Product Obsolescence Policy

During its first 12 years, Xilinx has continued to maintain every component product line it successfully introduced. We take pride in that. However, as processes migrate to smaller geometries with lower costs, and architectures continue to improve, the economics of overlapping products dictates that some product life cycles should end.

We are aware that IC users are very wary of product obsolescence. All too often, products are discontinued as a result of business decisions that do not adequately include the customers' perspective. To ensure that we get it right the first time we discontinue a product, Xilinx has taken a different approach and solicited customer input to assist in designing our product obsolescence program.

Our goal is to provide users with ample notification of product discontinuances and ensure adequate supplies of affected products for as long as possible. The program includes "customer advisory" notices as a preview of future product changes and discontinuances, generous last-time-buy periods to allow ample planning and/or redesign time, and relationships with end-of-life suppliers that ensure product availability beyond the Xilinx last-time-buy and last-time-ship periods.

Xilinx Product Discontinuance Policy— The Xilinx Product Discontinuance Policy addresses two situations—where a replacement device exists (PDN1) and where a replacement **does not** exist (PDN2).

PDN1 — When a form, fit, function replacement exists, the last-time-buy (LTB) period is one year and last-time-ship is 90 days after the LTB period. The one-year period should provide ample time for users to determine if they prefer to exercise a last-time buy or requalify with the replacement device.

PDN2 — When no form fit or function replacement exists, the last-time-buy is two years to allow users the time necessary to completely redesign the board or perform a detailed analysis of LTB requirements.

End-of-Life Supplier — At the end of PDN1 or PDN2, all remaining inventory will be shipped to an end-of-life supplier. The supplier will be able to deliver Xilinx discontinued products to those users that choose not to exercise the last-time-buy option, or have an unexpected need.

In summary, Xilinx has attempted to take a user-sensitive approach to product obsolescence. Early notification, extended last-time-buy periods and the use of end-of-life suppliers give the user a variety of options to explore and ease any problems resulting from a product discontinuance.

Your comments and suggestions regarding this policy are welcome. Please send all comments to Daniel Chan, Xilinx Marketing, at daniel.chan@xilinx.com. ◆

XILINX OBSOLECESNCE POLICY

	Form, Fit and Function Alternative	Obsolete Ordering Code	Notify to Last Time Buy (LTB)	Last Time Buy (LTB) to Last Time Ship (LTS)	Example
PCN* (Product Change Notice)	Yes	No	Product changes after 90 days†		XC4000 process migration
PDN 1 (Product Discontinuance Notification)	Yes	Yes	1 year	90 days	XC4000A/H discontinuation
PDN 2	No	Yes	2 years	90 days	

Specification control document (SCD) available to stay with old product for one year.
†*90 days from latter of qualification data or evaluation sample availability.*

Xilinx To Discontinue Older XC4000A/H FPGA Devices

Xilinx has announced that it will stop production of two families of field programmable gate arrays devices in 1997 — the XC4000A and the XC4000H families (older variations of the XC4000 Series of products). The XC4000E, XC4000EX and XC4000D families will not be affected.

Users of these devices can replace them with newer Xilinx XC4000E and XC5200 FPGA family products; these newer devices provide footprint-compatible solutions with substantial cost and performance advantages over the older devices.

This marks the first obsolescence of mature Xilinx FPGA devices, and it begins the implementation of one of the industry's most customer-friendly product discontinuation policies. Last-time orders to buy the XC4000A and XC4000H devices will be accepted until September 30, 1997. Last-time shipments will be made until March 31, 1998. ◆