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Xilinx Platform Newsletter, November 2007

Enter the New Era of Configurable Embedded Processing

- Architect Your Embedded Vision with New MicroBlaze™ 32-bit Processor with Optional MMU
- Build, Program, Debug... Your Way

[Order Kit Today](#)

Top Story

Enter the New Era of Configurable Embedded Processing

Adapt to changing algorithms, protocols, and interfaces by creating your next embedded design on the world's most flexible system platform. With the latest processing breakthroughs at your fingertips, you can readily meet the demands of your target application in the areas of automotive, industrial, medical, communications, defense, and more.

Architect Your Embedded Vision

- › Choose the MicroBlaze™ embedded processor, the only 32-bit soft processor with a configurable MMU, or build your system around the industry-standard 32-bit PowerPC® processor architecture.
- › Select the exact mix of peripherals that meets your I/O requirements, and stitch them together with the new 128-bit CoreConnect PLB bus.

Build, Program, Debug...Your Way

- › Port the OS of your choice, including Linux 2.6.
- › Reduce hardware/software debug time using Eclipse-based IDEs together with integrated Chipscope™ analyzer.

Eliminate Risk and Reduce Cost

- › No worry of processor obsolescence with Xilinx Embedded Processing technology and a range of programmable devices .
- › Reconfigure your design even after deployment, reducing support cost and increasing product life.

[Kick-start Your Design](#) - with The MicroBlaze Development Kit Spartan™-3E 1600E Edition. The comprehensive development platform includes:

- The Latest MicroBlaze v7 processor
- Latest EDK and ISE™ software tool suites
- Spartan-3E 1600E Development board
- All required cables including JTAG probes
- Out-of-the-box Linux and Ethernet reference designs

[Purchase](#)

Complete kit priced at **\$595** and available NOW!

[Learn more about Xilinx Embedded Solutions and EDK 9.2](#)

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Quick Update

[Xilinx User Community Forums](#)

Join discussions with other engineers on design topics such as FPGA architectures, design tools, embedded processing, DSP, connectivity, and more.

[Latest DSP Benchmarks from BDTI: Xilinx Still Delivers Lowest Cost per Channel](#)

BDTI has released the first independent benchmark results comparing the performance of picoChip's massively parallel PC102 chip to that of high-performance DSP processors and FPGAs. Of devices evaluated, Virtex™-4 FX140 delivered the lowest cost per channel (\$2.97)

[PMC-X/PCI-X Dual Channel 16-bit ADC/DAC Features AC or DC Coupled Interfaces and a Virtex-4 FPGA](#)

The Red Rapids Channel Accelerator product family provides the ideal platform to rapidly field application-specific I/O functions without the expense of custom hardware development.

Development Tools

[Free Downloadable Tools Evaluation Lets You Start Your FPGA Design Today!](#)

ISE Foundation™ software integrates everything you need for designing with Xilinx FPGA and CPLD products.

[Improving Runtime for FPGA Design Tools](#)

Learn how ISE 9.1i software shrinks design cycles with innovative flows such as SmartCompile™ and SmartGuide™. In addition, the SmartPreview™ feature and new algorithmic enhancements to meet timing constraints for tough designs deliver noticeable runtime improvements.

[IO Synthesis for FPGA Board Design](#)

The FPGA I/O pin assignment process is tedious and can be a breeding ground for mistakes. Employing a unique synthesis-based approach to the problem and an easy-to-use interface, 7Circuits can eliminate those mistakes and shave weeks off of a typical FPGA-on-board design schedule.

Design Tips

[Implementing DDR3 SDRAM Interfaces in Virtex-5 FPGAs: Application Note and Reference Design](#)

Our free DDR3 memory controller reference design leverages built-in Virtex-5 FPGA capabilities such as programmable IODELAY to meet 800 Mbps data rates and DDR3 SDRAM functional requirements.

[Teaching Them to Fish: Xilinx Expands Services](#)

This week, Xilinx is announcing a significant expansion of the Titanium program, including a dramatic increase in the number of available engineers. If your project needs to get off to a smooth start, or if you're deep in the woods and need some guidance finding your way out – this could be good news for you.

Education and Services

[Xilinx Education Services](#)

Choose the curriculum path that's right for you; embedded, connectivity, digital signal processing, and FPGA. Visit www.xilinx.com/education.

[Titanium Dedicated Engineering](#)

Create a better design and get to market faster with expert assistance to help you partition your system for maximum performance, integrate custom IP with embedded PowerPC and/or MicroBlaze processors, and accelerate debug and verification. Visit www.xilinx.com/titanium.

[Accelerate Your Project with QuickStart!](#)

Increase your knowledge and your competitive edge with two days of on-site training and three days of consulting from a Xilinx application engineer. Visit www.xilinx.com/quickstart.

[Executive Briefing Center Program](#)

Develop that next cutting edge product through your partnership with Xilinx. Access to Xilinx executives and technology experts and roadmap alignment will put you in the driver's seat. Contact your local Xilinx [Sales Representative](#) to schedule a briefing.

Partner Spotlight

[Linear Technology/Xilinx/Nu Horizons TechOnline Webinar](#)

Learn how leveraging the dedicated blocks in Virtex-5 FPGAs and using the Xilinx Power Estimator (XPE) tool can reduce power consumption, increase reliability, and simplify thermal management and power supply design for Virtex-5 FPGA-based systems.

[New White Paper from Synplicity: HapsTrak – A Key To Success](#)

HapsTrak is the connector system which guarantees the HAPS ASIC prototyping system to be forward and backward compatible, extending the life span of the prototyping system and significantly improving the return on investment.

[Linear Technology Power Solutions and Special Promotion for Xilinx Customers!](#)

Check out **Xilinx Reference Boards** with Linear Technology solutions. Fill out the Linear Technology [Pricing Qualification](#) form to receive promotional pricing for your new Xilinx-based project!

[Lyrtech Releases Software Communication Architecture Implementation on Small Form Factor Software-Defined Radio Development Platform](#)

The SCA implementation integrates technologies from Lyrtech, Communications Research Centre Canada (CRC), Objective Interface Systems (OIS), and Green Hills Software into a seamless package. It features a high-performance, all-CORBA communications infrastructure, where a general-purpose processor (GPP), DSP, and FPGA all communicate through a standards-based middleware, allowing a greater level of portability and ease of development. Lyrtech's [SCA platform](#) is the first to support a logic-implemented object request broker (ORB) on a Xilinx FPGA.

[Floating Point FFT IP-Core Lands on Scalable Video Platform from Sundance](#)

Give FFT development a flying start with a high-powered FFT core and matching Virtex-4 FX FPGA USB-based development system.

In the Press

Customers Building Products with Virtex FPGAs

[AKA Packages FPGA With Processors](#)

The PRISM 300 includes a 667MHz AMCC 440EPs, Xilinx Spartan-3E FPGA with 30K LUTs, 32Mbytes of FPGA SDRAM, 1Gbyte of processor DDR2 SDRAM, and 1Gbyte of NAND flash.

Signal Processing Card Combines DSP, FPGA on a Single-width AMC

The AMC-D4F1 is designed around four TMS320C6455 DSPs from TI running at 1 GHz and a Virtex-4 FX100 series FPGA from Xilinx. The AMC-D4F1 is based on the AdvancedMC embedded standard, making it suitable for MicroTCA, as well as AdvancedTCA systems.

Partner Solutions for Virtex Design

XJTAG v2.0 Boundary Scan System Sets New Standard for PCB Debug and Test

XJTAG 2.0 has a number of new features, including automated JTAG chain discovery and set-up, a built-in netlist explorer, optimized memory test, and real-time design for test (DFT) coverage tracking. It also includes a growing library of device-centric test scripts, improved integration with LabVIEW, and support for Xilinx's Virtex-5 FPGA System Monitor.

Innovative Integration Delivers New PCI Express Module

The new X5-210M XMC IO module features four 14-bit 210 MSPS A/Ds with a Virtex-5 FPGA computing core, DRAM and SRAM memory, and eight lane PCI Express[®] host interface. The combination of the Xilinx Virtex-5 LX110T (SX95T when available) FPGA with 512MB DDR2 DRAM and 4MB QDR-II memory results in a high-performance DSP core for demanding applications such as emerging wireless standards.

FPGA Design Solutions from Xilinx

Xilinx is Expanding Our Titanium Dedicated Engineering Service

Titanium engineers bring expertise in such key areas as embedded integration, performance optimization, timing closure, architectural design, debug, and tool usage.

X Marks the CPLD Spot: CoolRunner-II Starter Kit (HW-CRII-SK-G), Only \$49

To help engineers learn more about the low-cost, low-power CoolRunner-II family, the kit provides a XC2C256 CPLD mounted on an X-shaped board that includes I/O pins on small headers. The kit supplies a USB programming cable, a resources CD-ROM, a DVD of development tools and three small I/O boards that furnish four switches, two seven-segment digital displays, and a PS-2 keyboard input.

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