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## IEEE to form EDA Council

By Michael Santarini, Senior Editor -- EDN, 4/1/2005

A new council forming in the IEEE wants to do its part to pull the EDA industry out of its current "quagmire."

Al Dunlop is head of an ad hoc committee within the IEEE that is trying to unify all the EDA-related efforts going on within the IEEE's different societies. "We are trying to bring together many of the multidisciplinary approaches to solve problems below 90 nm," Dunlop said. "We are going to need industry and academia to work together to bring these solutions to the forefront."

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The new IEEE Council for Electronic Design Automation (C-EDA) will work to unify EDA-related activities among the IEEE's Antennas and Propagation Society, Circuits and Systems Society, Computer Society, Electron Devices Society, and Solid State Circuits Society.

"The EDA industry is kind of in a quagmire," Dunlop said. "We think by pulling this stuff together we can get more attention for it. The circuit-design people are dependant upon CAD, and we think it needs more focus to make it come up to where people really want it."

The council will, among other actions, unite existing IEEE societies' EDA-related technical committees, such as the Circuits and Systems Society's Computer Aided Network Design Initiative (CANDI) and the Computer Society's Design Automation Technical committee.

Half the C-EDA's organizing committee is from industry, and the Council will likely tap chief technologists from various EDA companies to be council members, Dunlop said.

The new entity does not intend to compete with the EDA Consortium's charter to promote the EDA industry's importance to electronics, nor will the council draw up an EDA roadmap *a la* the ITRS (International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors). The council will likely be involved with standards, but Dunlop said its work on that front won't conflict with EDA standards organizations such as the Si2 or Accellera.



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The Council will also be more involved in strengthening the technical tracks of EDA-related conferences such as DAC (Design Automation Conference), DATE (Design, Automation, and Test in Europe), and ISSCC (International Solid-State Circuits Conference).

Thus far the IEEE Technical Activities Board has endorsed the formation of C-EDA, but final approval is expected in June. The C-EDA's first meeting will be scheduled for January of 2006.



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