Tektronix acquires CAE

Tektronix has announced it will acquire CAE Systems, subject, at press time, to a number of conditions including the negotiation of a formal agreement and formal approval by the two companies.

Privately held CAE has about 140 employees and is based in Sunnyvale, California. The company offers design-capture and design-verification capability with its CAE 2000 software that runs on Apollo and Sun workstations, and on Digital Equipment’s Vax super-minicomputers.

Tektronix, a slow starter in the CAE business, clearly sees its acquisition of CAE as a major step in its ambition to be among the leaders. Outbidding rival buyers, rumored to include Hewlett-Packard, Gould, Lockheed, and Perkin-Elmer, Tektronix is said to have paid $75 million for CAE’s know-how and product line.

Tektronix sees the combination of its test and measurement capabilities with its own and CAE’s software expertise as the basis for a powerful solution to design problems for electronics systems designers. The company says, “The market now demands a full-fledged database that can serve as the foundation for integration of other tools. CAE Systems provides a way to offer that critical link to our (Tektronix’s) customers. We are fully committed to being a leader in this exciting and high-growth CAE market.”

The company believes that the acquisition of CAE gives it an immediate market presence.

Tektronix plans to port CAE software to the 6000 family of workstations. The integration of CAE software with layout software products from Tektronix’s VR Information Systems subsidiary and applications software from the company’s Design Systems Division is said to provide a comprehensive line of integrated CAE tools.

Gateway Design Automation specializes in CAD tools

Gateway Design Automation Corp., located in Littleton, Massachusetts, was incorporated in August 1982 with Prabhu Goel as its president. Goel has nine years of technical and management experience at IBM and Wang. Co-founders are Barry Rosales, formerly of IBM; Philip Moorbry, formerly of Cirrus Computers and the principal architect of HILO-2 and a key contributor to HITEST; and Chi-Lai Huang, an expert in the automation of logic synthesis. Both Goel and Rosales received IBM Outstanding Innovation Awards while at IBM.

Gateway offers a number of products and services in CAD software for design verification and testing of very large digital circuits contained on LSI/VLSI chips or on complex cards and boards. Its Verilog integrates the capabilities of behavioral-level languages such as N2, register-transfer-level languages such as ISP, gate-level languages such as Tegas-V, and switch-level languages such as BIMOS. Verilog provides symbolic debugging facilities for the designer to find design errors at all levels of digital design description.

Other CAD tools include AIDSSIM, for interactive logic and concurrent fault simulation at the gate/switch level; AIDSTG, for generation of integrated tests based on the scan design discipline; and PCLIB, a gate-level model library for most of SSI/MSI integrated circuits.

GDA is privately financed. By July 1984, its second year sales rose to $600,000 from the first year sales of $60,000. Additional information can be obtained from Gateway Design Automation Corp., PO Box 1545, 235 Great Rd., Littleton, MA 01460; (617) 486-9701.

IMP selects Robinson director of customer tooling

International Microelectronic Products appointed Marc Robinson as the director of its customer tooling business. Robinson will report to Zvi Grinias, senior vice president of business groups and will be responsible for all aspects of the silicon foundry business at IMP.

Most recently Robinson was with Advanced Micro Devices as operations manager for its MOS ATD fabrication area and manager of planning and administration for corporate technology. Before coming to AMD, he held management and technical positions in American Microsystems, Inc., Monolithic Memories, National Semiconductor, and AT&T Technologies.

Robinson holds a BS in physics from the Cooper Union in New York City and an MS in physics from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. IMP, headquartered in San Jose, California, designs and manufactures standard cell-based CMOS VLSI circuits and offers 3- and 5-micron CMOS and NMOS processes.

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