

# Microchip Timberwolf™ Audio Processor Webinar



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A Leading Provider of Smart, Connected and Secure Embedded Solutions



SMART | CONNECTED | SECURE

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# Agenda

- **Objective**

- Introduction to Timberwolf™ ZL38063 Embedded Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) with Cyberon DSpotter Wake Word Engine (WWE)

- **Topics**

- Timberwolf Voice Processor Refresher
- ASR Options and Metrics
- Markets and Use-cases
- Supporting Collateral
- Customer Journey

# Timberwolf™ Voice Processor Refresher

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# Timberwolf™ Audio Processor

## Dedicated Audio Processor

- Offload host processor
- Optimized for audio with HW accelerators
- Low power mode

## Patented Voice & Audio IP

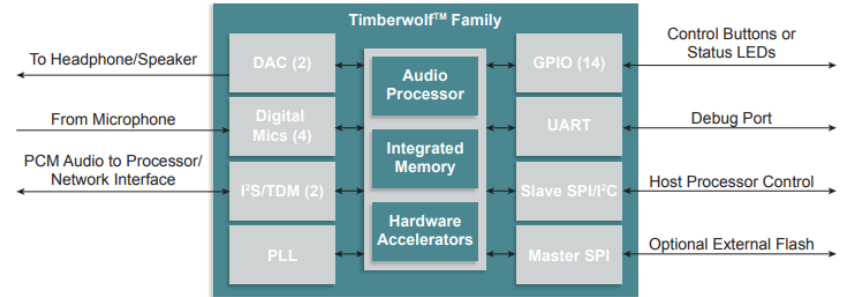
- Best-in-class stereo echo cancellation and noise reduction
- Leading-edge audio intelligence features
- Royalty free & license free firmware

## Validated Reference Design

- 2 & 3-MIC Amazon far-field certified
- Field proven to pass industry standards
- Quick turnkey development

## Easy to use MiTuner™ Tool

- Tune for best audio performance
- Get to market fast



## HW Feature

- 300MHz DSP
- Voice Specific HW Accelerators
- Up to 4 Digital Mic Input
- Two internal 16 ohm speaker driver
- Power regulation (LDO)
- Two PCM ports
- MASTER and SLAVE SPI/I<sup>2</sup>C
- Up to 14 I/Os

# Voice Processing Features for ASR

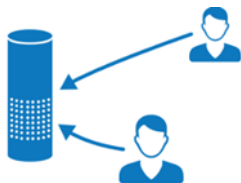
## Beamforming

- Points a beam to the person speaking
- Increases voice clarity
- Minimizes non-stationary noise



## Far Field Processing

- Instantly adjusts gains to prevent clipping
- Amplifies distant signals



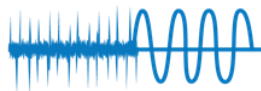
## Stereo Barge-in/ASR

- Highly accurate key word detection
- Responds while playing audio from a device speaker



## Noise Reduction

- Reduces ambient noise
- Air conditioners
- Fans
- Electronics



## Direction of Arrival

- Sound locator finds the location of an audio source



## Embedded ASR

- Trigger & command word detection
- Local voice control without network connection



# Features and Benefits Summary

Features	Description	Benefits
Full-band Stereo DACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DACs enabled to play full-band (48 kHz) audio from TDM Bus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enables smart-speaker platforms to use Timberwolf™ DACs for stereo music playback</li></ul>
Beamforming & Sound Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Far-field capable 2-MIC beamforming to increase SNR</li><li>Additional sound locator function across 180 degrees</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beamforming enables better performance in presence of both stationary <u>and</u> non-stationary noises</li><li>Sound locator provides angle of speech arrival for user-interfaces</li></ul>
Stereo Acoustic Echo Cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hardware accelerated AEC, capable of cancelling stereo echo at high volumes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enables far-field barge-in for smart-speakers</li></ul>
Noise Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Noise reduction algorithm optimized for speech recognition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enables accurate ASR in high-noise devices and environments</li></ul>
De-reverberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reduces room reverberation to increase speech quality for speech recognition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enables far-field performance in large rooms</li></ul>
Dynamic range control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Automatically adjusts audio levels using compression, limiting and expansion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maintains consistent level of audio for ASR performance in near-field and far-field</li></ul>

# Features and Benefits Summary

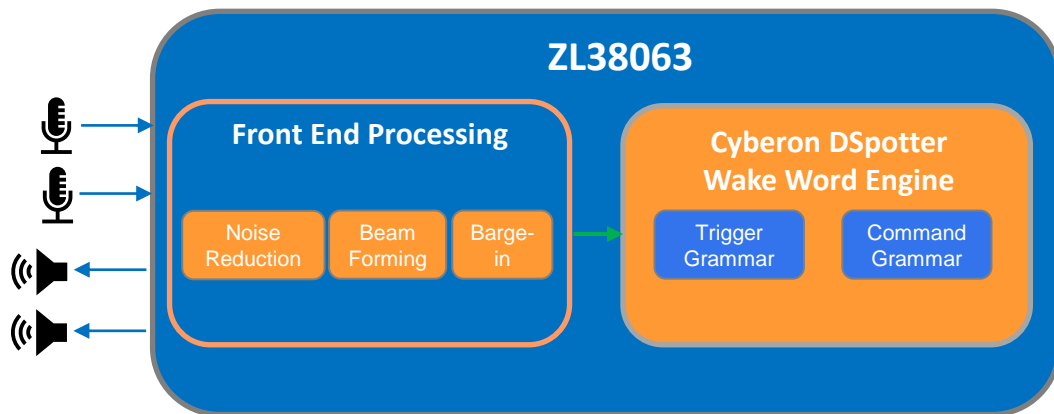
Features	Description	Benefits
Embedded Speech Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engine capable of simultaneous wake word + up to 20 commands</li><li>• Detection score and configurable detection threshold</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ASR engines optimized for high detection rate with minimal false alarms</li><li>• Detection thresholds can be tuned to specific application</li></ul>
Grammar Swapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grammar models can be swapped dynamically from host or external flash</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enables support of multiple languages or multiple wake words</li></ul>
Application Swapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ZL38063 can run ZLS38063.0 firmware for two-way communication mode</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enables full-duplex two-way audio communication by swapping firmware for IP camera/intercom applications</li></ul>

# **Embedded ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition)**

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# Embedded ASR for Local Voice Control



## Front-end Processing

- 2-MIC Beamforming
- Stereo Barge-in
- Noise Reduction
- De-reverberation
- Dynamic Range Processing

## Automatic Speech Recognition

- Local Speech Recognition
- Voice and control responses

## ZL38063 with Embedded ASR

- **All-in-one solution** for voice processing
  - Front-end processing
  - Embedded Automatic Speech Recognition
- **Local voice command & control**
  - Cyberon DSpotter Wake Word Engine
  - Limited vocabulary and grammar
- **Key Attributes**
  - Optimized BOM
  - High functionality
  - High performance

# Local vs. Cloud Command/Control

Functions	Markets	Applications	Common Features	Differentiating Attributes
Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)	<u>Cloud-based</u> Traditional voice assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home automation connected appliances</li> <li>Alarm panels</li> <li>Set top boxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Far-field processing</li> <li>Beamforming</li> <li>Stereo barge-in</li> <li>Background noise reduction</li> <li>De-reverberation</li> <li>Dynamic range processing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,2,3-mic beamforming</li> <li>Cloud artificial intelligence</li> <li>Naturally spoken language</li> <li>Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant</li> <li>Host processor for Wake Word Engine</li> </ul>
	<u>Local</u> Voice control with embedded ASR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home automation</li> <li>Fitness equipment</li> <li>Medical</li> <li>Commercial</li> <li>Toys and education</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,2-mic beamforming</li> <li>Private</li> <li>Limited local commands</li> <li>Low complexity</li> <li>Voice control responses</li> <li>Optimized BOM</li> </ul>

- Local command control using Cyberon is ideal for private, low-cost/complexity applications with a fixed set of commands
- Timberwolf™ voice processing provides the front-end audio “clean up”

# Cyberon DSpotter WWE Examples

- **General Commands**

- Play Music
- Stop Music
- Previous Song
- Next Song
- Volume Louder
- Volume Softer



# Markets and Use-cases

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# ASR for Local Control/Command Benefits

- **Voice Control**

- No physical contact for areas requiring cleanliness
- No searching for the remote control or switch on the wall
- Achieve instant response to voice command

- **Private**

- Keep voice and commands out of the cloud
- Minimize control latency with immediate, local response

- **Simple and Robust**

- Embedded solution offloads host MPU from overhead required for cloud
- Grammar swapping to support multiple languages
- Multi-modal App-Swapping to switch between embedded ASR, 2-way audio and event detection

# Target Markets and Applications

- **Voice Control for Home Automation**

- Smart speaker
- Smart lighting/switches
- Thermostat
- Blinds / curtains
- Vacuum cleaners
- Kitchen appliances



- **Fitness Equipment**

- Cardio equipment: treadmill / cycle / elliptical
- Smart training assistants



# Target Markets and Applications

- **Medical**

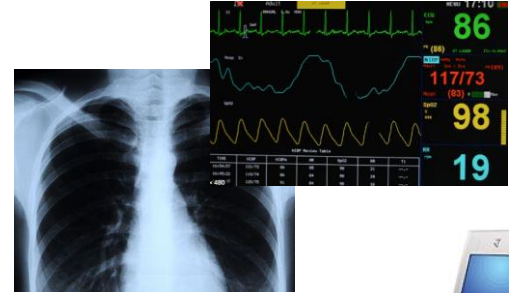
- Alert for help in hospital or nursing home
- Contact-less interfaces
- Paging/Intercom
- Voice control for medical assistive devices
  - Adjust room, bed settings in hospital

- **Commercial**

- Point-of-sale/ self-service kiosks/  
vending machines/ elevator

- **Toys & Education**

- Robots
- Interactive games
- Early education speech and reading assistance



# Supporting Collateral

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EVB, Tools, Documentation



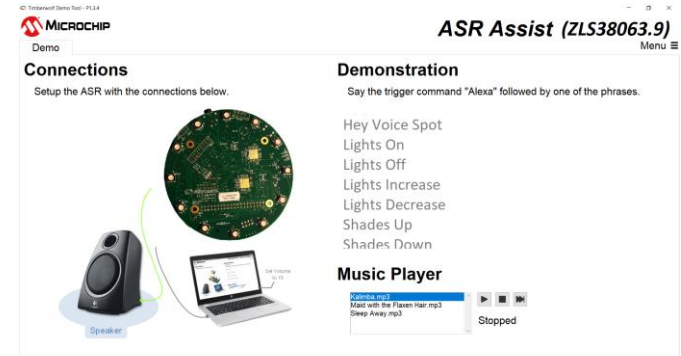
# Timberwolf™ Development Board (EV08Z13A)



- Evaluate Timberwolf ZL380xx Audio Processors
- Use with Timberwolf Demo Tool & MiTuner™
  - 2-way voice communication
  - Embedded speech recognition
  - Audio event detection
- Key Features
  - Four on-board digital MEMS Microphones in recommended array geometries
  - I<sup>2</sup>C LED Controller with 12 RGB LEDs
  - Headphone/Speaker Output Jack
  - Audio via ZL38090 USB to I<sup>2</sup>S Port B bridge
  - Raspberry Pi 3B 40-pin header for Amazon AVS Far-field Reference Solution ([\*Raspberry Pi not included\*](#))
  - UART interface for debugging
  - I<sup>2</sup>S Port A Header
  - Quick Start Guide in the Box
- Buy from Microchip for \$499.95

# Timberwolf™ Demo Tool

- To evaluate the key features of Timberwolf Audio Processors on development board
  - Audio event detection
  - Beamforming
  - Two-way audio communication
  - Embedded ASR assist with barge-in
    - Cyberon (Trigger + 6 commands)
- Available for download in Timberwolf Design Center (Microchip Website)



# MiTuner™ GUI

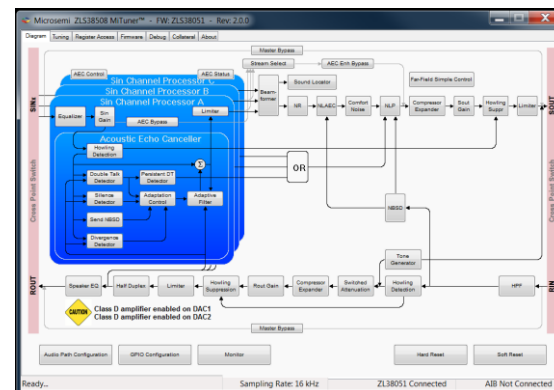
- **Easy-to-use GUI for**

- Setting audio path configuration
- Setting cross point switch
- Access registers
- Register firmware and configuration record loading

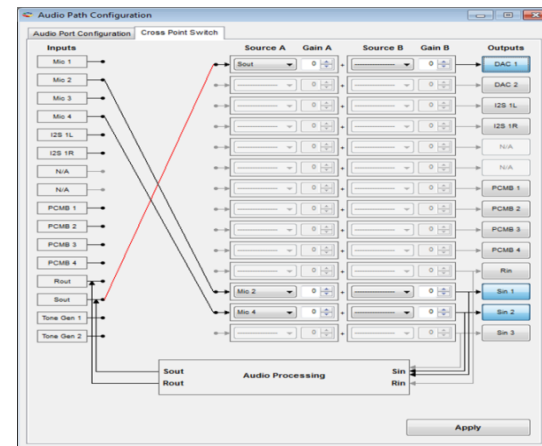
- **Benefits**

- Visually shows mic and speaker data paths
- Click on diagram blocks to configure algorithm parameters
- Manual Tuner guide walks customer through AEC tuning process

## Audio Path Config



## Cross Point Switch



# Firmware and Documentation Distribution

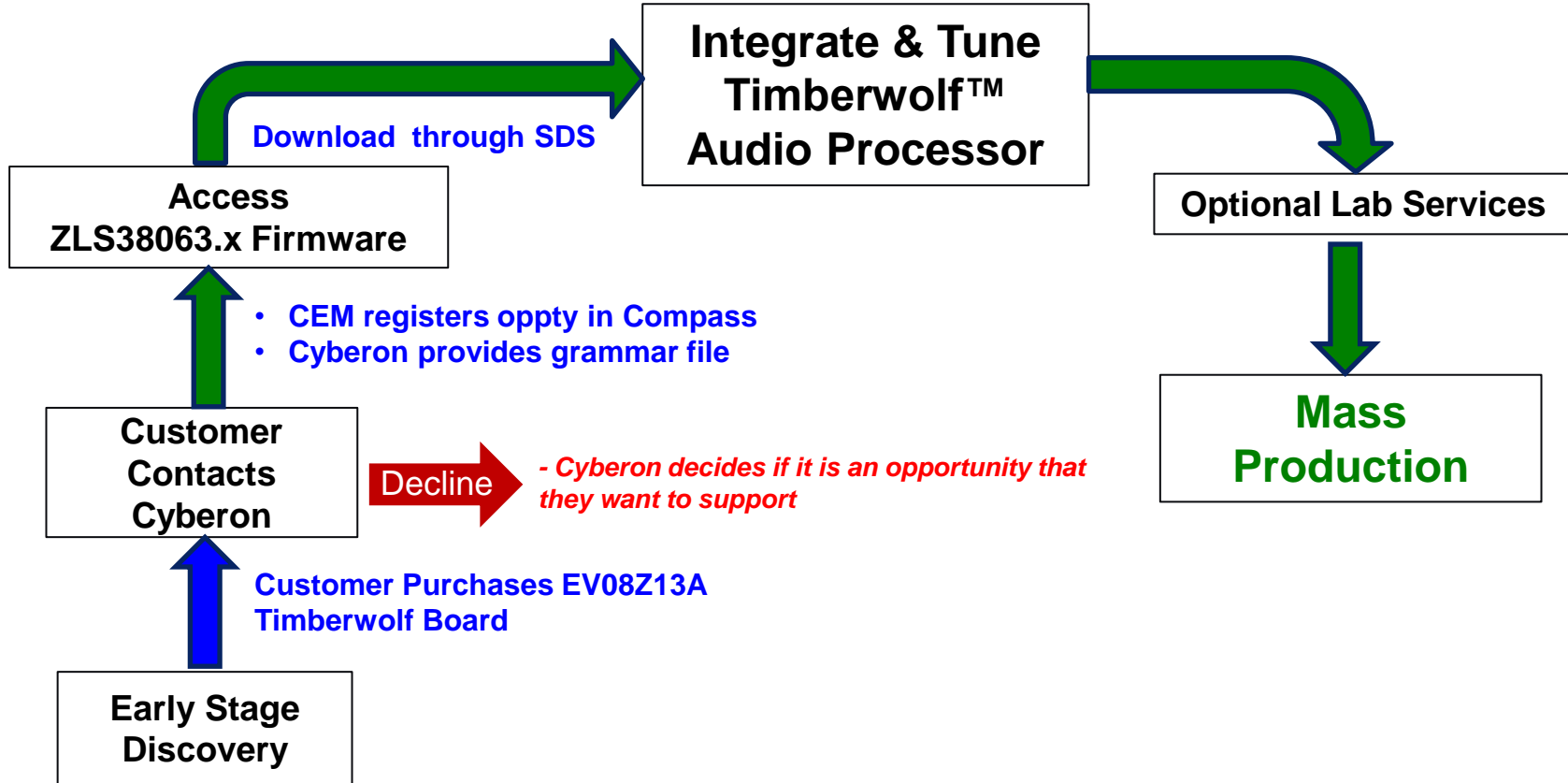
Download	Content	For ASR Release
Dev Kit Package	Dev Kit Hardware Design User Guide	<a href="#">Microchip AVS GitHub</a>
	Dev Kit Quick Start	
AVS Guide	Dev Kit AVS Guide	<a href="#">Microchip AVS GitHub</a>
Demo Tool	Timberwolf™ Demo Tool	<a href="#">EV08Z113A Product Page</a>
ZL38063 Datasheet	063 Datasheet	<a href="#">ZL38063 Product Page</a>

- **Contact Microchip sales for access to Firmware and MiTuner™**

# Customer Journey

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# Timberwolf™ Embedded ASR Customer Journey



# Customer Journey for Embedded ASR

## Optional Service – Audio Lab

- **Amazon AVS Acoustic Pre-Certification**
  - Rental of Microchip's ASR testing lab and equipment
  - AVS Self-Test Services for FRR, RAR, and FAR testing
  - Prioritized ASR tuning support with Factory Apps team
- **Full-Duplex Two-way Audio Certification**
  - Rental of Microchip's Fully Anechoic Acoustic Chamber and Head Acoustics testing equipment
  - Standards-based test suites and report generation available
  - Prioritized two-way audio tuning support with Factory Apps team
- **System-level Acoustic Testing**
  - Rental of Microchip's fully Anechoic Acoustic Chamber (4 pi > 160 Hz)
  - Acoustic Performance Testing, including:
    - Frequency Response, CSD, Mic-Speaker Coupling
    - Distortion (THD) measurements for speaker, microphone, and combined system (echo path)
    - Speech Quality & Intelligibility Tests



# Thank You

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