

Xilinx Acquires CoolRunner Line of CPLDs



The CoolRunner line is the first family of CPLD products to combine very low power with high speed, high density, and high I/O counts in a single device.

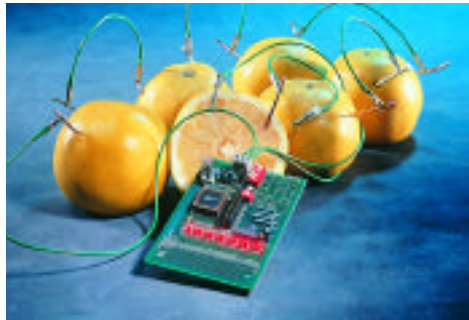
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Xilinx recently signed
a letter of intent with
Philips

Semiconductors to acquire
their line of low-power com-
plex programmable logic
devices (CPLDs). Under the terms of the agree-
ment, Xilinx will purchase the Philips
CoolRunner® CPLD technology as well as the
Philips XPLA™ Professional suite of design tools.
Xilinx intends to retain approximately 40 Philips
employees associated with CoolRunner product
development, including an IC development team
in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a software
team in Sunnyvale, California.

The CoolRunner line offers the largest CPLD
available today, the CoolRunner PZ3960 device
with 960 macrocells. The CoolRunner devices are
available in 3.3-volt and 5-volt versions with den-
sities ranging from 32 to 960 macrocells. The line
also includes 3.3-volt and 5-volt 22V10
CoolRunner devices.

The CoolRunner line features Fast Zero
Power™ technology, drawing virtually no power
in standby mode, making them ideal in the fast
growing market for battery operated portable
electronic equipment such as laptop PCs, tele-
phone handsets, personal digital assistants, and
electronic games. CoolRunner CPLDs also use far
less dynamic power during actual operation com-
pared to conventional CPLDs, an important fea-
ture for high-performance, heat-sensitive equip-
ment such as telecom switches, video conferenc-
ing systems, simulators, high end testers, and
emulators.



"Our current family of XC9500
CPLDs has given Xilinx a compet-
itive advantage in speed and
price," said Evert Wolsheimer,
vice president and general man-
ager of the Xilinx CPLD Business

Unit. "With the CoolRunner devices in our portfo-
lio, we also will have a commanding position in
the areas of low power and high density CPLDs.
As a programmable logic supplier, Xilinx is now
able to offer everything from 22V10s and CPLDs
to million-gate FPGAs. This acquisition will also
provide Xilinx with an additional talented engi-
neering team to help us continue to develop
advanced products for our customers."

Under the agreement, Philips Semiconductors
retains the right to incorporate the Fast Zero
Power technology, used in the CoolRunner CPLDs,
in embedded applications such as system-on-chip
designs. The CoolRunner products will continue to
be made at Philips Semiconductors' wafer fabs in
Europe and at Taiwan Semiconductor
Manufacturing Corporation in Taiwan. Xilinx
intends to market the products under the current
CoolRunner XPLA product name.

"This agreement allows Philips
Semiconductors to better focus its efforts in the
company's core areas such as consumer, telecom-
munications and automotive markets, as well as
in the discrete, logic, and microcontroller product
line," said Arthur van der Poel, Chairman and CEO
of Philips Semiconductors. "Additionally, we look
forward to working with Xilinx on future joint
developments such as system-on-chip designs." **Σ**