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IEEE to Form EDA Council

Online Staff-- *Electronic News*, 3/31/2005

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Inc. has given its approval on the formation of a new council on EDA to become the focal point of activities previously spread among various IEEE societies

Final approval for the council is expected in June for the IEEE Council for Electronic Design Automation (C-EDA) is meant to bring increased value to IEEE members by coordinating EDA activities, fostering

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interdisciplinary research and offering a way to enable new initiatives in addition to pursuing an aggressive policy to recruit young talent to EDA, which the industry recognizes as an urgent need, according to the engineering society.

C-EDA's charter spans theory, implementation and use of CAD tools to design integrated electronic circuits and systems— including tools that automate all levels of the design, analysis and verification of hardware and embedded software up to complete working systems, the group said.

"The council is a major step toward realizing that EDA is a key technology for the semiconductor and systems sector," said Giovanni De Michelis, former IEEE Circuits and Systems Society president and director of the Integrated Systems Centre at EPF Lausanne in Switzerland in a statement.

"This technology needs to be nurtured by fostering interdisciplinary research and by exposing its results to young engineers whose presence in this field is necessary for the overall growth of the electronics industry," he added.

In support of C-EDA, the IEEE societies on antennas and propagation, circuits and systems, computer, electron devices and solid-state circuits have agreed to join the council.

A committee of technical leaders from industry and academia are to initially manage C-EDA's activities, led by Al Dunlop, a design consultant and a member of the board of governors for the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society that unanimously endorsed the committee formation in May 2004. "A council on EDA is an imperative as a broader set of disciplines becomes necessary to design future circuits," Dunlop said in a statement.

"It used to be possible to design logic circuits without much attention to issues such as power or crosstalk," he explained.

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"Now device and substrate issues must be an integral part of the design tools, while software and embedded systems play a major role in SOC," he concluded

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