

Analog Skills Initiative Newsletter - August 2006

www.sli-institute.ac.uk/industry/asi_analog.htm



Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly Analog Skills Initiative (ASI) Newsletter. This has been forwarded to you as you have previously expressed an interest in analog and/or mixed signal design in Scotland.

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The Analog Skills Initiative (ASI) is supported by Scottish Enterprise to **promote growth** and **support analogue and mixed-signal design in Scotland**. Developed in consultation with the Electronics Community and delivered by the Institute for System Level Integration (iSLI) and The University of Edinburgh the ASI aims to:

- Increase the number of undergraduates choosing analog design as a career opportunity
- Develop course materials to help new graduates cope with the transition between leaving University and starting work
- Create a focus for professional development activities for analog design engineers

Find out more at: www.sli-institute.ac.uk/industry/asi_analog.htm

Current ASI News

- An [ASI website](#) has been developed to provide a focus for information on the ASI activities and to link to other activities of interest to the Analog and wider Electronics Community. The site is operational and to date contains useful links to training events, university research groups and a wide range of industrial resources in the field of analog and mixed signal design.
- ASI is steered by an Industrial Advisory Panel which holds quarterly meetings. The latest meeting (June) was attended by representatives from Allegro Microsystems, Elonics, National Semiconductor, Thales Optronics and Wolfson Microelectronics. Core discussions centred on preparations for the introduction of new analog design training at Edinburgh University for undergraduates.

The revised training comprises a new module for 4th year undergraduates which features:

- Simulation of analog integrated circuit performance followed by build and test of circuits, comparing actual to predicted performance. This uses an analog teaching chip developed by the ASI to support this module. The chip allows students to characterise performance and construct larger circuits from smaller components. These sub-circuits include current mirrors, DACs, cascodes, band-gap references, differential stages and op amps.
- The introduction of new and enhanced analog lectures to support the practical aspects of the course.

The module is due to start in October 2006 with possible future extension to other universities.

More information can be found on the ASI website at:

http://www.sli-institute.ac.uk/industry/asi_university_teaching.htm.

- More routes allowing undergraduates to gain industrial experience are needed. The [STEP](#) scheme is one possible mechanism to support this. Encouraged by Scottish Enterprise the [STEP](#) organisation is currently speaking to local electronics companies about their scheme and assessing the availability of analogue electronics work placements.

Participation in ASI

If you wish to discuss analog related topics please feel free to speak with any of our contacts or use our [Discussion Board](#) and if you want to get involved in our industry panel and help steer this initiative please register your interest with [Iain MacFadyen](#).

Next Issue

- Plans for "Tec Talks" and industrial lectures plus YOUR FEEDBACK!!

Analog-related CPD Courses at iSLI

The range of upcoming analog related CPD courses at iSLI are:

Course	Trainer	Date
Analog Test Fundamentals	Prof A Richardson	Sep 11-13
Power and Voltage Management	Richard Redl	Sep 26-27
CMOS/BiCMOS Analog IC	Prof Philip Allen	Oct 23-27

ASI Contacts:

For further general enquiries please use the following form:

http://www.sli-institute.ac.uk/industry/asi_enquiries_and_feedback.htm

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