

For more information, contact:

Brett Cline
Forte Design Systems
978-264-1855
brett@ForteDS.com

Gloria Nichols
Launch Marketing
650-851-6919
gloria@launchm.com

Forte Design Systems Raises \$9 Million in Series B Funding

Forte Positioned for Leadership in Rapidly Emerging High Level Design Segment of EDA

April 29, 2003 -- San Jose, CA -- Forte Design Systems, Inc., a leading provider of electronic design automation (EDA) software for semiconductors and electronic systems, today announced it has raised \$9 million in Series B financing. The company will use the new financing to introduce its innovative family of high level synthesis tools that automate the design of systems, dramatically shortening design, exploration, implementation, and verification cycles.

This investment round was led by 3i US, and also included prior investors Infinity Capital and US Venture Partners, as well as a number of previous angel investors. David Silverman, partner of 3i US will join Forte's Board of Directors.

"Our company's mission is to accelerate and improve electronic system design by automating more of the high-level design process, resulting in increased productivity and higher-performance designs," said Jacob Jacobsson, Forte's president and CEO. "Our initial focus is on behavioral synthesis, where we will offer customers significant advantages in time-to RTL and overall design productivity."

"Forte continues to lead in the development of behavioral synthesis tools to reign in escalating system design costs, project delays and risks that plague today's development," said David Silverman, partner at 3i US. "3i believes Forte's solution represents a next strategic growth area for EDA."

Support for existing products

In conjunction with the financing, the company has created the Chronology Division of Forte Design Systems. The Chronology Division's mission is to ensure continued development, marketing, and support for Forte's original product lines including the industry leading TimingDesigner product. As an external focal point for this division, the company has set up a dedicated web site for new and existing customers at www.TimingDesigner.com.

About Forte Design Systems

Forte Design Systems is a leading provider of software products that enable design at a higher-level of abstraction. Forte's innovative behavioral synthesis technology allows design teams creating complex electronic systems from algorithmic designs using ASICs, FPGAs, and SoCs to significantly reduce their overall design and verification time. Forte is headquartered at 100 Century Center Court, San Jose, CA 95112. For more information, visit us at www.ForteDS.com or see us at the 40th Design Automation Conference in Anaheim June 2-5 in booth #1977.

About 3i

3i is a leading international venture capital company with U.S. offices in Menlo Park, CA and Waltham, MA. Operating since 1945, 3i has invested worldwide over \$23 billion, including co-investment funds, with a total staff of 800 employees operating out of over 30 offices in 16 countries. 3i leverages this worldwide presence to add value to its portfolio companies and investment partners. In the United States, 3i concentrates on early and late stage technology investments in companies with the potential to be leaders in their markets. Outside the USA, 3i invests broadly in private equity and venture capital.

Since opening its US businesses in 1999, 3i has become one of the most active early and late stage VCs in the US. Recent investments in early stage companies include SiGe Semiconductors, Cometa Networks, Bitfone, Knowmadic, Sonim and OmniGuide. Recent late stage investments include Placeware, AppShop, Top Layer and SCP. Visit 3i and its portfolio at www.3ius.com.

About Infinity Capital

Infinity Capital (www.infinityllc.com) is an early stage venture capital firm focused on building companies in the software, communications, semiconductors, and services sectors. With \$400 million under management and investments in over sixty companies, the Infinity Capital investment managers have created value in leading-edge technology companies such as Ambit (acquired by Cadence), E.piphany, LightLogic (acquired by Intel), and Amber Networks (acquired by Nokia).

About US Venture Partners

U.S. Venture Partners (www.USVP.com) is a leading Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm dedicated to helping entrepreneurs build companies that are leaders in their industry. USVP focuses on early stage opportunities in sectors where the Partners have the domain expertise, operating experience and network of relationships to provide meaningful contribution to the success of the enterprise. These sectors include digital communications and networking systems, internet and eCommerce infrastructure, semiconductors and optical components, enterprise and technical software, and medical devices and biopharmaceuticals.

Since its inception in 1981, USVP has raised more than \$2.5 billion in eight funds. USVP partners have been the lead investors in such notable industry leaders as Sun Microsystems, where USVP was the founding seed investor, Check Point Software Technologies, Artisan Components, AMCC, CADMOS (acquired by Cadence), EPIC Design (acquired by Synopsys), PDF Solutions (PDFS), and Stratacom/Cisco, in the information technology sectors, and Amgen, where USVP founding partner Bill Bowes was the founding seed investor.