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Instant prototyping in the time it takes to make a cup of coffee

Altium announces deployment enclosures for its NanoBoard 3000 FPGA-based development board

SYDNEY, **Australia – Nov. 25, 2009** – Altium has added an instant deployment option to its new NanoBoard 3000 FPGA development board. Designers can now take their FPGA-based designs from concept right through to deployment without the need to create a custom PCB.

The instant deployment options, requiring less time than it takes to brew and drink a cup of coffee, come from being able simply to clip the NanoBoard 3000 into a new range of enclosures designed in-house by Altium.

Their modular form lets designers deploy FPGA-based designs created and hosted on the NanoBoard 3000 in a number of different ways: on desks, on walls, in either commercial or industrial locations, in extended options for multiple board designs, without or without the TFT display that comes with the enclosures.

With the NanoBoard 3000, FPGA-based prototypes are designed in days. The new deployment option now means they are ready to be shipped to the field in minutes.

The design quality of the new enclosures means that designers will now relish presenting prototype designs to audiences as diverse as venture capitalists and engineering directors, as well as peers and field test teams.

And instantly deploying the NanoBoard 3000 in the new modular enclosures gives designers the option of creating small production runs in commercially attractive cases, again without being compelled to manufacture custom enclosures or custom PCBs.

Altium's 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. This is a complete design environment that lets electronics designers construct sophisticated "soft" processor-based systems inside FPGAs without any prior FPGA expertise, specialist VHDL or Verilog skills. Designers simply use their existing board layout and systems design skills to construct, test and implement FPGA-based embedded systems. The supplied Altium Designer license lets them select, drag and drop the large range of IP blocks to add processors, memory controllers, peripherals and software stacks. Unlike alternative programmable design environments, designers no longer need 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 new NanoBoard 3000 enclosures mean that designers can now start with a purely "soft" prototype on the NanoBoard and then deploy it into the field. But Altium Designer's unified architecture also gives them the option of upgrading to a board-level Altium Designer license and moving into custom PCB design. Their "soft" design work completed on the NanoBoard 3000 is simply ready to be used on their custom PCB.
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. Experienced FPGA designers can use their expertise in new ways to focus on creating the intelligence of their products.

Altium's first NanoBoard 3000 features a Xilinx Spartan 3AN FPGA. Two more NanoBoards, featuring Altera and Lattice FPGAs, are in manufacture and design. The new deployment enclosures will accommodate all these NanoBoard options.

Pricing and availability

The new enclosures for the NanoBoard 3000 are available now for a recommended retail price of US$129.

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 that covers all software updates released by Altium during the 12-month subscription period.

Designers can purchase a NanoBoard 3000 by selecting the most appropriate online distributor from Altium's Web site. The new enclosures will be available from the same distributors.

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.

ENDS

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.