

EMBEDDED TIDBITS

By Mark Long {8/21/00-04}

◆ SYNOPSIS ANNOUNCES POWERQUICC-II PROCESSOR CO-VERIFICATION TOOLS

EDA tools developer Synopsys Inc. has announced the availability of its CrossLink 8260 hardware/software co-verification product, which the company says accurately models the complete peripheral set for Motorola's PowerQUICC-II MPC8260 communications processor (see [MPR 9/14/98-02](#), "MPC 8260 Masters Network Control"). According to Synopsys, CrossLink provides coverage of all peripheral behaviors and supports software execution at typical instruction-set simulator speeds of 100,000 to 200,000 instructions per second. These results can be achieved by combining hardware modeling technology for all the peripherals with the Synopsys EagleI co-verification tool set for the processor core. CrossLink also supports all the debugging features included in Synopsys EagleI.

Synopsys CrossLink is currently available under a perpetual license pricing structure that starts at \$24,000. The first available model is for the Motorola MPC8260, with the MPC860 version following in the near future. For more information: www.synopsys.com/products/crosslink/crosslink_ds.pdf.

◆ TASKING RELEASES TRICORE TOOL SUITE

Tasking has announced the release of TriCore Tool Suite V1.1r2 for system development, using the latest version of the 32-bit TriCore unified processor core (see [MPR 11/17/97-03](#), "Siemens TriCore Revives CISC Techniques") and standard products based on merged MCU/DSP architecture. TriCore Tool Suite provides support for the TC1775 automotive controller and an enhanced TriCore Assembler to support the TriCore V1.3's improved peripheral control processor (PCP2), floating-point unit, and memory-management unit.

TriCore Tool Suite includes Tasking's Embedded Development Environment, optimized C and C++/EC++ compilers, and CrossView Pro debugger, along with various

code-generation optimizations, support for bit data types, and eased Linker/Locator configuration. Tasking also reports that it has enhanced the analytical capabilities of its CrossView Pro debugger to enable it to work with a cycle-accurate TriCore instruction-set simulator.

Available now for Windows 95/98/NT and Sun/Solaris platforms, Tasking TriCore Tool Suite V1.1r2 starts at \$3,900 for the C and C++/EC++ compiler tools. For more information: www.tasking.com.

◆ INTRINSYC AND MONTAVISTA FORM ALLIANCE

Vancouver-based Intrinsic Software, Inc., has announced a strategic alliance with MontaVista Software Inc., of Sunnyvale, California, under which the two companies will develop for the Internet appliance market Linux-based embedded systems that will target information/navigation systems, smart phones, and other wireless devices. The agreement combines MontaVista's "Hard Hat" Linux operating system for x86, PowerPC, StrongARM, MIPS, and other microprocessor architectures with related products and services from Intrinsic, such as its Internet appliance reference platform based on the StrongARM 1110 microprocessor. For more information: www.mvista.com.

◆ IBM PREVIEWS LINUX WRISTWATCH

IBM researchers have designed a 1.5-ounce wristwatch that can communicate wirelessly with PCs, cell phones, and other wireless-enabled devices. Called a "smart watch," the 56mm-wide device contains a processor running the Linux 2.2 OS along with 8MB of flash memory and another 8MB of dynamic RAM.

Through the combined use of a touch-sensitive screen and a roller wheel, the wearer can access condensed email messages, a calendar, an address book, and various to-do list functions, as well as view pager-like messages. Future enhancements to the world's tiniest wearable computer are expected to include a high-resolution screen and applications

that will allow the watch to be used as an access device for various Internet-based services.

According to IBM, the use of Linux in small pervasive devices like the smart watch will make it relatively easy for students, researchers, and software companies to add their own features and develop unique applications. For now, however, the watch is a technology demonstrator only. IBM has announced no plans to create a product based on the Linux watch.

◆ MACKIE DESIGNS ACQUIRES ACUMA LABS

Audio equipment manufacturer Mackie Designs Inc. has announced completion of its purchase of Acuma Labs Ltd., a developer of real-time embedded systems for professional audio applications. Based in Victoria, Canada, Acuma Labs specializes in digital-signal processors, microprocessors, digital audio effects, analog and digital software, real-time operating systems, interfaces, and hardware design. For more information: www.mackie.com. ◆

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