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## **Altium's radical new FPGA-based development board makes instant prototyping of electronic designs easy** **New NanoBoard 3000 comes complete with Altium Designer and extensive royalty-free IP for US\$395**

**SYDNEY, Australia – September 14, 2009** – Altium has launched a new addition to its NanoBoard family of FPGA-based development boards.

The [NanoBoard 3000](#) is a programmable design environment, supplied complete with hardware, software, ready-to-use, royalty-free IP and a dedicated [Altium Designer](#) Soft Design license.

Designers have everything they need to explore FPGAs "out of the box ". They are no longer forced to search the web for drivers, peripherals or other software, and then have the hard work of integrating all these elements to make them work together.

The development board itself, the royalty-free IP and Altium Designer costs just US\$395.

"Our [NanoBoard 3000](#) has been built from the ground up for designing, prototyping and deploying the next generation of smart, connected electronic products. Designers can now do this with an easy-to-use graphical solution that dramatically reduces the need to learn specialist skills," said Nick Martin, CEO of Altium.

"Designers can start with a purely 'soft' prototype on the NanoBoard, then deploy it into the field on the NanoBoard, or (with an upgrade to a board-level [Altium Designer](#)

license) move seamlessly into PCB design. Altium's unified approach to electronics design means they don't have to change design tools or environments.

"Their 'soft' design work completed on the NanoBoard 3000 is simply ready to be used on their custom PCB."

Using the [NanoBoard 3000](#), electronics designers can construct sophisticated 'soft' processor-based systems inside FPGAs without any prior FPGA expertise. Engineers do not need any specialist VHDL or Verilog skills. Instead, they can use their existing board layout and systems design skills to construct, test and implement FPGA-based embedded systems. The IP libraries and intuitive graphical editors that are central to [Altium Designer](#) mean they can simply add processors, memory controllers, peripheral blocks and software stacks. They have everything they need to create next-generation, FPGA-hosted embedded systems with off-the-shelf components without having to write HDL or low level driver code.

Altium includes a range of reference designs and tutorials to get engineers designing immediately. More IP will be added in the future.

"The electronics design landscape is changing and the NanoBoard 3000 addresses the new and emerging needs of today's engineers. FPGAs are becoming increasingly mainstream, allowing designers the opportunity to create sophisticated, intelligent products that can be connected via the Internet," said Nick Martin.

"But designers with no prior experience of FPGAs face the dilemma of either having to become familiar with specialist languages and low-level development boards, or resort to very expensive specialist design tools. The [NanoBoard 3000](#) completely sidesteps these unpalatable options.

"What does this mean for designers? Weeks are saved on getting high-quality proof-of-concept prototypes designed without any custom PCB design work required at all. Newcomers to FPGA design have a low-risk, low-cost design environment that has

everything they need to get started. And experienced FPGA designers can use their expertise in new ways to focus on creating the intelligence of their products."

The first [NanoBoard 3000](#) features a Xilinx Spartan 3AN FPGA. Two more NanoBoards, featuring Altera and Lattice FPGAs, are planned. In all three NanoBoard options, the FPGA is fixed. This distinguishes it from Altium's NanoBoard NB2, which features interchangeable FPGA daughter boards to allow on-the-fly comparisons and testing in a prototype design environment.

Designers using the [NanoBoard 3000](#) will also have the option to deploy their designs in modular commercial enclosures from Altium. Available in a variety of sizes, these will let designers go from prototype to commercial product in one step, simply by snapping the NanoBoard 3000 into the enclosure.

### **Pricing and availability**

The [NanoBoard 3000](#) is available for a recommended retail price of US\$395 and includes a 12-month subscription to an Altium Designer Soft Design License which also includes all software updates released by Altium during the 12-month subscription period. Licenses can be renewed for the equivalent of \$19.95 per month purchased in 12-month blocks. Users of the latest release of Altium Designer can also use the NanoBoard 3000.

Designers can purchase a NanoBoard 3000 from Newark at: [www.newark.com/altium](http://www.newark.com/altium).

Information on [Altium Designer](#) is on Altium's [web site](#). More detailed information on Altium Designer and the new [NanoBoard 3000](#) is at the [Altium Wiki](#).

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### **About Altium**

Altium Limited (ASX:ALU) provides next generation electronics design software. Altium's unified electronics design environment links all aspects of electronics product

design into one process, in a single application. This helps electronics designers harness the latest devices and technologies, manage their projects across broad design 'ecosystems', and create connected, intelligent designs. For more information, visit [www.altium.com](http://www.altium.com).

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