



Press Release

iSLI's EngD Researchers co-operate with Algotronix on IET award winning product

Algotronix has recently won the Electronics category at the IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology) Innovation Awards for DesignTag™, and in the same week the NMI (National Microelectronics Institute) award as Emerging Technology Company of the Year. DesignTag is a unique product identification system consisting of a small IP core tag which is added to a chip or FPGA design. Scanner software can then detect the tag through the chip package and provide information on the tagged product based on the tag's unique code.

The DesignTag™ product is based on research carried out in co-operation with EngD Researchers from iSLI, Institute for System Level Integration, and the University of Strathclyde. Algotronix, a U.K. based supplier of technical due diligence on semiconductor companies and a vendor of silicon IP, is a supporter of EngD research at iSLI. Dr Tom Kean, Managing Director of Algotronix, sponsored Carol Marsh, last year's Elektra Award winning Student Engineer of the Year, who has been studying for an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) in System Level Integration at iSLI. Carol, together with fellow EngD Researcher from iSLI, David McLaren, has been researching the electronic tagging of integrated circuits, IP cores and FPGA designs and focusing on the detection of fraudulent activity to provide reliable product and version identification.

Dr Tom Kean, Managing Director of Algotronix comments, "These awards prove that innovation is alive and well in UK industry and Universities. It also highlights that a small, highly focused team can work co-operatively to produce winning technology."

Marsh and McLaren's EngD research produced circuit designs for several variants of the DesignTag™ which were demonstrated with great success at last year's Design Automation Conference in San Diego and at the Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems Conference in Vienna.

Tony Harker, CEO of iSLI comments, "We are delighted with the success of the research produced by Carol and David for Algotronix. It is a great achievement and endorses the benefits of the Engineering Doctorate, not only to students but to sponsoring companies. It's an ideal way for people already in industry to train whilst earning, to further their education in the field, and provides sponsors with access to cutting edge research, academic expertise and IP ownership."



The four year EngD programme at iSLI places emphasis on research within an industrial context. Students, known as Research Engineers, combine a research project with accredited technical and business training, based with a UK sponsoring company. The EngD is the ideal opportunity for both employers and students to engage in a mutually beneficial relationship. Investment in collaborative projects with iSLI can not only open opportunities to the best science and engineering graduates and postgraduates, but also facilitate the path for future business innovation and success as proven with the Algotronix DesignTag™.

For more information about iSLI or Algotronix, please visit www.sli-institute.ac.uk and www.algotronix.com.

ENDS

Editors' notes:

iSLI

Founded in 1998, iSLI (the Institute for System Level Integration) provides postgraduate education, professional training and research in system level integration incorporating cross over technologies such as hardware, embedded software, MNT/MEMS.

A collaboration of the computing science, informatics and electronic engineering departments of the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde, and Scottish Enterprise, the Institute is the first centre of excellence in system level integration to be established worldwide. Its aim is to support the development of electronics systems design worldwide and to encourage the exploration of new technologies through research.

iSLI's operations are underpinned by funding from Scottish Enterprise, UK Central Research and HE funding agencies, and substantial sponsorship funding, including "expert in-kind support" from companies in the microelectronics industry.

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Algotronix

Since 1998 Algotronix has established itself as the leading independent source of expertise in programmable logic architecture and silicon implementation for venture capitalists, law firms and startup companies. In 2005 Algotronix provided technical due diligence on closed deals with a value in excess of \$300M.

While operating as a service company between 1998 and 2004 Algotronix developed proprietary IP cores for cryptographic applications and filed a number of patent applications on digital rights management for FPGA bitstreams.

Since 2005 Algotronix has been actively marketing its proprietary cryptographic IP core products and is focussing on growing this part of its business.



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