Distribution Adds Value:

Intel StrongARM Supported with Xilinx Spartan-II FPGAs

Avnet is a key member of the Xilinx sales force, helping our customers create solid designs using innovative development tools

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A number of Avnet customers, in various locations across North America, were looking for a simple and flexible way to develop a PCI interface to an Intel StrongARM processor, and several Avnet FAEs (Field Applications Engineers) across the country helped their customers develop unique solutions for their individual designs. Then, during an Avnet FAE design review where the PCI requirements of different customers were discussed, it became apparent that there were a number of common requirements for a PCI interface—and they realized there was a common solution to many different problems.

By using Spartan-II FPGAs from Xilinx, the Avnet FAEs knew they had a great opportunity to provide an aggressively priced yet flexible PCI connection that would meet the needs of many customers. The FAEs knew that this would be a great way to highlight a number of Avnet Design Services (ADS) strengths as well.

The Catapult™ StrongARM PCI Development Kit

Avnet combined their ADS board-level solution services, their FPGA services, and their ability to create Intellectual Property, to create the Catapult StrongArm PCI Development Kit, a solution that covers many needs (Fig.1). This kit gives you a time-to-market boost by integrating all the key product technologies into a single development environment.

A StrongArm SA1110 Processor provides the processing power and a Xilinx Spartan-II XC2S100 implements a glueless interface between the SA1110 processor bus and the industry standard PCI bus. Along with these hardware resources, Avnet Design Services provides IP cores for PCI,

SDRAM control, and the StrongArm interface as a starting point for your specific application. In addition to the IP core, software is provided to help develop your embedded application. Applications development software is also available from Avnet Design Services or third parties. Avnet Design Services can also provide engineering consulting services, helping you to quickly customize your design to further speed your time to market.

The kit sells for $8,995.00 and is available now from your local Avnet distributor. For more information, visit the Avnet site at: http://www.ads.avnet.com
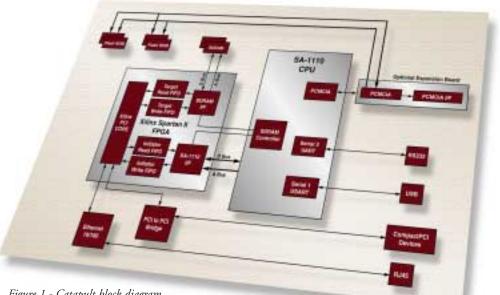

Figure 1 - Catapult block diagram