

ECE group named among top eight finalists in an SRC/SIA IC contest

Recently, a group from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Texas A&M University was named among the top eight finalists in an IC contest sponsored by Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), the world's leading university research consortium for semiconductors and related technologies.

The contest consists of two phases: Phase One, a design phase, and Phase Two, a fabrication and evaluation phase. The ECE team was among the top eight out of 48 teams from the first phase. They have qualified to compete in the final phase of the SRC/SIA Design Challenge where they will fabricate their designs in Jazz Semiconductor's SBC18 180nm SiGe technology. All eight teams will present posters at SRC's TECHCON 2008. The eight finalists will vie for \$50,000 in cash prizes, to be announced in December.

The ECE team includes Dr. Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio as faculty team leader, Dr. Kamran Entesari as assistant faculty team leader, and three of their Ph. D. students. Their design was titled "A Dual-Band Millimeter-Wave Receiver using SiGe Technology."

The key objective of the SRC/SIA IC Design Challenge is for university teams to create novel, high performance circuit designs that make end products more competitive. These products can be digital, analog, mixed-signal or wireless. Using the provided technology and design kit, successful contest teams will design circuits that clearly demonstrate potential for high performance for a target application offering advantages over existing designs. Specific circuitries of particular interest to the sponsors are LNAs, mixers, high speed I/Os, low power, high resolution graphics and thermal management; however the contest is not limited to these areas. Sponsors are looking for creativity, innovation, and the best usage of the given technology to implement an important new or improved circuit or circuit subsystem. A secondary objective is to assist faculty in stimulating greater interest in IC design careers among students, both graduate and undergraduate and from diverse populations.

About SRC

Celebrating 26 years of collaborative research for the semiconductor industry, SRC defines industry needs, invests in and manages the research that gives its members a competitive advantage in the dynamic global marketplace. Awarded the National Medal of Technology, America's highest recognition for contributions to technology, SRC expands the industry knowledge base and attracts premier students to help innovate and transfer semiconductor technology. For more information, visit www.src.org.

About SIA

The SIA is the leading voice for the semiconductor industry and has represented U.S. semiconductor companies since 1977 and SIA member companies comprise more than 85 percent of the U.S. semiconductor industry. Collectively, the chip industry employs a domestic workforce of 232,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org