



News Release

Forum with the MIDAS touch bolsters local electronics scene *Semiconductor industry players form Microelectronics IC Design and System Association*

Singapore, 20 January 2006 – Over 20 integrated circuit (IC) design and system design companies in Singapore banded together to form the Microelectronics IC Design And System Association (MIDAS), an industry panel that provides a neutral forum for semiconductor industry players to collectively voice and address their needs.

There are currently about 40 IC design facilities in Singapore comprising the IC design operations of established integrated device manufacturers (IDMs), fabless companies and emerging start-ups from the US, Europe, and Asia. Initiated by the Institute of Microelectronics (IME), a research institute under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), MIDAS is an outgrowth of feedback and meetings amongst diverse industry players encompassing multinationals, research institutes and SMEs.

“IME initiated this association to provide a platform for the local IC design industry to interact, network and address their needs. As a national research institute with strong interest in IC design, we would like to see growth in this area,” said Professor Dim-Lee Kwong, Executive Director of IME.

The local semiconductor industry is evolving from a predominantly manufacturing-based role in the past 30 years, by moving up the value chain into design and R&D processes. The MIDAS initiative aims for a focused effort to impact solutions pertinent to the Singapore IC & System Design industry in the areas of technology, market requirements, manpower and infrastructure.

Some of the activities of MIDAS will include organizing seminars, networking events and panel discussions, facilitating the relationship between design companies and their supplier partners and work to optimize the synergy of the various entities involved in the microelectronics eco-system. It will also work closely with universities and polytechnics to promote IC and system design as career choice among graduates.

Microelectronics IC Design And System Association Singapore



Mr. Ulf Schneider, President of MIDAS, said: “IC design companies are crucial to the development of the semiconductor industry in Singapore as they drive the demand for foundries and wafer fabs. And increasingly so, as new solutions and performances are designed into the chips that ultimately drive new offerings in the end items. We hope that the MIDAS will lead in shaping the future of the IC design industry and help to benefit more local enterprises.” Mr. Schneider is also the Vice President (Development Centre) of Infineon Technologies.

Other committee members of MIDAS include companies such as Advanced RFIC, FTD Solutions, Intelligent Micro Devices, Icommunity, O₂Micro, Philips, SiMEMS, Solomon Systech, Spyro Technology, VLSI Consultancy and Xilinx Asia.

As an integrated initiative, MIDAS aims to provide a platform for its members who are interested in, working with, and/or proliferating IC & System Design related products. The IC & System Design ecosystem includes electronic design automation (EDA) vendors, foundries and semiconductor IP providers beside the IC design and system entities. Companies in all of these fields are invited to participate in MIDAS. Further information is available at www.midas.org.sg

About MIDAS

MIDAS (Microelectronics IC Design and System Association) is envisaged to be the premier organization representing the IC & System Design players in the Singapore semiconductor industry. MIDAS has recently been established in 2005 and comprises of members from leading semiconductor companies. It is committed towards fostering an active collaboration between the various entities in the microelectronics eco-system in Singapore. The four main thrust areas of MIDAS are: Technology, Manpower Development, Market Requirements and Infrastructure.

For more information, please visit www.midas.org.sg

About IME

The Institute of Microelectronics (IME) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Positioned to bridge the R&D between academia and industry, IME's mission is to increase value-add to the electronics industry in Singapore by engaging in relevant R&D in strategic fields of microelectronics; supporting and partnering the electronics industry; and developing skilled R&D personnel. Its key research areas are in integrated circuits and systems; semiconductor process technologies and microsystems, modules and components.

(website: www.ime.a-star.edu.sg)

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Appendix: Bio-data of Mr Ulf Schneider, President of MIDAS

Mr Ulf Schneider took over the position of Vice President, Development Center Singapore of Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd in November 2004.

Ulf started his career with Siemens Semiconductor Group in 1988 as a Development Engineer responsible for the implementation of software for the Siemens ASIC development flow in Munich/Germany. From 1991, he worked as a Project Manager in the Corporate CAD Department, responsible for DSP development and corresponding methodologies.

In 1995, he was assigned to the Development Center in Singapore for its ramp-up phase as a Section Manager for Communication ICs. After his assignment in Singapore, Ulf returned to Munich in 1996 undertaking the responsibility of a Development Manager in the Communication ICs group where he was responsible for the development of ICs for Voice-, ISDN- and advanced DSL-systems.

In 2005, Ulf was elected as the first President of the Microelectronics IC Design and System Association (MIDAS) which was initiated by the Institute of Microelectronics, Singapore (IME). He was also appointed as a Board Member of the National Research Foundation of Singapore for the period 2005 to 2008.

Ulf holds a Masters degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from RWTH Aachen-Germany. He is married with one daughter.

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