

EMBEDDED TIDBITS

{8/14/00-05}

❖ BROADCOM BUYS SILICON SPICE

Broadcom, a leading vendor in the communications-IC market, has announced plans to acquire the privately held fabless chip maker Silicon Spice in exchange for five million shares of Broadcom stock, currently worth about \$1.2 billion. Silicon Spice is said to be developing a highly parallel and reconfigurable DSP-style communications processor (see [MPR 7/13/98-msb](#), "Silicon Spice Cooking Up New Processor"). Vinod Dham, who joined Silicon Spice as chairman, president, and CEO after leaving AMD, is expected to remain with Broadcom after the acquisition. —*Peter Glaskowsky*

❖ ONCORE ROLLS OUT OS SUPPORT FOR POWERPC 405 SOC PROCESSOR

OnCore Systems Corporation has announced support for the IBM line of PowerPC 405 embedded processors (see [MPR 10/26/98-05](#), "PowerPC Adopts Code Compression"). IBM's 405 line of 32-bit RISC processors delivers up to 375 mips of processing power and is available in two models: the PowerPC 405CR, for integrated embedded applications, and the PowerPC 405G, for highly integrated network applications.

OnCore Systems offers developers a range of scalable embedded software, including a real-time microkernel that provides an environment in which applications can reside and run within protected MMU partitions. The microkernel also supports OnCore's Linux for Real-TimeT, a standard version of Linux that runs on top of the OnCore microkernel and coexists with real-time applications. For more information: www.OnCoreSystems.com. —*Mark Long*

❖ SILICON MOTION RELEASES DIGITAL VOICE AND MUSIC PROCESSORS

Silicon Motion, Inc., has announced its next-generation "BlueBird" digital voice and digital music processors, which incorporate low-power DSP technology with 56KB of integrated SRAM. The BlueBird DSP performs a wide array of functions, ranging from digital noise cancellation for voice

command processing and the decoding of digital music formats such as WMA, AAC, and MP3 to the baseband processing of wireless communication protocols like Bluetooth or 802.11.

The first BlueBird releases, the BlueBirdV and BlueBirdVL, will allow PDAs to act as low-power audio devices to record and play back email voice attachments. Moreover, the new BlueBird processors will directly interface with CD-ROM drives, so that notebook computers can play back MP3 or audio CDs during sleep mode as well as give MP3 devices the ability to record voice with background noise cancellation. The BlueBirdV processor is sampling now for \$19 in 10,000-unit quantities. For more information: www.siliconmotion.com. —*Mark Long*

❖ NETSILICON AND ADEPT CREATE LONTALK PROTOCOL NETWORK SOLUTION

NETsilicon has announced a partnership with Adept Systems under which the two companies will collaborate on developing an integrated 32-bit SuperNode control module for LonTalk protocol networks. Based on NETsilicon's NET+Works architecture, SuperNode will consist of an ANSI/EIA 709.X software and hardware interface with media access control (MAC) and drivers for NETsilicon's NET+ARM processor. NETsilicon also has indicated that future versions of its NET+ARM chip will likely integrate the complete 709.1 interface on board. For more information: www.netsilicon.com. —*Mark Long*

❖ ALTERA ANNOUNCES NEW FAMILY OF IP CORES

Altera Corporation has announced the first in a family of IP cores that are compatible with Packet-over-SONET physical interface (POS-PHY) products from PMC-Sierra. The functions of Altera's POS-PHY Level 3 MegaCore have been designed for use in link-layer or physical-layer devices that transfer data to and from POS devices using the standard POS-PHY interface. These functions consist of separately

configurable modules, which may be combined via Altera's MegaWizard Plug-In tool. The POS-PHY Level 3 function consists of two separate MegaCore products: the PHY layer and the Link layer cores. Both these cores will be available for shipment in 4Q00 at \$12,995 each. For more information: www.altera.com. —Mark Long

❖ MIPS CORE FROM TOSHIBA ENABLES LEICA GPS PRODUCT

Toshiba America Electronic Components (TAEC) has developed a chip for Leica Geosystems that combines user logic and a TX39 CPU in an ASIC. Leica Geosystems will use the new chip as the heart of a new global positioning satellite (GPS) device called the System 500. For more information: www.toshiba.com/taec. —Mark Long

❖ ERICSSON LICENSES ARM CORES FOR BLUETOOTH AND FAST INTERNET ACCESS

Communications equipment supplier Ericsson has licensed the ARM7TDMI processor core for use in its communications products. The agreement allows Ericsson to reuse the ARM intellectual property among all its divisions. —Mark Long

❖ SANYO LICENSES ARM FOR DIGITAL CONSUMER APPLICATIONS

Sanyo has licensed the ARM7TDMI and ARM7TDMI-S microprocessor cores for use in its standard microcontroller and ASIC devices. Sanyo will use the ARM technology in conjunction with its on-chip flash memory technology to support devices such as PC peripherals, digital cameras, multimedia devices, portable phones, and mobile information terminals. Sanyo has also licensed the ARM Embedded Trace macrocell (ETM7) for advanced SoC debug. The ETM7 will provide Sanyo with a debug solution for the company's new flash microcontrollers as well as other ARM7TDMI core-based ASICs. For more information: www.arm.com. —Mark Long

❖ AVNET, XILINX TO INTRODUCE PCI DEVELOPMENT KIT FOR STRONGARM

Avnet Design Services has joined with chip manufacturer Xilinx to announce the availability of the Intel StrongARM PCI Development Kit for the Intel StrongARM processor.

The development kit, which contains the PCI module that interfaces the Intel StrongARM processor bus directly to a Xilinx PCI core, is available from Avnet Design Services for \$8,995. For more information: www.ads.avnet.com/solutions/strongarm. —Mark Long

❖ LYNEXWORKS TO MERGE WITH ISD

LynexWorks, Inc. (formerly Lynx Real-Time Systems) has announced a merger agreement with Integrated Software & Devices Corporation (ISD), a supplier of system software, intellectual property, and software services for the embedded computing market. Under the terms of the agreement, LynexWorks will acquire ISD through a stock transaction in which newly issued LynexWorks shares will be swapped for all outstanding ISD shares. The closing of the merger agreement is subject to shareholder approvals and other customary conditions. —Mark Long

❖ INTEL TO ACQUIRE TRILLIUM

Intel Corporation has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire software provider Trillium Digital Systems, Inc., in a transaction valued at approximately \$300 million in cash and unregistered Intel common stock. When the acquisition is complete, Trillium will become part of Intel's Network Processing Group. Trillium's software architecture will also become an integral part of the Intel Internet Exchange (IX) architecture. For more information: www.intel.com. —Mark Long

❖ PMC-SIERRA RECEIVES HSR CLEARANCE FOR QED MERGER

The Federal Trade Commission has granted early termination of the antitrust waiting period for PMC-Sierra's proposed merger with embedded microprocessor vendor Quantum Effect Devices (QED). The merger is now subject only to QED stockholder approval and the other closing conditions specified in the merger agreement. A special meeting of QED stockholders has been set for August 23, 2000. If QED stockholders approve the merger at that time, and the other closing conditions to the merger are satisfied, then the two companies expect to close the transaction shortly after the conclusion of the QED stockholder meeting. For more information: www.pmc-sierra.com. —Mark Long ❖

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