D&T editor forms self-test company

Richard Sedmak, Test Technology editor for IEEE Design & Test magazine, founded Self-Test Services in February this year to provide the commercial and defense electronics industries with management and technical services related to built-in self-test, fault tolerance, and system availability, reliability, and maintainability.

Self-Test Services provides analysis and consulting services to companies that produce chips, boards, and systems. The company offers a series of seminars that are presented periodically in major cities and can be given internally within client companies. In addition, STS undertakes specific research projects for its clients.

Before forming STS, Sedmak was a vice president at BITE, Inc., where he performed built-in self-testing work for the defense industry and the Department of Defense. Prior to that he spent more than 12 years at Sperry Univac in research and development activities related to VLSI technology, as well as computer systems and logic design.

A well-known figure in the industry, in addition to serving on the Design & Test editorial board, Sedmak is the founder and chairman of the annual IEEE Built-In Self-Test Workshop and is a member of the International Test Conference program committee.

Schach named IEEE D&T managing editor

Mickey C. Schach has been named managing editor of IEEE Design & Test of Computers, according to True Seaborn, editor and publisher.

Schach was appointed last May after serving as assistant editor for the Computer Society’s IEEE Computer magazine. Previously, she was associate editor of two biomedical publications and editorial department supervisor at Quest Publishing Company.

Prior to her position at Quest, Schach worked for five years as a newspaper reporter, most recently on the staff of the Daily News Tribune (Fullerton, California). As a reporter, she won numerous awards for journalistic excellence, including first place honors from United Press International for an in-depth series.

Schach has also been a freelance writer on medical and computer topics; her work has appeared in such publications as Micro Discovery and Teaching, Learning, Computing, as well as in several newspapers. She has also edited and consulted for manuscripts, newsletters, and technical documentation.

NCR and SDL sign technology exchange agreement

NCR's microelectronics division and Silicon Design Labs have announced a technology exchange agreement. NCR will gain access to SDL's silicon compilation technology, while SDL will acquire CMOS expertise and technology from NCR. The companies will develop products and services incorporating both technologies for their respective markets.

In making the announcement, NCR claims to be the largest manufacturer of integrated circuits in the merchant standard-cell market in the US, while Silicon Design Labs claims to be a leader in silicon compilation technology.

"This represents an important milestone for Silicon Design Labs," said Dick Gossen, chief executive officer of SDL. "NCR is the leading vendor of standard cells in the market today and among the most forward-looking in terms of design technologies for the future. We believe that standard cell techniques will quickly and easily be extended into silicon compilation through the technology we can provide. Having NCR as a customer and ally will reinforce the market positions of both companies.''

"After evaluating other options for providing silicon compilation to our customers, we have elected to work with SDL because their approach to the market and technology most closely aligns with our own plans and needs," said Sam Brown, director of semicustom at NCR Microelectronics. "We are convinced that their silicon compilation technology, combined with NCR's process and service expertise, will continue to provide the market advantage NCR has established in the standard-cell market."

Neither company has any immediate plans for new products or services based on the technology exchange agreement.

Correction

Dorothy Varian wrote The Inventor and the Pilot. The wrong author was listed on page 78 of Carolyn Tajnai's article, "Fred Terman, the Father of Silicon Valley," which appeared in the April issue of D&T.