Ford and beyond

Vancouver's **Intrinsyc Software** has partnered with **Ford Motor Co.** to provide networking systems to connect factory floor machines to the systems that monitor Ford production quality. Intrinsyc will implement its OPC-Shield software, which is designed to improve the flexibility and dependability of industrial automation software. It is expected to increase the reliability of data collected by the OPC software that monitors Ford production quality. This new software will improve Ford's ability to monitor plant machinery, make supply chain management adjustments and improve overall efficiency.

Intrinsyc Software has made a strategic alliance with **MontaVista Software Inc.** to combine research, engineering and marketing expertise to meet the demand among original equipment manufacturers for Linux-based embedded systems, especially in the rapidly growing Internet appliance market. According to a recent **IDC** report, the worldwide market for information appliances will exceed 89 million units, or $17.8 billion, in 2004, up from a market of 11 million units and $2.4 billion in 1999.