

# Media Release



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## New plug and play options for Altium's Innovation Station Four new FPGA daughter boards and new plug-in peripheral boards for the Altium Innovation Station at ESC, Silicon Valley

**SAN JOSE, Calif. – April 15, 2008** – Altium continues to develop and expand the Altium Innovation Station – which combines the award-winning Altium Designer unified design software with the Desktop NanoBoard reconfigurable hardware platform – to bring device intelligence design solutions to electronics engineers.

At ESC, in California's Silicon Valley, Altium is showing a range of new FPGA daughter boards and additional plug-in peripheral boards for the Altium Innovation Station. This significantly adds to the range of target devices and peripheral functionality already available as part of the Altium Innovation Station.

The new daughter boards have the following programmable devices:

- Xilinx® Virtex™-5
- Xilinx Spartan™-3AN
- Xilinx Spartan™-3A DSP
- Actel® ProASIC3

These join the existing daughter boards that cover Xilinx Virtex-4, Xilinx Spartan-3, Altera® Cyclone™ II and Lattice ECP™ FPGAs.

Altium is also expanding its range of peripheral boards, which now includes the following:

- 6-channel, single-sized, multi-network interface power control and monitoring board
- 12-channel, double-sized, multi-network interface power control and monitoring board

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- Audio/video board targeted at AV connectivity with Apple-compatible VGA-style interface, iPod-compatible AV ports, and composite video in/out
- Quad-band GSM and GPS board
- Bluetooth, Zigbee and 802.11 wireless board.

These add to the Compact flash/ATA/SD board, USB/IrDA/Ethernet board and double-sized VGA/Composite/S-Video board that come standard with the Desktop NanoBoard.

Expanding the range of plug-in boards means that designers will have more options to create device intelligence without being constrained by having to choose a final programmable device and peripheral functionality before the design process begins. The Altium Innovation Station lets designers assess and compare different devices and implementations on the fly – they simply swap plug-in boards, and the Altium Innovation Station auto-configures the design and development platform to accommodate the new devices.

The Altium Innovation Station provides a high level of design abstraction, which allows all designers, even those with limited or no FPGA design experience, to use the potential of programmable devices. For example, they can create functionality by graphically linking ready-to-use functional blocks together. And they can accelerate application execution by transparently moving C-level software functions into dynamically generated FPGA hardware.

“This extended range of programmable devices and peripheral functionality significantly expands the options available to designers using the Innovation Station,” said Nick Martin, CEO and founder of Altium. “It allows designers to experiment with a wider set of deployment options and explore a much greater range of design possibilities before committing to final hardware.”

“The Altium Innovation Station gives designers the development tools and platform they need to rapidly create and define the device intelligence that increasingly differentiates their products and then test, analyze and change that design in real time. And it lets designers do this without locking down their hardware requirements at the start of the design process. “

"The time has gone when companies could sustain product differentiation by putting functionality into fixed hardware. Programming, rather than manufacturing, intelligence into a device is the only way to protect the unique functionality of a product in today's globalized industry. The Altium Innovation Station lets all designers innovate in this new marketplace by turning traditional electronics design inside out."

#### Altium Innovation Station availability

The Altium Innovation Station, consisting of Altium Designer and the Desktop NanoBoard (with three standard peripheral boards and a choice of one FPGA daughter board), is available from US\$4,300.

#### Special for Altium Innovation Station at ESC

As a special for any sales made directly through ESC, Altium is offering an extra daughter board (choose from either the Xilinx Spartan-3, Altera Cyclone II or Lattice ECP options) with the Innovation Station. This offer includes the Desktop NanoBoard, a choice of two daughter boards, and a one-year time-based Altium Designer Embedded Intelligence license. Conditions apply, and more information is available from the Altium booth.

The new daughter boards shown at ESC will be available later in 2008. Standard pricing is available from Altium's sales team, details can be found at:

<http://www.altium.com/Contacts/>.

For more information on the Altium Innovation Station go to [www.altium.com](http://www.altium.com).

Details on Altium Designer can be found at

<http://www.altium.com/Evaluate/DEMOCenter/WhatsnewinAltiumDesigner/>.

Details on Altium's NanoBoard range can be found at

<http://www.altium.com/Products/NanoBoard/>.

Altium is at ESC from April 15 to 17, at booth number 1730.

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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,

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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 Innovation Station**

The concept of the Altium Innovation Station combines the Altium Designer electronics development tool with Altium's NanoBoard range of reconfigurable hardware development and deployment platforms to provide the single design environment for sustainable differentiation in electronics design. Together, they allow electronics designers to create value and innovation in their products by focusing on designing device intelligence.

**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. It unifies the design of the hardware, software and programmable hardware by removing the disparate design flows of old design methods and thinking.

**Altium's NanoBoard** range of reconfigurable hardware platforms allows for both the development and deployment of device intelligence based on programmable devices such as FPGAs. Altium's NanoBoard architecture is unique in that it comes complete with a range of programmable devices housed on plug-in FPGA daughter boards, and interchangeable peripheral boards. The development NanoBoard provides a versatile reconfigurable development platform independent of the choice of FPGAs. In the future, deployment NanoBoards will allow rapid completion of the design process to final hardware – without the constraints of having to design hardware early in the design process.

For more information, please visit <http://www.altium.com/Products/AltiumDesigner/>.

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