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## **Tomorrow’s Australian electronics designers taking their first steps**

### **Altium staging class to open the eyes of students to the future of electronics design**

**Sydney Australia, January 18, 2008** – Altium Limited, the Sydney-based listed Australian electronics design software company, is working with the University of New South Wales Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) to introduce high-school students to the future of electronics design.

Each year, GERRIC – part of the University’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - holds a series of workshops that deliver challenging and compelling subjects for gifted children ranging from kindergarten to grade 10. As part of GERRIC’s Scientia challenge, which is aimed at students between grades 7 to 10, Altium will be running a two-day class on how to design and create digital systems using Altium’s unified electronics design software tool, Altium Designer – the same system used by NASA’s Johnson Space Center, BMW Motorsports, and Cochlear.

Altium Designer unifies the various disciplines of electronics design – hardware, software and programmable electronic devices – into a single design environment. The unified environment provides electronics engineers with a new way to do electronics design and removes the complications of transferring designs over several disparate and separate software packages.

Marty Hauff, Manager, Altium Designer Applied Technologies, will present the workshop. Some of the topics covered will include binary, numbers, digital logic gates, Boolean algebra and computer arithmetic, and how computers create and calculate these numbers. Students will use this knowledge – and Altium Designer - to design their own traffic light controller.

”Electronics design must change in the future – and I hope that some of these students will shake up our industry in perhaps 10 years’ time,” said Mr Hauff. “The internet and the increase in mobile communications pose some interesting challenges for electronics designers. Device intelligence and connectivity are becoming increasingly important to a product’s success, and need to be at the centre of the overall design process. Young people, who are regularly connected to the internet or wired for sound through products such as the iPod, are already aware of this. And these students will either create those products, or use them, in the future.”

Traditionally electronics design has been taught at universities and other higher education institutions. Altium’s GERRIC class will now open this discipline to younger, tech-savvy students and show that electronics design can be easy, interesting and fun.

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### **About Altium**

Altium Limited (ASX:ALU) is the leading developer of electronic product development solutions dedicated to unifying the different design disciplines involved in electronics product development. Altium products ensure all electronic engineers, designers, developers, and their organizations, take maximum advantage of emerging design technologies to bring smarter products to market faster and easier. Founded in 1985, Altium has headquarters in Sydney, Australia, sales offices in the United States, Europe, Japan, China, and resellers in all other major markets. For more information, please visit [www.altium.com](http://www.altium.com).

### **About Altium Designer**

Altium Designer is the electronics design industry’s only electronics product development system that removes the barriers imposed by disparate design flows and unifies the different design disciplines involved in electronics product development – the design of the hardware, the programmable hardware and the embedded software. Altium Designer’s unified design environment means users can harness the potential of the latest electronics

technologies, and move to a 'soft' design methodology without the need to acquire specialist programmable device expertise. This provides companies with increased design flexibility, reduced production costs and quickens time to market. Altium Designer also delivers the freedom to move between any device, from any vendor, at any time. It lowers total cost of ownership by eliminating the need to integrate extra devices at extra cost to increase functionality, or to create a complete solution. For more information, please visit <http://www.altium.com/Products/AltiumDesigner/>.

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