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Forte Design Systems Announces Free SystemC Training

On-line introductory course to train designers investigating high-level design methodologies

May 13, 2003 -- San Jose, Calif. -- Forte Design Systems, a leading provider of synthesis solutions for high-level design, today announced it is offering free on-line SystemC training. This introductory course is intended for designers who are investigating language alternatives for high-level design. SystemC is an open source C++ library that is emerging as a standard for high-level design and system modeling. Designers who complete the course will gain a clear understanding of the fundamentals of SystemC and considerations affecting its choice as a language for high-level design.

The comprehensive introductory on-line course can normally be completed in 4-6 hours and will cover methodology, language usage, as well as comparison of SystemC and C++. It will teach syntax and usage of SystemC elements including channels, modules, data types, processes, and interfaces. A section on modeling will describe characteristics of different modeling levels, such as transaction-level, timed functional and RTL modeling, as well as testbench development. The training will also consider SystemC in the context of an overall tool flow.

Content for the course was created in partnership between Forte and Willamette HDL, a leading provider of SystemC training. Forte is an active member of the Open SystemC Initiative (OSCI) SystemC community, and has previously donated core technology to the group. Willamette HDL is noted for its on-site courses that offer a mix of lectures and hands-on lab exercises, introducing designers to the SystemC library of classes that provide modeling constructs for describing systems and hardware.

"This course will allow the next generation of designers to become familiar with the key elements of SystemC, and the advantages of designing at a higher level of abstraction using SystemC," said Mike Meredith, Forte's vice president of technical marketing and SystemC representative. "Forte is pleased to be able to contribute to the SystemC community by making this course available to designers."

"Design abstraction is fundamental to raising productivity to the levels needed to meet aggressive design schedules in the face of growing complexity," said Jacob Jacobsson, president and CEO at Forte. "SystemC provides a level of abstraction not available with HDLs – and when combined with leading edge technologies such as behavioral synthesis, design teams will see a significant decrease in their overall design and verification times."

Pricing and Availability

The SystemC Introductory Training Course is available immediately on Forte's website at no charge. Interested parties may register at LearnSystemC.ForteDS.com or on www.ForteDS.com. Additionally, Forte will offer a demonstration of this training at their booth (#1977) at the Design Automation Conference in Anaheim, California on June 2, 3 and 4, 2003.

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 Willamette HDL

Founded in 1993, Willamette HDL, Inc., has become a valuable training and consulting services partner to electronics and electronic design automation (EDA) companies, delivering customized, informative courses for designers wanting to more effectively leverage SystemC. Attended by more than 3,000 students, its extensive offering of Verilog, VHDL, and SystemC technology training range from language introduction courses to advanced modeling for optimal results. Willamette HDL is a privately held and self-funded company based in Beaverton, Ore. For more information about Willamette HDL, call +1 (503) 590-8499 or visit its website at www.whdl.com.

About SystemC and OSCI

The Open SystemC™ Initiative (OSCI) is an independent, not-for-profit organization composed of a broad range of companies, universities and individuals dedicated to supporting and advancing SystemC as an open source industry standard for system-level design and verification. SystemC is the standard design and verification language built in C++ that spans from concept to implementation in hardware and software. The SystemC platform, that includes the SystemC specification, source code, and reference manuals, can be downloaded at www.systemc.org.