Supertex inc. News Release

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Corporate Headquarters:
Jim Adams
Manager, Marketing Communications
408/222-4810
jima@supertex.com

# SUPERTEX ANNOUNCES NEW MEMS DRIVER IC

## *HV254 features integrated 32-channel, 250V amplifier array on one chip*

***SUNNYVALE, Calif. October 22, 2002*** - Supertex, Inc. (NASDAQ: SUPX) today announced the HV254, a 32-channel, 250 volt amplifier array IC for driving MEMS-based optical networking systems. It is the first in a family of high voltage amplifier array ICs based on Supertex's high voltage CMOS/DMOS process technology, ideal for driving MEMS (MicroElectroMechanical Systems) in optical cross-connects, switches and tunable optical laser modules.

Each of the 32 channels in the HV254 is configured as an independent, non-inverting amplifier. These outputs can swing up to 250V providing adequate movement for an optical MEMS switch and guarantee a slew rate of 3V/µs that provides adequate time to switch from one optical fiber line to another. With these highly integrated features, system designers are able to develop highly realizable systems in small form factors.

"MEMS applications are rapidly expanding in communications and information technology including wireless systems using MEMS-based RF switches," said Brian Hedayati, Director of Marketing at Supertex.

Global consumption of MEMS/MST (MicroStructures Technology) devices is estimated to reach nearly 347 million units by the end of this year, and nearly 10.4 billion units by the end of 2006, according Venture Development Corporation. They also estimate the consumption of MEMS/MST devices in the communication market is projected to increase to 26.3% of the total market by year of 2006, up from 0.5% in 2001.

"HV254 along with the soon-to-be-released other members of the Supertex high voltage MEMS driver IC family will enable these applications to be developed in less time, utilizing less board space and at a lower cost," added Hedayati.

The HV254 operates at a 275V supply voltage with integrated high value gain setting resistors for an internal feedback path. It is designed to operate on minimal power while still maintaining a slew rate of 3V/µs. An integrated diode is also included to help monitor die

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temperature for external temperature compensation and thermal protection. The amplifier has an internal closed loop gain of 34dB or 50V/V, saving the user from having to use external gain setting resistors which reduces component count and simplifies system design and board layout. A 5V signal applied to the input of an amplifier will therefore create an output voltage of 250V.

Samples of HV254 FG are available from stock in a small 100 lead MQFP package (lead to lead 17mm x 23mm) and in die form HV254X. Lead-time for production quantities is 4 to 5 weeks ARO, HV254FG is priced at $96.00 each (U.S.$) in 1K quantities. The HV254DB1 demo board will be available November 15, 2002.

**About Supertex**

Supertex, Inc. is a publicly held mixed signal semiconductor manufacturer, focused in high voltage interface products for use in the telecommunications, networking systems, flat panel displays, medical and industrial electronics industries. Supertex product, corporate and financial information is readily available at www.supertex.com.

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