New KVH DSP-5000 Fiber Optic Gyro Offers Breakthrough Price Performance

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The DSP-5000 Offers Tactical-grade Accuracy and Digital Signal Processing for 1/2 the Cost of Competing Systems

MIDDLETOWN, R.I., Apr 16, 2002 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- KVH Industries (Nasdaq: KVHI) unveiled its new DSP-5000 Fiber Optic Gyro (FOG) today at the 2002 IEEE Position, Location, and Navigation Symposium (PLANS) in Palm Springs, California. The DSP-5000 accepts data input as fast as 500 degrees per second, offers consistent accuracy over time and temperature, and is available for a fraction of the cost of competing precision gyros.

"The DSP-5000 represents a breakthrough in open-loop fiber optic gyro design that will enable KVH Industries to enter and be competitive in significant new markets," commented Martin Kits van Heyningen, president and chief executive officer. "For the first time, KVH is able to offer a rate gyro family suitable for use in drone and unmanned aerial vehicle navigation, land vehicle navigation, and missile and smart munitions guidance. The defense-related applications represent an annual $2.7 billion market. The new DSP-5000 is not only suitable for use in these and a variety of commercial applications but it is also half the cost of competing ring laser and closed- loop fiber optic gyros."

The DSP-5000 combines KVH's proprietary polarization-maintaining optical fiber and fiber components with integrated digital signal processing. The result is a low-cost rate gyro with outstanding bias stability, low noise, high bandwidth, and scale factor accuracy of 0.05 percent. Like KVH's existing line of E*Core(R) FOGs, the DSP-5000 is a highly reliable system with no moving parts to wear out or require maintenance. It provides extremely precise rotational rate information by measuring the phase difference between two paths of light traveling in opposite directions through an optical fiber. This rate information is then output in a digital data stream to a variety of external systems.

"The combination of accuracy, versatility, and value make the DSP-5000 an extremely attractive and reliable solution for the most demanding applications," Kits van Heyningen continued. "We expect that our DSP class of gyros will become the foundation for all of KVH's gyro-based products in the future. Future DSP FOGs could have input rates of 1,000 degrees per second or more with no reduction in accuracy or stability."

KVH Industries entered the fiber optic marketplace in 1997 when it purchased Andrew Corporation's fiber optic assets, acquiring a talented and experienced team of optical fiber researchers and a wealth of intellectual property. Since that time, KVH has completed the development of its patented D-fiber and an array of fiber optic products, including E*Core Polarization Maintaining Fiber and the family of E*Core FOGs, and has successfully brought them to market.

KVH Industries, Inc., is a leading provider of innovative high-bandwidth communications products. Using proprietary fiber optic and satellite antenna technology, the company is developing next-generation systems with greater precision, durability, and versatility for communications, navigation, and industrial applications. An ISO 9001-registered company, KVH has headquarters in Middletown, Rhode Island, a fully operational, 23,000 square-foot optical fiber and component manufacturing facility in Tinley Park, Illinois, and a European sales, marketing, and support office in Hoersholm, Denmark.

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