Extreme DA Survey of IC Designers Shows "A Need for Speed" in Timing Analysis

Designers Choose Speed, Accuracy, and Variation Awareness
As Top Analysis Must-Haves for Achieving Timing Closure

Palo Alto, Calif. — August 29, 2007 — A survey by Extreme DA™ of integrated circuit (IC) designers shows that speed of analysis is their top priority in meeting the challenge of achieving timing sign-off of IC designs. Extreme DA™ is the technology leader in new-generation timing analysis. The company's survey was designed to garner information from chip designers about their projects and the major challenges they face in achieving sign-off.

"We are heartened that survey responses align so well with the priorities of our product development efforts," said Graham Bell, director of marketing at Extreme DA. "Our new analysis product, Extreme DA GoldTime™, uniquely provides the features designers need to achieve timing sign-off: speed of analysis, accuracy of analysis, and awareness of process variations. Based on our work with fabless semiconductor companies and integrated device manufacturers around the world, it's clear that a new generation of timing analysis will be a requirement for designs below 65-nanometers. These companies are gaining the advantages of analysis that gives them a 5X increase in speed and capacity over current-generation tools, and the ability to investigate design performance variability and IC yield before committing to manufacture."

Selected Results of the IC Designer Survey

In describing their current projects, the majority of respondents indicated that they were implementing ASIC designs:

- ASICs (46%)
- Processors (21%)
- Full-custom Chips (15%)
- IP (9%)
- Semi-custom chips (9%)

Each of the three clock speed ranges for current IC design projects were selected in near equal amounts:

- 100-400 MHz (35%)
- 400-800 MHz (33%)
- 800-1600 MHz (32%)

In terms of design size, the most common are 5-20 Mcells and 20 Mcells and greater:

- 5-20 Mcells (30%)
- 20 Mcells and greater (30%)
- 1-5 Mcells (23%)
- Less than 1 Mcell (17%)

Survey respondents also noted the manufacturing process node they were planning to use for their current designs. More than half of the designs target process nodes of 70/65-nanometers (nm) and below:

- 70/65-nm (35%)
- 90-nm (31%)
- 45-nm or lower (24%)
- 110-nm or larger (10%)

To thank designers for sharing their opinions, Extreme offered them the chance to win an Apple iPhone in a random drawing. The four iPhone winners work for Broadcom, LSI Corporation, SGI, and Toshiba, respectively.

For more information about the survey, contact Graham Bell at Extreme DA.

About Extreme DA

Headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif., venture-funded Extreme DA develops and licenses software products to improve the performance and yield of nanometer integrated circuits. The company's investors include Foundation Capital, IT-Farm Corporation, and Lanza techVentures. For the latest news and information on Extreme DA, visit www.extreme-da.com or write to info@extreme-da.com.

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Contact:

Abbie Kendall
PR Counsel for Extreme DA
Armstrong Kendall, Inc.
abbie@akipr.com
503-672-4681

Graham Bell
Director of Marketing
Extreme DA
gbell@extreme-da.com
408-772-2128