



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Trio Presents Results of Collaborative SoC Verification Project**

*ARC International, Chip Express, and The Dini Group jointly present a tutorial exploring Structured ASIC SoC verification using FPGA hardware emulation*

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**Santa Clara, CA** – October 8, 2003 – ARC International, Chip Express, and The Dini Group announced today that they are collaborating to deliver a joint presentation on SoC verification using real hardware at the upcoming SoC Online Conference. Called “The Verification Project,” the presentation will be available on October 14 and 15 at SoC Online, a web-based interactive conference and exhibition sponsored by EE Times. Participants can access the conference at [www.soconline.com](http://www.soconline.com).

The joint presentation addresses the most formidable obstacle to successful SoC design – verification. As SoC designs have grown increasingly complex, verification has become the most time-consuming and costly portion of the design cycle. To circumvent the limitations of software simulation, many design teams emulate their design in hardware using multiple FPGAs. But verifying an SoC design in FPGAs at full speed and converting that design to a structured ASIC presents its own set of problems.

“Designers attempting to verify a complex ASIC design must overcome a variety of obstacles,” notes Stephen Bateman, vice president of engineering for Chip Express. “In this presentation we explore ways to eliminate the generation of multiple design descriptions, use as few costly EDA tools as possible, and maximize design certainty prior to ASIC fabrication.”

### **Based on real-world designs**

The Verification Project uses real-world designs to explore the many benefits and liabilities of hardware emulation. Implementing a design built around an ARC processor and using an emulation board developed by The Dini Group, the presenters explore new approaches designed to improve the efficiency of the emulation process. Along the way, the presentation looks at methods for overcoming the limited visibility into FPGAs in the debug process, methodologies to deal with the many differences between FPGA and structured ASIC logic, and the best ways to use EDA tools to partition a design across several FPGAs.

Leading technology experts from all three companies will participate in the presentation. Kent Shephard, a senior member of the technical staff at Chip Express, will address many of the key concerns designers face in the FPGA-to-structured ASIC migration process and describe a new unified HDL methodology and rules for conversion. David Fritz, vice president of technical marketing for ARC International, will

review the role of ARC's CPU Test Platform and how it interfaces with IP cores and external buses. Mike Dini, president of The Dini Group, will leverage his 18 years of FPGA design experience to address FPGA emulation systems and how to use state-of-the-art EDA tools and techniques.

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### **About ARC International**

ARC International is a world leader in SoC and embedded software design and development minimizing risk for customers developing next-generation wireless, networking, industrial control, storage and consumer electronics products. ARC introduced the industry's first user-customizable 32-bit RISC/DSP processor core, the industry's first USB Hi-Speed On-The-GO IP and today supplies turnkey embedded solutions that combine a real-time operating system, development tools and peripheral hardware and software that enable developers to better design optimization and performance. ARC provides a single source for the major SoC and embedded software building blocks reducing the number of suppliers, reducing cost, reducing risk and reducing time-to-market. ARC International employs approximately 200 people in research and development, sales and marketing offices across North America, Europe and Asia. ARC International is listed on the London Stock Exchange as ARC International plc (LSE: ARK). For more information, please visit the ARC International website: <http://www.arc.com>.

### **About Chip Express**

Chip Express is a leading manufacturer of late-stage programmable Structured ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuits). The company's innovative, patented technology enables the consolidation of wafer manufacture tooling, reducing time-to-market and the cost of initial production. Chip Express' Structured ASIC devices find wide use in automotive electronics, computing, communications, consumer products, industrial control, medical equipment, and military/aerospace systems. Headquartered in Santa Clara, CA, Chip Express is a privately held corporation, founded in the U.S. in 1989. A subsidiary, Chip Express (Israel) Ltd. performs Research & Development and manages European operations. For more information, please visit the Chip Express website: <http://www.chipexpress.com>.

### **About The Dini Group**

Located in La Jolla, California, The Dini Group is a professional hardware and software engineering firm specializing in high performance digital circuit design and application development. For more information, please visit The Dini Group website: <http://www.dinigroup.com>.

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