



EasyPath FPGA FAQs

Updated: August 17, 2009

What are EasyPath™ FPGAs?

Xilinx EasyPath™ FPGAs are the industry's only design-specific FPGA solution that offers a simple cost reduction path for complex platform FPGA designs. Xilinx EasyPath FPGAs offer a fast, seamless, low NRE, risk free way to easily migrate your designs without Structured-ASIC or ASIC conversion, re-qualification or other engineering effort. The EasyPath FPGA enables a 12 or less week lead time from design completion to volume production with the flexibility to revert back to the standard Virtex® FPGA if system changes are required.

What devices are supported by the EasyPath FPGA program?

Shown below, Xilinx EasyPath FPGAs are available in a wide offering of platforms. They come with the most robust design ecosystem in the industry, including a portfolio of industry-leading soft and hard IP, easy-to-use design tools, services and support. Moreover, EasyPath FPGAs offer the same silicon, packages, resources, IOs, timing, as their standard FPGA counterparts.

Virtex-5				Virtex-4			Virtex-II Pro
LX	LXT	SXT	TXT	LX	SX	FX	
XC5VLX85	XC5VLX85T	XC5VSX50T	XC5VTX150T	XC4VLX40	XC4VSX35	XC4VFX40	XC2VP30
XC5VLX110	XC5VLX110T	XC5VSX95T	XC5VTX240T	XC4VLX80	XC4VSX55	XC4VFX60	XC2VP40
XC5VLX155	XC5VLX155T	XC5VSX240T		XC4VLX100		XC4VFX100	XC2VP50
XC5VLX220	XC5VLX220T			XC4VLX160		XC4VFX140	XC2VP70
XC5VLX330	XC5VLX330T			XC4VLX200			XC2VP100

Note: For Virtex®-6 FPGA EasyPath offerings contact you local Xilinx Sales Representative.



What flexibility features are available with EasyPath FPGAs?

For Virtex-5 and Virtex-4 EasyPath FPGAs only, designers can deploy EasyPath FPGAs that support two designs. Xilinx will test EasyPath FPGAs to both designs so that the single device can be configured and used in production with two bitstreams. The customer must provide both bitstreams (which must share the same pin-out) at design submittal.

What cost advantages do EasyPath FPGAs offer?

Xilinx EasyPath FPGAs provide a 30-70% unit cost advantage over standard Xilinx FPGAs. Because EasyPath FPGAs do not require the production of new custom mask sets, EasyPath FPGAs provide much lower NRE charges than ASIC devices.

The only NRE expense for EasyPath FPGAs is that which is required to create the design-specific test program using Xilinx's patented automated test vector generation process.

Freed from the burden of ASIC conversion, designs that begin with an FPGA prototype can migrate to volume production without the costs associated with logic and IP conversion, system re-qualification, engineering time, and re-spin risk. EasyPath FPGAs use the exact same silicon and packaging as standard FPGAs.

Cost Drivers	EasyPath	S-ASIC	ASIC
Unit Price	Low	Lower	Lowest
NRE	< \$100K	< \$250K	\$500K - \$1M+
Time to Volume	< 1 Qtr	3 - 5 Qtr	> 4 Qtr
Qualification Cost	None	High	High
Re-spin Risk	None	Medium	High

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When would designers use EasyPath FPGAs versus another solution from Xilinx?

EasyPath FPGAs are a natural extension of Xilinx traditional FPGA products. Customers use EasyPath FPGAs to achieve lower unit costs for volume production once they know their design is complete and no longer requires the full programmability of a standard FPGA.

Is this a configurable device?

Yes. EasyPath FPGAs, having identical silicon as standard Virtex FPGAs, still need to be configured at power-up with their tested, design-specific bitstreams. In addition, capabilities such as “In-System ECOs” (Virtex-4 FPGAs only) and “Two Designs per Device” (Virtex-4 and Virtex-5 FPGAs) leverage FPGA configurability that is not feasible in ASIC devices.

Is Xilinx ready to take EasyPath FPGA orders today?

Virtex-5 LX and LXT, Virtex-4, and Virtex-II Pro EasyPath FPGAs are available in production now. Customers can also begin their Virtex-5 SXT, FXT and TXT FPGA designs and migrate to EasyPath FPGA devices in CQ3, 2009 and CQ1, 2010, respectively.

What is the lead-time today between order and delivery for EasyPath FPGAs?

Because no custom masks are created, EasyPath FPGAs deliver volume production in half the time of other approaches. EasyPath FPGAs enable customers to move from design completion to volume production - not just prototypes - in just 12 weeks or fewer weeks.