SAPPHIRE Adds 2GB HD 4890 to Vapor-X Series

SAPPHIRE Technology has just announced a new variant of the SAPPHIRE HD 4890 Vapor-X sporting 2GB of onboard GDDR5 memory - offering users even more versatility from this series featuring SAPPHIRE Vapor-X cooling technology for quiet and cool operation.

Like the 1GB model announced at Computex last month, the SAPPHIRE HD 4890 Vapor-X 2GB model is a SAPPHIRE original design. It has SAPPHIRE's Vapor-X cooling module on the GPU together with a heatsink and profiled fan venting heat out of the case. With core clock speed of 870MHz and 2GB of DDR5 memory clocked at 1050MHz, this model not only has additional memory but is also quieter and significantly faster than competing products based on the standard reference design. The larger memory size and faster speeds deliver higher performance in rendering tasks and increased frame rates in games - especially at high resolutions and where complex textures are used.

SAPPHIRE's HD 4890 Vapor-X models feature four output connectors all on the bracket – Dual-Link DVI, VGA, HDMI and Display Port. Any two of the four output options can be used simultaneously, giving maximum flexibility for connection to different display types. An HDMI to DVI adaptor is also included for those who wish to use a pair of DVI monitors.

The Vapor-X series features high specification solid capacitors and SAPPHIRE 'Black Diamond' heatsink chokes for higher efficiency and more reliable operation. The high-polymer aluminium capacitors used have characteristics superior to regular aluminium capacitors for longer product life. The choke is an important component of the power regulation on a graphics card, and the SAPPHIRE Black Diamond (patent pending) choke with integral heatsink runs 10% cooler and with 25% more power efficiency than a normal choke.

The SAPPHIRE HD 4890 series is based on the latest GPU core from the ATI division of AMD. This features the same graphics architecture as the successful HD 4870 series, with 800 stream processor units, 256-bit GDDR5 memory interface and integral hardware video decoder. It also features improved memory management architecture, and technical innovations that allow higher clock speeds and reduce standby power levels.

This series uses the PCI-Express Gen2 interface, and features dual connectors for CrossFireX cables, allowing two or more cards to be used together on a CrossFireX compatible mainboard for even higher graphics performance.

About Vapor-X

SAPPHIRE was the first company to introduce Vapor Chamber Technology to its cooling solutions for graphics. The Vapor-X cooler was first seen on the SAPPHIRE HD 3870 ATOMIC and TOXIC Editions over a year ago and is in volume production on the HD 4870 512MB and 1GB TOXIC Editions and several cards in the Vapor-X series.

Vapor-X is a Vapor Chamber Technology based on the same principles as heatpipe technology. A liquid coolant is vaporised at a hot surface, the resulting vapor is condensed at a cold surface then the liquid is returned to the hot surface. The recirculation process takes place inside an evacuated chamber and is controlled by a complex wick system. In SAPPHIRE Vapor-X systems, the whole chamber is very slim and is mounted in contact with the surface of the graphics chip. More details are available at www.sapphiretech.com

The ATOMIC and TOXIC series of high performance overclocked products incorporate a hybrid cooling system combining Vapor-X at its core to remove heat efficiently from the graphics processor together with a system of heatpipes and heatsinks. These are cooled by a fan to carry away the heat from the vapor chamber, memories and other components and give more headroom for higher levels of performance. The Vapor-X series uses the same vapor chamber cooler at the core, together with a heatsink and aerodynamic low noise fan. SAPPHIRE Vapor-X and hybrid cooling systems are very efficient, so they can use low air flow rates – and therefore low speed, low noise fans

Smooth Video and Streaming

All SAPPHIRE graphics cards in the HD 4800 series incorporate the latest ATI Avivo™ HD Technology for enhanced Video display and feature a new generation built in hardware UVD (Unified Video decoder) considerably reducing CPU load and delivering smooth decoding of Blu-ray™ and HD DVD content for both VC-1 and H.264 codecs, as well as Mpeg files.

With the latest drivers, the SAPPHIRE HD 4800 series also offers ATI Stream processing for the acceleration of video transcoding and other supported applications.

SAPPHIRE HD 4800 series graphics cards are Microsoft Windows Vista™ Premium certified and supported by the ATI Catalyst® suite of software, ensuring customers have ongoing access to software updates for performance, stability and added features. Like the previous generation, these cards support DirectX10.1 for enhanced rendering performance and lighting effects.

Images and more details are available at www.sapphiretech.com

Specifications correct at time of writing but may be subject to change.