



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **iSLI Makes Available Industry-Standard, Electronic Design Software to Startups in Scotland**

**Livingston, Scotland, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006** – the Institute for System Level Integration (iSLI) has partnered with Cre8Ventures to provide free access to Mentor Graphics’ leading edge Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software to startups in an incubator style environment.

The move is a natural step in the development of iSLI’s Centre of Excellence for electronic design in Scotland. It will aid entrepreneurs of the fabless semiconductor design community to commercialise ideas by providing access to sophisticated design tools for the prototyping stage of their business. The software will be hosted at iSLI’s Alba Centre campus where there is already close collaboration with Scottish Enterprise and The Alba Innovation Centre to provide support services to indigenous companies.

“Startups and SME’s are critical elements of the electronics design industry and the iSLI is strongly motivated to help stimulate their development,” commented Tony Harker, CEO, iSLI. “We are creating a software hub providing access to a variety of leading edge design tools within an incubator like environment. My aim is to eliminate one of the significant cost barriers facing semiconductor entrepreneurs from realizing their ambitions, through the provision of software resources. I hope this move will be key to attracting world class engineers to create a self fulfilling, startup eco-system here in Scotland.”

Startups are increasingly challenged to prove their ideas by the venture capital community before funding is released. Providing industry standard design tools at the onset of a startups life enables individuals to progress prototype designs at the same rate as their commercially successful competition. This is an important step in de-risking the early stage process.

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“We are impressed with iSLI’s position in the electronic systems design community and their vision to provide the collaboration between industry and academia.”, Carson Bradbury, Director of Cre8Ventures. “Mentor Graphics Cre8Ventures’ initiative is very active with startups at each stage of their life-cycle so we understand the pain barriers they experience. Supporting iSLI with software is one way we can help fledglings in the industry. Of course, as these start-ups tackle their routes-to-funding and routes-to-market challenges there will be opportunity for them to access Cre8Ventures’ private network of industry hardened, semiconductor leaders for advice and support.”

### **About iSLI**

Founded in 1998, the Institute for System Level Integration is the world’s first centre of excellence to concentrate on postgraduate education and research in the methodology and applications of system-on-chip design, system level integration and related technologies.

The Institute is an academic collaborative venture of four of the UK’s leading universities: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde, and with links to Lancaster and Paisley Universities. ISLI draws on the academic expertise of the university departments of computer science, electronic and electrical engineering and informatics. The objective of the Institute’s activities is to produce highly skilled design engineers and researchers to meet the needs of the rapidly changing global semiconductor industry.

Industrial collaboration critical to the Institute’s success is a key element for all ISLI’s teaching and research. Excellent links with industry ensure that the Institute has access to the latest design tools, state of the art facilities via industrial collaboration, and dedicated information systems. Funding for ISLI is underpinned by a financial commitment from Scottish Enterprise, Scotland’s economic development agency.

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### **About Cre8Ventures and Mentor Graphics**

Cre8Ventures, a start-up focused initiative of Mentor Graphics, accelerates electronic design start-up’s ability to turn ideas into innovative products.

[www.cre8Ventures.com](http://www.cre8Ventures.com)

Mentor Graphics Corporation (Nasdaq: MENT) is a world leader in electronic hardware and software design solutions, providing products, consulting services and award-winning support for the world's most successful electronics and semiconductor companies. Established in 1981, the company reported revenues over the last 12 months of over \$700 million and employs approximately 4,000 people worldwide. Corporate headquarters are located at 8005 S.W. Boeckman Road, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070-7777. [www.mentor.com](http://www.mentor.com).

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