NEWS RELEASE

Toshiba Uses Forte Cynthesizer to Accelerate Completion of H.264 Multimedia Design

Forte Named Key Supplier in Toshiba's MeP C-based Design Flow

San Jose, Calif. – January 23, 2006 - Forte Design Systems today announced that Toshiba Corporation has completed an advanced multimedia H.264 design using Forte's Cynthesizer SystemC behavioral synthesis product. In addition, Toshiba has selected Cynthesizer as a key product in its R-Cube™ C-based methodology, developed to significantly reduce time-to-market for Toshiba's multimedia SoC.

Toshiba designed its H.264 image processing hardware using ANSI-C++ and SystemC. The high-level design code was then processed by Forte's Cynthesizer, which quickly generated multiple RTL implementations. Each implementation was specifically targeted for Toshiba's SoC design process, resulting in reduced downstream problems with logic synthesis and layout. By designing at a higher level of abstraction and using Cynthesizer to automate the RTL implementation, Toshiba was able to reduce its overall design time by significantly reducing time-to-RTL, improving verification performance, and removing downstream synthesis and backend issues while maintaining high quality of results.

Forte's position as the industry-leading behavioral synthesis provider, along with their repeated production design successes at Toshiba and other major semiconductor and systems vendors, were key factors in Toshiba's decision to select Cynthesizer for the R-Cube design methodology. This new endorsement augments Forte's selection as a key supplier for Toshiba's Media embedded Processor (MeP) SoC design platform flow in 2006.

"Reducing the time from algorithms to specific SoC implementations is a critical factor for Toshiba's MeP SoC platform," said Tohru Furuyama, Ph.D., general manager, SoC research & development center, Semiconductor Company, Toshiba Corporation. "Cynthesizer's ability to rapidly produce multiple high-quality RTL implementations from a single C++ source makes it a critical factor in our new R-Cube high-level design flow. Our success with Cynthesizer in the H.264 design clearly demonstrates that a C-based design flow is not only viable but fundamental as we move to 90nm and beyond."

"We're extremely proud of the recent success at Toshiba on such a complex design," said Brett Cline, vice president of Forte's customer operations and services group. "Cynthesizer is providing a tremendous competitive edge to design teams at Toshiba by allowing them to accomplish more in less time, while improving their quality of results."

About Forte Cynthesizer

Forte's Cynthesizer significantly reduces the time needed to create complex chips and systems by automatically generating high-quality RTL designs from high-level algorithms. Cynthesizer is silicon-proven with uncompromising quality of results that often exceed hand-coded RTL. It is the only behavioral synthesis product that offers designers a complete environment including synthesis, verification, and co-simulation. Cynthesizer is currently in production at 15 of the world's leading semiconductor and systems companies worldwide.

About Forte Design Systems

Forte Design Systems is a leading provider of software products that enable design at a higher level of abstraction. Forte's innovative behavioral synthesis technology allows design teams creating complex electronic systems from algorithmic designs using ASICs, FPGAs, and SoCs to significantly reduce their overall design and verification time. Forte is headquartered at 100 Century Center Court, San Jose, CA 95112. For more information, visit http://www.ForteDS.com.

For more information, contact:

Brett Cline
Forte Design Systems
978-264-1855
brett@ForteDS.com

Gloria Nichols
Launch Marketing
650-851-6919
gloria@launchm.com

###