996-6903 FAX (908) 996-6958 sawyerscontrols@att.net

### **Sawyers Control Systems**

Thomas Callahan 133 County Rd. 513 Frenchtown, NJ 08825 PHONE (908) 996-6903 FAX (908) 996-6958 tcallahan@sawyerscontrols.com

# **Skytop Technology LLC**

David Bruner 4222 Fairway Dr. Mays Landing, NJ 08330 PHONE (609) 910-4169 FAX (609) 645-2503 dbruner@comcast.net

### **Skytop Technology LLC**

Maureen Bruner 4222 Fairway Dr. Mays Landing, NJ 08330 **PHONE** (609) 641-5653 FAX (609) 645-2503 MBRUNER10@comcast.net

# **NEVADA**

# **Creative Home Theatre** Las Vegas

Chuck Kittleson 5860 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89118 PHONE (702) 257-1007 FAX (702) 257-7001 chuck@creativehometheatre.com

# **Elite Sight & Sound**

Debra Howard 4708 W. Harmon, Ste. 6 Las Vegas, NV 89103 **PHONE** (702) 591-3862 FAX (702) 222-9947 info@eliteinstall.com

# **Music Giants Inc.**

Scott Bahneman 926 Incline Way, Ste. 250 Incline Village, NV 89451 **PHONE** (775) 832-5692 FAX (775) 832-5693 scott@musicgiants.com

### **Music Giants Inc.**

Thomas McCarthy 926 Incline Way, Ste. 250 Incline Village, NV 89451 **PHONE** (775) 832-5692 FAX (775) 832-5693

thomas@musicgiants.com

#### **Music Giants Inc.**

Sylviane Oyler 926 Incline Way, Ste. 250 Incline Village, NV 89451 **PHONE** (775) 832-5692 FAX (775) 832-5693

### **Nevada Smart Homes Inc.**

Karen Sumersille 7971 Baleares Ct. Sparks, NV 89436 **PHONE** (775) 848-6661 FAX (775) 425-6140 karen@nevadasmarthomes.com

### **Nevada Smart Homes Inc.**

Michael Sumersille 7971 Baleares Ct. Sparks, NV 89436 **PHONE** (775) 843-7030 FAX (775) 425-6140 mike@nevadasmarthomes.com

# **Progressive Home LLC**

Sandra Bean 7181 Amigo St., Ste. 140 Las Vegas, NV 89119 **PHONE** (702) 263-7357 FAX (702) 263-9673 sbean@progressivehome.com

### **NEW MEXICO**

# Western Systems Design Inc.

Jim Dovle 1570 Pacheco St., Ste. C-6 Santa Fe, NM 87505 **PHONE** (505) 983-9300 FAX (505) 982-8928 westernsysdesign@aol.com

### Western Systems Design Inc.

Jerry Martin 1570 Pacheco St., Ste. C-6 Santa Fe, NM 87505 **PHONE** (505) 983-9300 FAX (505) 982-8928 westernsysdesign@aol.com

# **NEW YORK**

### **Ambiance Unlimited**

Marc Leidig 1650 Rte. 9 Clifton Park, NY 12065 **PHONE** (518) 373-0770 marc.leidig@ambiancesystems.com

### **Ambiance Unlimited**

Kelly Morgan 11650 Rte. 9 Clifton Park, NY 12065 **PHONE** (518) 373-0770 kelly.morgan@ambiancesystems.com

### **Ambiance Unlimited**

Tara Vise 1650 Rte. 9 Clifton Park, NY 12065 **PHONE** (518) 373-0770 tara.vise@ambiancesystems.com

### **Audio Command Systems Inc.**

Robert Kaufman 694 Main St Westbury, NY 11590 **PHONE** (516) 997-5800 FAX (516) 997-2195 RKaufman@AudioCommand.com

# **Automated Home Technology Inc.**

Vinny Ferraro 85 Cranberry Dr. Mastic Beach, NY 11951

vinny631@optonline.net

# **Automation Systems Integrators**

Alfred Censullo 5 Shepherds Needle Wynantskill, NY 12198 PHONE (518) 894-6692 FAX (518) 283-6955 censullo@asi-integrators.com

# **Automation Systems** Integrators

Dominic Russomanno 5 Shepherds Needle Wynantskill, NY 12198 **PHONE** (518) 894-6692 FAX (518) 283-6955 drussomanno@asi-integrators.com

### **City Electric & Communications**

George Legrand 1 Ferndale Rd. New City, NY 10956 **PHONE** (914) 447-3687 FAX (845) 639-5056 satview@aol.com

# Cyber Home Networks Inc.

Kevin Hourihan PO Box 10 Stormville, NY 12582-0010 **PHONE** (845) 223-1628 FAX (845) 223-7030 info@cyberhomeinc.com

# **Dicyn Solutions Inc**

Jeanette Leighton 244 5th Ave., #T271 New York, NY 10001 **PHONE** (212) 592-4502 jleighton@dicyn.com

### **Dicyn Solutions Inc**

Dino White 244 5th Ave., #T271 New York, NY 10001 **PHONE** (212) 592-4502 dwhite@dicyn.com

### **Eltec Systems Inc.**

Stephen Bailey 2463 Welch Rd. Geneva, NY 14456 **PHONE** (315) 719-0420 FAX (315) 789-1398 SteveB@EltecSys.com

### **EnTech Systems Inc**

Beth Wilson 207 Utica Rd. Clinton, NY 13323 **PHONE** (518) 371-0355 bwilson@entechhome.com

# **EnTech Systems Inc**

Rodney Wilson 207 Utica Rd. Clinton, NY 13323 **PHONE** (518) 371-0355 rwilson@entechhome.com

### **EPI Systems Integration**

Michael Curtin 136 West 21st St., 12th Fl. New York, NY 10011 **PHONE** (212) 727-2525 FAX (212) 727-2577 mcurtin@episi.com

# **Euphoric Creations**

Joshua Turner PO Box 267 Mamaroneck, NY 10543 **PHONE** (914) 698-3003 FAX (914) 698-3290 josh@euphoriccreations.com

# **Futuristic Home Inc.**

Stephen Merola 42 Lido Blvd. Point Lookout, NY 11569 **PHONE** (516) 431-2348 FAX (866) 633-2230 futuristic@bww.com

# **Hudson Valley Home Media**

Barry Weiner 116 Clinton Ave., South Nyack, NY 10960 **PHONE** (845) 642-5754 FAX (845) 353-6012 barry@hvhomemedia.com

### Mediabuss Systems Inc.

Steve Babel 916 E. Boston Post Rd. Mamaroneck, NY 10543 PHONE (914) 777-5044 FAX (914) 777-5019 steve@mediabuss.com

### **Morris Wiring Inc.**

**Donald Morris** 120 Alcott Pl., #20J Bronx, NY 10475 **PHONE** (718) 320-9608 FAX (718) 320-7911 morriswiring@aol.com

# **Smart Home Designs Inc.**

Larry Lanzilli 36 West 35th St., Ste. 4D New York, NY 10001 PHONE (646) 245-5921 FAX (212) 504-8106 Lawrence.lanzilli@smarthomedesignz.com

### **Smart Home Designs Inc.**

Joseph Vallone 205 East 95th St., Ste. 21E New York, NY 10128 PHONE (646) 245-5921 FAX (212) 504-8106 joseph.vallone@smarthomedesignz.com

# **Tangora Technologies Inc.**

Lisa Milette 50 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY 12054 **PHONE** (518) 478-9513 ext. 13 FAX (518) 478-0392 lisa@tangoratechnologies.com

### Tangora Technologies Inc.

Michael Tangora 50 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY 12054 **PHONE** (518) 478-9513 FAX (518) 478-0392 tangora@taconic.net

# **TMS Associates**

Daniel Barabino 7 Crinlele Ct. Northport, NY 11768 **PHONE** (631) 269-4222 FAX (631) 261-1546 tms4222@optonline.net

### **Viztex Solutions**

Gary Greenspan 27 Stringham Ave. Valley Stream, NY 11580 **PHONE** (516) 599-0654 FAX (516) 706-1548 gary@viztex.com

### **Viztex Solutions**

Scott Jankes 27 Stringham Ave. Valley Stream, NY 11580 scott@viztex.com

### **Viztex Solutions**

Joe Pampalone 27 Stringham Ave. Valley Stream, NY 11580 **PHONE** (516) 599-0654 FAX (516) 706-1548 ioe@viztex.com

# WorldWide Security / GC **Alarm**

Joseph Ingegno One Commercial Ave. Garden City, NY 11530 PHONE (516) 294-6434 FAX (516) 294-6624 gcalarm@aol.com

# WorldWide Security / GC **Alarm**

Kenneth Mara One Commercial Ave. Garden City, NY 11530 PHONE (516) 294-6434 FAX (516) 294-1858 gcalarm@aol.com

### **Yourtech Solutions**

Michael Crisci 3278 Linda Ct. Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 PHONE (914) 245-2298 FAX (914) 245-2332 info@ytshome.com

### OHIO

### **Audio Video Interiors**

Ron Lee 2753-L Medina Rd. Medina, OH 44256 **PHONE** (330) 722-3752 FAX (330) 722-5543 ronl@securitec-avi.com

### **Audio Video Interiors**

Michael Pope 2753-L Medina Rd. Medina, OH 44256 **PHONE** (330) 723-6696 FAX (330) 722-6548 michaelp@audiovideointeriors.net

# **Automated Home & Office Technologies Inc**

Kathy Frye 122 West Franklin St. PO Box 234 Bellbrook, OH 45305 **PHONE** (937) 848-4501 FAX (937) 848-4805 kathyf@ahot.com

# **Automated Home & Office Technologies Inc**

Michael Frve 122 West Franklin St. PO Box 234 Bellbrook, OH 45305 **PHONE** (937) 848-4501 FAX (937) 848-4805 mikef@ahot.com

### **Beacon Automation**

Kedar Kapoor 3229 Deanpark Dr. Hillard, OH 43026 kedar@beaconautomation.com

### **Beacon Automation**

Dave Vandeveer 5674 Hathaway Ct. Dublin, OH 43016 **PHONE** (614) 766-4300 dave@beaconautomation.net

# **Fellhauer IN-FOCUS**

John Fellhauer 114 Perry St. Port Clinton, OH 43452 **PHONE** (419) 732-3628 FAX (419) 732-8348 ifellhauer@fellauermsi.com

# **Fellhauer IN-FOCUS**

Paul Schroeder 114 Perry St. Port Clinton, OH 43452 **PHONE** (419) 732-3628 FAX (419) 732-8348

# pschroeder@fellhauermsi.com

# **Home Technologies** Corporation

Kevin Flerlage 8760 Union Centre Blvd. West Chester, OH 45069 **PHONE** (513) 645-4203 kflerlage@htchometech.com

# HomewerxCentral LLC

Glenn Bladh 11978 Foxgate Way Loveland, OH 45140 **PHONE** (513) 697-8829 FAX (513) 677-3460

### **Horner Networks LLC**

Shane Horner 7622 Center St. Mentor, OH 44060 **PHONE** (440) 368-5649 FAX (440) 368-5654 info@hornernetworks.com

### **Horner Networks LLC**

Terry Horner 7622 Center St. Mentor, OH 44060 FAX (440) 368-5654 info@hornernetworks.com

### **Premier Network Solutions**

Mark Frees 5070 Oaklawn Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45227 **PHONE** (513) 631-6381 FAX (513) 631-6121 mfrees@prenet.com

### **Premier Network Solutions**

Steve Immerman 5070 Oaklawn Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45227 **PHONE** (513) 631-6381 FAX (513) 631-6121 simmerman@prenet.com

### **Premier Network Solutions**

**Bob Sherman** 5070 Oaklawn Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45227 PHONE (513) 631-6381 FAX (513) 631-6121 bsherman@prenet.com

# **Premier Network Solutions**

Heidi Turner 5070 Oaklawn Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45227 **PHONE** (513) 631-6381 FAX (513) 631-6121 hturner@prenet.com

# **R:Net Corporation**

Brian Smith 2804 Elsie Ave. Toledo, OH 43613 PHONE (419) 472-5156 FAX (419) 472-4692 bsmith@residentialnetworks.biz

# **RL Johnson Construction Services LLC**

R Johnson 19879 Gant Rd. Waynesfield, OH 458969532 **PHONE** (419) 568-9096 FAX (419) 568-4182 masterelectrician@rljohnsonconstruction.com

#### Secure America Inc.

Gale Boone 2230 Park Ave., Ste. 202 Cincinnati, OH 45206 **PHONE** (513) 271-5500 ext. 110 FAX (513) 527-5772

gboone@secureamericainc.com

### Secure America Inc.

Kerry Mickler 2230 Park Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45206 PHONE (513) 271-5500 FAX (513) 527-5772 kmickler@secureamericainc.com

### **Secure America Inc.**

Walter Worley 2230 Park Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45206 PHONE (513) 271-5500 FAX (513) 527-5772 wwworley@secureamericainc.com

### **OREGON**

# **F&S Security Electronics Inc.**

**Jeff Fox** 708 20th St., SE Salem, OR 97301 **PHONE** (503) 371-3984 FAX (503) 585-5392 fssecurtronics@msn.com

### **F&S Security Electronics Inc.**

Dave Siddoway 708 20th St., SE Salem, OR 97301 **PHONE** (503) 371-3984 FAX (503) 585-5392

# **PENNSYLVANIA**

# **Advanced Residential Systems**

Tom Kucsan 1036 W. Tioga St. Allentown, PA 18103 **PHONE** (610) 797-7757 FAX (610) 797-2609 tkucson@advancedresidentialsys.com

### AllMedia Custom Video & Sound

Michael Serpiello 5650 Chambers Hill Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17111 **PHONE** (717) 554-2590 FAX (717) 564-5792 mike@allmediacustom.com

### **Guardian Protection Services**

Mary Lynn Moriarity 650 Ridge Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15205 **PHONE** (412) 788-2580 ext. 706 FAX (412) 505-0037 mmoriarity@gpsx.net

### HogueCentral.com

Jack Hogue 500 Garden City Dr, Monroeville, PA 15146 **PHONE** (412) 378-2357 FAX (412) 291-1754 jack@hoguecentral.com

# HogueCentral.com

Stefanie Hogue 500 Garden City Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146 PHONE (412) 373-0700 stefanie@hogueis.com

### **Interactive Homes Inc.**

Derek R. Flickinger 1016 Concord Ave., Ste. 1008 Drexel Hill, PA 19026-3224 **PHONE** (610) 331-9827 FAX (610) 789-3003 DrFlick@InteractiveHomesInc.com

### nStructure Inc.

Eleanor Evans Yardley, PA 19067 **PHONE** (215) 269-6891 FAX (215) 269-6892 eevans@nstructure.com

### nStructure Inc.

Robert Evans Yardley, PA 19067 **PHONE** (215) 269-6891 FAX (215) 269-6892 revans@nstructure.com

# **Pocono Smart Home Technology LLC**

Ronald Logosso 117 Woods Way Stroudsburg, PA 18360 **PHONE** (570) 421-7665 FAX (570) 420-1733 ronald\_logosso@poconosmarthome.com

# **Priority Cabling Services**

Christine McCoy 5030 N Susquehanna Trail York, PA 17402 **PHONE** (717) 577-5668 FAX (717) 266-1698 smccoy@proritycabling.com

### **Priority Cabling Services**

Scott McCoy 5030 N. Susquehanna Trail York, PA 17402 **PHONE** (717) 577-5668 FAX (717) 266-1698 smccoy@prioritycabling.com

# **RNS Technology Group LLC**

31 Brookview Dr. Glenmoore, PA 19343 **PHONE** (610) 450-4715 FAX (610) 450-6103 rnstechhome@comcast.net

Marguerite Raymond

# **RNS Technology Group LLC**

William Raymond 31 Brookview Dr. Glenmoore, PA 19343 PHONE (610) 450-4715 FAX (610) 450-6103 rnstechhome@comcast.net

# Sistema Casa S.A.S.

Paolo Mongiovi Via Saverio Scrofani 50 Palermo, PA 90143 **PHONE** 39 (91) 6262488 FAX 39 (91) 6252791 mongiovi@sistemacasa.it

### Sistema Casa S.A.S.

Carlo Natale Via Saverio Scrofani 50 Palermo, PA 90143 **PHONE** 39 (91) 6262488 FAX 39 (91) 6252791 c.natale@sistemacasa.it

# StarUSA.net Inc.

Mauro DiMauro 724 S. Main St. Old Forge, PA 18518 **PHONE** (570) 241-3665 FAX (570) 774-0031 Mauro@StarUSA.net

# StarUSA.net Inc.

Gary Evans 724 S. Main St. Old Forge, PA 18518 **PHONE** (570) 945-5220 FAX (570) 774-0031 gary@starusa.net

### StarUSA.net Inc.

Chris Kuchwara-Davitt 724 S. Main St. Old Forge, PA 18518 **PHONE** (570) 457-5727 FAX (570) 774-0031 ck@starusa.net

### **T3 Technology Team**

Walter Humphrey 30 North 20th St. Harrisburg, PA 17103 **PHONE** (717) 233-3455 FAX (717) 233-3456 whumphrey@t3homes.com

# **SOUTH CAROLINA**

# **Control Solutions &** Integration LLC.

Stephen Barber 2557 Yosemite Ct. Florence, SC 29505 **PHONE** (843) 319-2100 FAX (843) 665-1373 controlsolution@bellsouth.net

# **Control Solutions &** Integration LLC.

George Fercana 2557 Yosemite Ct. Florence, SC 29505 **PHONE** (843) 601-2300 controlsolution@bellsouth.net

# **Electrical Design and Construction Inc.**

Amy Courville 112 East Walker Dr. Summerville, SC 29483 **PHONE** (843) 224-3251 FAX (843) 873-0660 acourville@edc-sc.com

# **Electrical Design and Construction Inc.**

George Courville 112 East Walker Dr. Summerville, SC 29483 **PHONE** (843) 224-0305 FAX (843) 873-0660 scourville@edc-sc.com

# **Electrical Design and Construction Inc.**

Shaun Ritten 2104 West Chase Dr. Summerville, SC 29485 **PHONE** (843) 442-6795 sritten@edc-sc.com

# **Electrical Design and Construction Inc.**

Ackmer Robinson 131 Higland Ave. Summerville, SC 29483 **PHONE** (843) 568-2675 ack2code21@dycon.com

# **Electrical Design and Construction Inc.**

Michael Taylor 120 Joseph Ln. Summerville, SC 20485 PHONE (843) 568-3969

### **eLifespaces**

David Lynn PO Box 2219 Mount Pleasant, SC 29465 PHONE (843) 216-3355 FAX (843) 216-9777 dlynn@elifespaces.com

### **eLifespaces**

Edward Smith 624 E. Longpoint Rd. Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 PHONE (843) 216-3355 ext. 113 FAX (843) 216-9777 esmith@elifespaces.com

### **eLifespaces**

Frank Smith
624 E Longpoint Rd.
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464-2481
PHONE (843) 216-3355
FAX (843) 216-9777
fsmith@elifespaces.com

# **Fusion Systems LLC**

Daniel Adair 221 Landwood Ave. Greenville, SC 29607 PHONE (864) 420-4509 FAX (864) 235-6082 fusion@fusionsystemsllc.com

# **Fusion Systems LLC**

Aaron Cowden

221 Landwood Ave. Greenville, SC 29607 PHONE (864) 420-4509 FAX (864) 235-6082 fusion@fusionsystemsllc.com

# **Fusion Systems LLC**

Stephen McCloud 4 Titleist Ct. Taylors, SC 29687 PHONE (864) 979-9917 FAX (864) 235-6082 fusion@fusionsystemsllc.com

# **Upstate Techworks LLC**

Cliff Floyd 116 Monique Ln. Woodruff, SC 29388 PHONE (864) 809-2153 cliff@upstatetechworks.com

### **Upstate Techworks LLC**

Gregg Gibson 103 Cherrywood Rd. Woodruff, SC 29388 gregg@upstatetechworks.com

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

### **Dakota Home Solutions**

Kevin Boyum 5309 E. 28th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57110 PHONE (605) 371-2749 kvnbym@sio.midco.net

# **TENNESSEE**

# **Phoenix Communications Corp.**

Danis Fuelling PO Box 750486 Memphis, TN 38175 PHONE (901) 624-0940 FAX (901) 624-0583 dfuel@midsouth.rr.com

# **Phoenix Communications Corp.**

Scott Fuelling 1657 Shelby Oaks Dr. N. Ste. 101 Memphis, TN 38134 PHONE (901) 624-0940 FAX (901) 624-0583 sfuel@midsouth.rr.com

# **TEXAS**

# **Blueline Electronics**

Steve Hamlin 2201 W Green Oaks Blvd. Arlington, TX 76013 PHONE (817) 296-5458 FAX (817) 459-9020 steve@xcable.com

# **Design Avenues LLC**

David Teel 908 Audelia #200, PMB 237 Richardson, TX 75081 PHONE (214) 636-1984 FAX (972) 692-8809 david@designavenues.com

### **Dynamic Electronic Systems**

Michael Cassell 7027 Belgold, Ste. A Houston, TX 77066 PHONE (281) 880-5378 FAX (281) 880-5380 mcassell@des-av.com

### **Imagestics**

Rainbow Cannell 500 West Parkwood Friendswood, TX 77549 PHONE (832) 615-1826 FAX (832) 615-3546 rcannell@imagestics.com

### **Imagestics**

Jonathan Conti 500 West Parkwood Friendswood, TX 77549 PHONE (832) 615-1826 FAX (832) 615-3546 jconti@imagestics.com

### **Imagestics**

Michael Conti 500 West Parkwood Friendswood, TX 77549 PHONE (832) 615-1826 mlconti@imagestics.com

# **Mesa Home Systems**

John Lindley 7304 McNeil Dr., Ste. 501 Austin, TX 78729 PHONE (512) 258-2599 FAX (512) 258-4464 smart@mesahome.com

# **Mesa Home Systems**

Mike Smith 7304 McNeil Dr., Ste. 501 Austin, TX 78729 PHONE (512) 258-2599 FAX (512) 258-4464 smart@mesahome.com

# **Precision Integration**

Jamie Mehew 10136 Rita Rd. Dallas, TX 75243 PHONE (469) 330-2844 FAX (972) 671-0327 jmehew@sbcglobal.net

# **Premier Home Technologies LP**

Eric Herleth
11707 S. Sam Houston Pkwy.
W., Ste. A
Houston, TX 77031
PHONE (281) 530-7900
FAX (281) 530-7930
eherleth@premierhometechnologies.com

### **Tactical Innovations Inc.**

Jason Ditto 618 County Rd. 4570 Winnsboro, TX 75494 PHONE (903) 365-2712 j.ditto@dittogroup.com

#### **Tactical Innovations Inc.**

Paulette Ditto 618 County Rd. 4570 Winnsboro, TX 75494 PHONE (903) 365-2712 paulette\_eastex@yahoo.com

### **TechNova Consulting**

Karl Schubert 10605 Coreopsis Dr. Austin, TX 78733 PHONE (512) 263-8774 FAX (512) 263-8774 karl.schubert@technovaconsulting.com

# **Ultra Smart Homes Ltd.**

Jeremy Beck 1211 S. White Chapel Southlake, TX 76092 PHONE (817) 749-0075 FAX (817) 748-7364 icbeck@ultrasmarthomes.com

### **Ultra Smart Homes Ltd.**

Jerry Beck 1211 S. White Chapel Southlake, TX 76092 PHONE (817) 749-0075 FAX (817) 748-7364 idbeck@ultrasmarthomes.com

# Waypoint 29

Wick Cannon 1302 Waugh Dr., #506 Houston, TX 77019 PHONE (713) 805-9707 wcannon@waypoint29.com

### Waypoint 29

Brian Oakley 1302 Waugh Dr., #506 Houston, TX 77019 PHONE (832) 754-2204 boakley@waypoint29.com

# **UTAH**

### At Home Technologies

Brandon Richey
5387 N. Enoch Rd.
Cedar City, UT 84720
PHONE (435) 867-5899
brandonrichey@athometechnologies.com

# **Design Avenues LLC**

Aron Caban Avenida Network 1338 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108 aron.caban@avenidanetwork.com

### **Design Avenues LLC**

Chris Spencer 1338 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108 chris.spencer@avenidanetwork.com

### **Design Avenues LLC**

Bill Taylor Avenida Network, 1338 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108

bill.taylor@avenidanetwork.com

### **Design Avenues LLC** Travis Vandvgriff

1338 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108 travis.vandygriff@avenidanetwork.com

### **RWBIII Enterprises Inc.**

Robert Baird 3 Pepperwood Pointe Sandy, UT 84092 PHONE (801) 816-0591

rwbiii@mac.com

### **VIRGINIA**

### **AIT LLC**

Manny Badias 8100 Three Chopt Rd. Ste. 234 Richmond, VA 23229 PHONE (804) 290-8820 FAX (804) 290-4206 manny@ait-solutions.com

# **AIT LLC**

Jeff Oberle 8100 Three Chopt Rd. Ste. 234 Richmond, VA 23229 **PHONE** (804) 290-8820 FAX (804) 290-4206 jeff@ait-solutions.com

### **Betatronics**

Rob Whitley 2518 Manakin Rd. Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103-2114 **PHONE** (804) 749-4725 FAX (804) 784-4438 rwhitley22@juno.com

## **Creative Home Solutions Inc.**

William Winslow 20279 Watermark Pl. Sterling, VA 20165 **PHONE** (703) 406-3820 FAX (703) 404-1202

wwinslow@creativehome.net

### **Custom Systems Integration**

Muhammad Amir 85 South Bragg St. #502 Alexandria, VA 22312 **PHONE** (703) 642-3377 FAX (703) 642-3462 amir7330@yahoo.com

### **Custom Systems Integration**

Randolph Brown 85 South Bragg St. #502 Alexandria, VA 22312 **PHONE** (703) 642-3377 FAX (703) 642-3462 randolph@customsystemsintegration.com

# **Custom Systems Integration**

Scott Durham 85 South Bragg St. #502 Alexandria, VA 22312 PHONE (703) 642-3377 FAX (703) 642-3462 scott@customsystemsintegration.com

### **Custom Systems Integration**

Paul Lawrence 85 South Bragg St. #502 Alexandria, VA 22312 **PHONE** (703) 642-3377 FAX (703) 642-3462

# **Custom Systems Integration**

Wendell Lowe 85 South Bragg St. #502 Alexandria, VA 22312 PHONE (703) 642-3377 FAX (703) 642-3462

wendell@customsystemsintegration.com

# **Home Media Decisions**

Jennifer Sadler 47209 Middle Bluff Pl. Potomac Falls, VA 20165 **PHONE** (571) 434-0479

Admin@HomeMediaDecisions.com

# **Home Media Decisions**

Scott Sadler 47209 Middle Bluff Pl. Potomac Falls, VA 20165 **PHONE** (571) 434-0479 scsadler@HomeMediaDecisions.com

### **HomeTech Networking Solutions**

William Sutler 1042 Otterlea Ln. Bedford, VA 24523 **PHONE** (540) 586-1921 wsutler@htnsi.com

### intellihouse.net

Gregg Smith 5005 14th St. Arlington, VA 22205 PHONE (703) 351-7881 FAX (703) 807-2405 gsmith@intellihouse.net

### **JCD Integration**

James Lehnert 11101 Lucks Rd. Bumpass, VA 23024-9623 PHONE (540) 907-4266 jcd\_integration@adelphia.net

# Mason Technologies Inc.

Ed Mason 11416 Orchard Park Dr. Ste. 436 Glen Allen, VA 23059 PHONE (434) 566-1859

**Tobin Robertson** 

edwinmason@masontechnologies.net

# Mason Technologies Inc.

11416 Orchard Park Dr. Ste. 436 Glen Allen, VA 23059 **PHONE** (804) 614-0015 tobinrobertson@masontechnologies.net **Nethouse USA Inc.** 

Kip Butler 15454 Featherchase Dr. Chesterfield, VA 23832 PHONE (804) 400-4712 FAX (703) 991-2420 kbutler@nethouseusa.com

# **Nethouse USA Inc.**

Chris Castaldy 7454 Edgehill Dr. Warrenton, VA 20186 PHONE (571) 437-3677 FAX (703) 991-2420 ccastaldy@nethouseusa.com

# **Out-Of-Sight Service LLC**

Alan Snyder 2949 Prosperity Ave. Fairfax, VA 22031 **PHONE** (703) 204-0030 FAX (703) 849-8062 Alan.Snyder@outofsight.net

# **Theatron Home Theater LLC**

Rick Smith 15967 Wenner Farm Ln. Purcellville, VA 20132 **PHONE** (540) 882-9613 FAX (703) 883-0971 rick@gethometheater.com

# **WASHINGTON**

### **AVDMedia Inc.**

Roland Graham PO Box 71 Chewelah, WA 99109 **PHONE** (509) 935-6990 FAX (509) 738-2425 rgraham@avdmedia.com

### **AVDMedia Inc.**

Bobby Kalua PO Box 71 Chewelah, WA 99109 **PHONE** (509) 935-6990 FAX (509) 738-2425 bkalua@avdmedia.com

### **Kitsap Automation Inc.**

Randy Kendrick 3049 Banner Rd. SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 **PHONE** (360) 871-7719 FAX (360) 871-1834 randy@kitsapautomation.com

### Kitsap Automation Inc.

Kelly Roark 3049 SE Banner Rd. Port Orchard, WA 98366 **PHONE** (360) 871-7719 FAX (360) 871-1834 kelly@kitsapautomation.com

### MediaBraid Inc.

David Callan 21310 NE 92nd Pl. Redmond, WA 98053-7634 david.callan@init6inc.com

# **Positive Planet Productions**

Bonnie Beeman 9628 123rd Ave. SE Renton, WA 98056 **PHONE** (425) 227-7920 bonnie.beeman@comcast.net

# **Positive Planet Productions**

Doug Kunkel 9628 123rd Ave. SE Renton, WA 98056 **PHONE** (425) 227-7920 me@here.com

# DIRECTORY

# **Westport Shipyard**

Dale Roberson 637 Marine Dr. Port Angeles, WA 98363 PHONE (360) 452-5095 daleroberson@westportshipyard.com

### **Westport Shipyard**

Lee Taubeneck 637 Marine Dr. Port Angeles, WA 98363 PHONE (360) 452-5095 Itaubeneck@westportshipyard.com

# **WISCONSIN**

### **Northstar Satellites Inc.**

Erik Burcham 1828 Spooner Ave., Ste. A Altoona, WI 54720 PHONE (920) 491-5687 FAX (920) 494-4233 eburcham@northstar-satellite.com

### **Northstar Satellites Inc.**

Jon Richardson 1828 Spooner Ave., Ste. A Altoona, WI 54720 PHONE (715) 833-8780 FAX (715) 833-8789 jon@northstar-satellite.com

### **Polk-Burnett Security Service**

1001 State Rd. 35 Centuria, WI 54824 PHONE (715) 646-2715 FAX (715) 646-2404 inorthway@polk-burnett.org

John Northway

**Techteriors LLC** 

John DeToro 12308 Corporate Pkwy., Ste. 600 Mequon, WI 53092 PHONE (262) 243-9800 FAX (262) 243-9900 jdetoro@techteriors.com

### **Techteriors LLC**

Celina Hancox 2311 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53209 PHONE (262) 243-9800 FAX (262) 243-9900 chancox@techteriors.com

# **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **Genesis Partners**

James Corton PO Box 1000 Bridgeport, WV 26330 PHONE (304) 842-5461 FAX (304) 842-0624 cortonja@genesis-partners.com

# CANADA: BRITISH COLUMBIA

# **Graytek Connected Home Solutions**

9482 208B St.
Langley, BC V1M 2B1
PHONE (604) 881-1034
FAX (604) 881-1035
james@graytekconnected.com

James Gray

#### Starwatch Audio Video

Robert Farr 1-1698 Cary Rd. Kelowna, BC V1X 2B9 PHONE (250) 717-0022 FAX (250) 717-1113 robfarr@telus.net

# CANADA: NEW SOUTH WALES

### **Electronic Environments**

Gary Sayer PO Box 114 Oatley, NSW 2223 PHONE 61 612 9585

gary@electronicenvironments.com.au

# CANADA: ONTARIO

### **Cable Alliance Ltd.**

Steve Crocker
72 Churchill Dr., Unit 1
Barrie, ON L4N 8Z5
PHONE (705) 739-3624
FAX (705) 739-4007
stevec@cablealliance.com

### **Express Serve Inc.**

Don Butler 55 Sandford Fleming Dr. Collingwood, ON L9Y 5A6 PHONE (705) 444-9999 ext. 222 FAX (705) 444-1660 dbutler@expressserve.com

# MEXICO: QUERETARO

# Mindware Systems S.A. DE C.V.

Igor Cerda Cerro De Acultzingo #214 Colinas Del Cimatario Queretaro, QR 76090 PHONE 52 4422480033 FAX 52 4422480032 igorcv@mindware-sys.com.mx

# Mindware Systems S.A. DE C.V.

Omar Cerda
Cerro De Acultzingo #214
Colinas Del Cimatario
Queretaro, QR 76090
PHONE 52 2480033
FAX 52 2480032
ocerdav@mindware-sys.com.mex

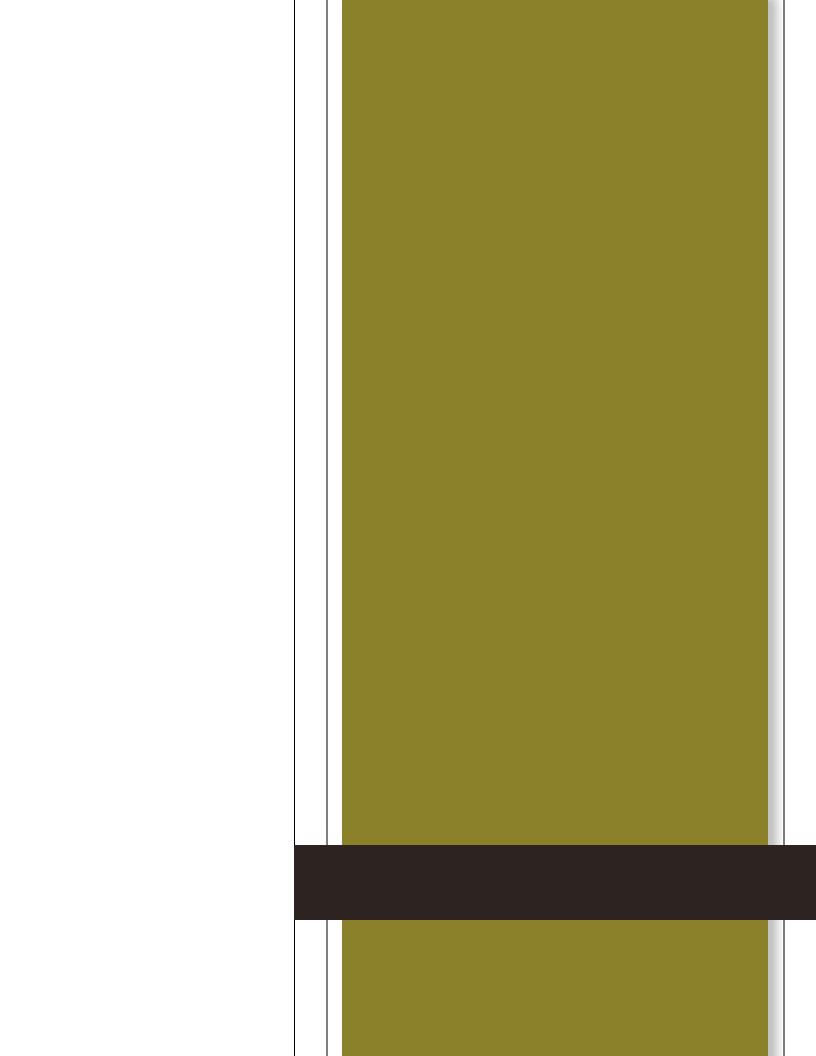
# **PUERTO RICO**

# Puerto Rico Home Automation Inc.

Luis Ortiz
PMB 119 PO Box 194000
San Juan, PR 00919-4000
PHONE (787) 764-2281
FAX (787) 282-7901
luis.e.ortiz@prhomeautomation.com

### **Security Group Corp., The**

Annie Santiago 38 Aquamarina Urb. Villa Blanca Caguas, PR 00725-1907 PHONE (787) 743-3299 FAX (787) 744-9699 annie@securitygroupcorp.com







2500 Wilson Blvd. • Arlington, VA 22201-3834 USA (703) 907-7600 main • (703) 907-7601 fax www.CE.org

