SNAPTRON INTRODUCES 4MM METAL DOME SWITCH

WINDSOR, CO, JULY 27, 2006 – The demand for smaller tactile dome switches with a discernable tactile feel has prompted Snaptron to introduce its latest product, the WT04170. At 4mm, this is the smallest 3-leg dome Snaptron has developed to date. The dome has 170 grams of force and is specified to 500,000 cycles.

Historically, domes 4mm and smaller are round in shape. The advantage of the 3-leg dome is that it allows a higher tactile ratio to be achieved, giving it more of a crisp “snap” feel. For example, Snaptron offers a round 4mm dome that has a tactile ratio between 30% and 45%. The WT04170 has a much higher tactile ratio – between 60% and 75%. In addition, the three-leg design allows this dome to fit closely to each other and other components for applications where board space is limited.

“Our customers are increasingly headed toward developing smaller electronic devices, and this dome will provide excellent tactile feedback to the end user
without compromising board space,” said Tim Tyner, Director of Sales and Marketing for Snaptron, Inc.

WT-Series domes can be used anywhere a momentary switch, with tactile feedback, is required. This includes printed circuit boards, flex circuits and membrane applications. Possible applications for these new dome switches include automotive, portable communications, discrete switch, qwerty keypads, medical devices, instrumentation controls, computer / peripheral, and consumer electronics.

Snaptron also plans to release two domes to accompany the WT04170. These are the **WTD06540** (3-leg, with dimple, 6mm, with 540g of force) and the **WTD07500** (3-leg, with dimple, 7mm, with 500g of force). Both of these products will be available in August 2006.

WT-Series domes are made of stainless steel. Operating temperature range is from -45°C to +100°C, with a switching voltage of .1 to 50 VDC, a switching current of .005 to 100 ma DC, and a switching capacity of 1 watt.

The WT04170 is available for purchase starting in July 2006.