



## Xilinx Platform Newsletter, October 2007

### Top Story

#### [Great Deals on Spartan-3 Generation FPGA Starter and Development Kits](#)

##### – Get Yours Today!

Spartan™-3 Generation FPGAs deliver world-class cost-optimized solutions for high-volume applications. Get up and running quickly with complete kits that are designed for easy development with solution-optimized FPGA devices. For a limited time, we are offering discounts of up to 20% on selected kits. Time is running out, so act now!

#### Spartan-3 Generation FPGA Starter Kits

- **Spartan-3A DSP 1800A Starter Platform: — Only \$295.00 - New!!**
  - DSP platform for signal processing designs
- **Spartan-3AN Starter Kit — ~~\$239.00~~ \$225.00**
  - Non-volatile FPGA
- **Spartan-3E Starter Kit — Only \$149.00**
  - Logic-optimized device
- **Spartan-3A Starter Kit — \$225.00**
  - I/O-optimized device
- **Spartan-3 Starter Kit — Only \$149.00**
  - High density plus high I/O requirements



#### Spartan-3 Generation FPGA Development Kits

- **Spartan-3A DDR2 Interface Development Kit— ~~\$235.00~~ \$200.00**
  - DDR2 support at 133 MHz
- **Spartan-3 PCIe Development Kit — ~~\$349.00~~ \$315.00**
  - PCIe® connectivity
- **Spartan-3E Display Development Kit — ~~\$1,595.00~~ \$1,280.00**
  - Digital display image processing for next generation digital TVs and displays
- **Automotive ECU Development Kit — Only \$1495.00 - New!!**
  - Build in vehicle intelligence such as driver assistance, in-vehicle networking, and infotainment

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### Quick Update

[Spartan-3A/3AN Device DNA Security Demo—Download for Your Protection!](#)

Cloning, tampering, reverse engineering, and overbuilding drive the need for better design security. The Device DNA unique identifier in each Spartan-3A/3AN FPGA is a key ingredient to keep your designs safe against security breaches. Get this *FREE* bitstream and download it into your Spartan-3A/3AN Starter Kit to see how easily Device DNA technology can be used to implement a low-cost security solution for high volume applications.

### [New Reference Design for DDR2-400 \(200 MHz\) SDRAM Memory Interfaces in Spartan-3A FPGAs](#)

High-performance consumer products and their requirements for low-cost, high-bandwidth memory create demand for high performance DDR2 memory interfaces. The design has been tested on the Spartan-3A FPGA Starter Kit Board with a -5 speed grade device.

### [Dr. Howard Johnson Talks About Virtex-5 FPGAs](#)

In this new video series the acclaimed design consultant and signal integrity expert delivers an introduction to the the Virtex™-5 family and explores how their system-level capabilities address design challenges.

### [New Webcast--Software Defined Radio: Enabling Defense Communication](#)

Learn about system-level solutions for rapid development and deployment of SDR products that meet demanding SWAP-C goals. Enabled by high-performance Virtex platform FPGAs, with built-in DSP and PowerPC™ processor blocks, and Spartan-3 FPGAs to address small-form factor applications, these solutions also include powerful development tools, DSP libraries, and SDR development kits to help shrink design cycles.

## Development Tools

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### **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. Evaluation installations are now available as a free download.

Download the [ISE Foundation 9.2i Evaluation](#) for these performance and productivity boosting benefits:

- Timing closure without floorplanning
- Improved pre-routing delay estimation enabling upstream tools to optimize true critical path
- Leveraging of the Virtex-5 diagonally symmetric interconnect to minimize routing delay
- Support for 6LUT architecture for improved performance, power, and utilization
- Physical synthesis optimizations

## Design Tips

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### [Cost-effective Two-dimensional Rank-order Filters on FPGAs](#)

This article presents an architecture that lends itself well to area and performance trade-offs in high-performance FPGAs.

### [Design for Less with CPLD BOM \(Bill-Of-Materials\) Consolidator](#)

Download the *FREE* Xilinx CPLD BOM Consolidator tool and see how many components you can replace with a CPLD. The tool also shows the cost and area savings.

## Education

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### [Titanium Dedicated Engineering](#)

Receive 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.

### **XES: Xilinx Education Services**

- [Designing a LogiCORE™ PCI Express System](#)

Learn how to complete designs faster and more easily when building PCI Express® interfaces when using IP from Xilinx.

- [Designing with PlanAhead Software](#)

This course focuses on how you can increase design performance and achieve repeatable results with the PlanAhead™ software tool.

- [Introduction to AccelDSP Synthesis Tool](#)

Learn how to synthesize an algorithm written in MATLAB® into a design optimized for a Xilinx FPGA. We cover how to use the floating-to-fixed point and design exploration features of the AccelDSP™ Synthesis Tool to achieve maximum results

- ... **and much more.** [Visit Xilinx Education Services \(XES\) to get details and register.](#)

## Partner Spotlight

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### [Nu Horizons XpressTrack Customer Workshops](#)

The fall series of customer workshops includes classes on MicroBlaze and embedded PowerPC design, introduction to serial communications, and fundamentals of FPGAs.

### [Synplicity and Xilinx Host Worldwide Seminar Series: Accelerating ASIC Verification Using High-density FPGAs](#)

Learn about industry-leading design and verification methodologies and receive valuable information on using FPGA-based prototyping to save time and money on current or future design projects

### [Jump-start Digital Video Development with a Fully-expandable USB-based System](#)

This starter platform is tailored for digital video development, with three Virtex-4 FX-60 devices, a couple of DSPs, and heaps expansion options, from digital camera interfaces to ADCs, DACs and radio systems.

### [CERN Particle Accelerator is Being Upgraded...](#)

...with a system based on 16 Alpha Data ACP-FX/FX100 analog capture cards to measure the speed and position of the particle beam.

### [DMA Engine for PCIe Interfaces with Virtex-5 FPGAs](#)

New from PLDA, the EZ DMA controller IP supports the PCI Express® endpoint blocks built into Virtex-5 LXT and SXT devices for building x1, x4, and x8 lane interface.

## In the Press

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### ***Customers Building Products with Virtex FPGAs***

#### [XMC IO Module Features Two 14-bit 400 MSPS A/D, DAC Channels](#)

The X5-400M ezzanine I/O module features a Virtex-5 FPGA-based computing core and PCI Express host interface on a standard XMC module for demanding applications such as emerging wireless standards. The close integration of the analog I/O, memory and host interface with the FPGA enables real-time signal processing at rates exceeding 300 GMACs per second.

#### [Tear Down: Handheld Phone/PC Offers Full-size Laptop Features](#)

Components used in the HTC Advantage X7500 PocketPC phone include a pair of Xilinx CoolRunner™-II (2C128) CPLDs on the board to handle some of the control and glue logic.

### ***Partner Solutions for Virtex Design***

#### [Synplicity Launches Newest Addition to the HAPS ASIC Prototyping System](#)

The HAPS-51 leverages the Xilinx Virtex-5 LX330, the industry's largest FPGA, and on-board memory to deliver faster ASIC verification.

#### [VMETRO Serial FPDP IP Core Supports Xilinx Virtex-5 FPGAs](#)

VMETRO has expanded the use of its Serial FPDP IP core to support Xilinx Virtex-5 FPGA-based products utilizing RocketIO™ GTP multi-gigabit serial transceivers. The combination of VMETRO's hardware and the sFPDP IP core provides high-performance, highly integrated solutions for both front panel optical and VITA-41 (VXS) backplane interconnects.

## ***FPGA Design Solutions from Xilinx***

### [MPEG4 AVC/H.264 Encoder Leverages Virtex-5 FPGAs](#)

This high definition (HD) real-time MPEG4 AVC/H.264 encoder product leverages the high-performance features of Virtex-5 FPGAs. The product is based on ATEME's HD H.264 encoding platform, suitable for markets such as IPTV and satellite broadcast that require video quality at the low bit rates.

### [Xilinx Announces New Low-cost, High-performance DSP Development Platform](#)

The XtremeDSP™ Solutions Starter Platform, Spartan-3A DSP 1800A FPGA Edition, includes a VGA port for developing video processing algorithms, an Ethernet 10/100/1000 PHY, as well as an RS-232 port for simple communications with a remote console. It is designed to implement complete applications such as portable medical ultrasound, video surveillance, and mobile software defined radio systems.

### [X Marks the CPLD Spot](#)

Xilinx, well known for its FPGAs, also produces CPLDs that include the CoolRunner-II family of low-cost low-power devices. The company offers a nice kit for engineers interested in its CoolRunner CPLDs and familiar with VHDL.

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