HotSpot Episode 33: Smart Brewing App for Beer Aficionados

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On this week's episode of WDD's HotSpot, brought to you by National Instruments:

- For all of you beer aficionados who would like to take a crack at brewing your own blend, Brewbot [1] has created a smart brewing appliance [2] that customers can control and monitor using their very own smartphone – no brewing experience required. The app guides you through the brew process from beginning to end. To begin brewing, users pick a recipe from the recipe platform. Based on the chosen recipe, Brewbot enters the exact amount of water required for the brew. This can be adjusted using the app. Temperature sensors, load sensors, and flow meters ensure users understand what is happening from start to finish. These sensors assist with the automation. Users can brew just over 5 gallons of beer, and who wouldn't be happy with that.
- STMicroelectronics [3] has introduced the LSM303C eCompass [4], measuring just 2.0 by 2.0 by 1.0 mm in its LG-12 package. That's about four grains of common table salt. Designed to provide advanced navigation and motion-detection in smartphones and wearable devices, this MEM-based chip [5] combines a three-axis microelectromechanical-system accelerometer and three-axis MEMS magnetometer in a single package.
- Ossia, Inc. [6] has redefined wireless power with its groundbreaking technology dubbed Cota. Cota automatically delivers targeted energy to multiple devices from as far away as 30 feet, without requiring line of sight. According to Ossia, a 30 foot range is enough distance to cover an average two-story home, establishing a new paradigm in power distribution that allows people to use Cota to charge or power a wide range of devices well beyond smartphones, to include remote controls, cameras, video game controllers, flashlights, smoke detectors and more. Ossia's patented smart antenna technology consists of a charger and receiver, uses phased arrays to transfer power without the use of inductive coils, ultrasonic waves, magnetic resonance, charging pads or mats. The Cota technology consists of two parts: a charger and a receiver.
- Vonkil Technologies [7] has developed an AA-sized nickel-metal hydride cell battery with a Bluetooth Smart chip inside, allowing consumers to take control of their gadgets. Batthead batteries are controlled via smartphones and tablets, and can easily switch themselves on and off. Vonkil Technologies also provided a basic list of the things the Batthead and a mobile device can do:
    - With a smartphone, consumers can instantly turn on or turn off battery-powered gear with the Batthead installed.
    - Consumers can schedule the automatic switching operation of the

Batthead based on time-of-day.
- They can also configure the Batthead to automatically switch on or off, based on orientation or movement.
- Consumers can get the Batthead to turn on or off, based on proximity to their smartphone.
- Users can set their smartphone notify you based on proximity to, or distance from, your Batthead-powered device.
- Configure the Batthead to automatically switch on or off, based on ambient temperature.

For more information visit www.ni.com [8].

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Links:
[1] http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/cargo/brewbot-the-smart-brewing-appliance
[2] http://www.designboom.com/technology/brewbot-a-smartphone-controlled-brewing-system-by-cargo/
[3] http://www.st.com
[4] http://www.electronicproducts.com/Sensors_and_Transducers/Sensors/MEMS_eCompass_is_about_the_size_of_four_grains_of_salt.aspx
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[6] http://www.mobilitywire.com/ossia/2013/09/10/7888
[7] http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/29491051/batthead-a-battery-in-charge?ref=category
[8] http://www.ni.com