■ No Escape from ESC

Denizens of embedded processors won't want to miss the tenth annual **Embedded Systems Conference**, which consumes the San Jose Convention Center on September 26–30. Sponsored by Miller Freeman, the show features 12 full-day tutorials on subjects such as DSP and embedded system design; three days packed with shorter sessions on system-on-a-chip design, wireless technology, embedded architectures, Java, and many more topics; and a large vendor exhibition.

Register before 8/31 and pay $1,645 for all five days, or as little as $475 for one day. To register, call 800.789.2223 or check out *www.embedded.com.*

■ SMTA Mounts Packaging Conference

Learn about the latest advances in surface-mount technology, high-density interconnect, and chip-scale packaging at the **SMTA International** conference on September 12–16 in San Jose. Sponsored by (you guessed it) the SMTA (Surface Mount Technology Association) users group, the conference features nearly 60 technical sessions, tutorials, and workshops across six tracks: SMT manufacturing, advanced packaging, soldering, process control, substrates, and contract manufacturing.

The early (before 8/27) registration fee is $795 for a five-day pass or $295 for one day. For more information or to register, call 877.232.8845 or access *www.smta-international.com.*

■ ICE on CMP for You and Me

The fabrication weenies at Integrated Circuit Engineering (ICE) have produced a new report, ***CMP: Chemical Mechanical Planarization***. The book covers the latest advances, such as CMP for copper and low-k materials, providing application details for engineers and easy overviews for nonengineers. (If you are in the latter camp, we are talking about how to make chips really flat.) The report discusses the equipment and techniques used, as well as market trends in this area.

The report is available on paper or CD-ROM for $995; extra copies cost $695. Contact ICE (Scottsdale, Ariz.) by phone at 480.515.9780 or on the Web at *www.ice-corp.com.*

■ Read Any Good e-Books Lately?

Turn to the next chapter in publishing at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's **Electronic Book 99**. The event—to be held September 21–22 in Gaithersburg, Maryland—covers handheld e-books, Web-based e-books, display issues, storage technologies, and distribution methods. Speakers at the workshop include component and system vendors, software tool developers, and publishers. There will be an evening reception and numerous industry exhibits.

Your tax dollars are at work: the cost of the two-day workshop is just $225. For more information or to register electronically, set your browser to *www.nist.gov/ebook99.*