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Micrel Inc. Adopts Silicon Insight™ DesignRuleBuilder from Stone Pillar Technologies to Speed Development of New Process Technology

Micrel projects significant savings in runset development time for power semiconductor devices

SANTA CLARA, California, October 19, 2004 – Stone Pillar Technologies Inc. today announced that Micrel Inc. (Nasdaq:MCRL), an industry leader in Power, Connect and Protect™ IC solutions, has adopted the DesignRuleBuilder component of the Silicon Insight™ toolkit for semiconductor technology development.

Silicon Insight DesignRuleBuilder automates generation of intelligent design rules to speed runset creation, reduces the learning curve for supported DRC/LVS tools, and provides support for multiple targeted tools from a single rule set.

Technology development for advanced power semiconductor devices requires extremely complex design rules that must be flexible enough to accommodate rule variations based on device geometries, voltages, and applications. The large engineering investment for manually creating such rule sets makes it impractical to support multiple DRC/LVS (design rule checker / layout versus schematic) tools such as DRACULA and IC Editors. By providing a convenient GUI-based interface for rule creation, DesignRuleBuilder enables engineers to speed up runset creation and focus on the creation of high quality rules, rather than learning details of command language specific to individual DRC/LVS tools.

“We performed an exhaustive evaluation of Stone Pillar’s DesignRuleBuilder on one of our most complicated technologies,” said Dr. Marek Jaczynski, director of CAD services for Micrel. “Based upon the success of this project, we are looking forward to significant savings in runset development time and flexibility. DesignRuleBuilder makes it possible for engineers to rapidly create high quality runsets for multiple target tools.”

“We are pleased to welcome Micrel as a new customer,” said Tim Crandle, president of Stone Pillar. “Micrel’s thorough analysis of Stone Pillar capabilities, and their conclusions regarding significant engineering cost savings, are another confirmation of the benefits provided by Silicon Insight.”

For pricing or additional details, visit www.stonepillar.com or contact Stone Pillar Technologies at (408) 295-6487.

About Micrel

Micrel Inc., is a leading manufacturer of advanced, high performance communications, clock management, Ethernet switch and physical layer transceiver, mixed signal, analog and power ICs. These products include devices for fiber-optic telecommunications and networking, cellular telephones, servers, portable computer systems, computer peripherals, process control systems, consumer electronics and power supplies. Web: <http://www.micrel.com>.

About Stone Pillar

Stone Pillar Technologies, Inc. is the leading provider of data management systems for semiconductor process technology development. The company's Silicon Insight™ suite of products enables semiconductor manufacturing and design engineers to gain valuable insight into design-for-manufacturability issues from early-stage technology development through yield improvement.

Products within Silicon Insight automate and optimize tasks such as design rule creation and documentation; test chip development, documentation, and revision; test plan creation; and complete data management, analysis, and report generation. By facilitating detailed data analyses, Stone Pillar reduces engineering costs and capital expenses as well as significantly improving the time it takes to develop new process technologies.

Stone Pillar software is in use by leading semiconductor vendors and at leading research institutions worldwide.

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