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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ...

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**IEEE AUTOTESTCON 2007 REGOGNIZES RIDGETOP GROUP AUTHORS FOR THE
BEST PAPER IN THE TEST & MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS TRACK**

A paper presented by James Hofmeister from Ridgetop Group, Inc., a Tucson-based high technology firm, received recognition as the best paper in the Test & Measurement track at IEEE AUTOTESTCON held in Baltimore, MD, September 17-20, 2007.

James Hofmeister is the lead author of the winning paper “Intermittency Detection and Mitigation in Ball Grid Array (BGA) Packages.” Contributing authors are Dr. Pradeep Lall, Auburn University; Edgar Ortiz, Applications Engineer, Ridgetop Group; Doug Goodman, CEO, Ridgetop Group; Terry Tracy, Senior Principal Engineer, Raytheon Missile Systems; and Mathieu Adams, University of Montpellier. Each contributor received a plaque and a certificate of appreciation in recognition of significant contributions to the success of IEEE AUTOTESTCON 2007.

“Intermittency Detection and Mitigation in Ball Grid Array (BGA) Packages” introduces an updated method, SJ-BIST™, for detecting intermittencies in BGAs as well as a new method, SJ Monitor™. SJ-BIST™ is firmware embedded in the FPGA application and SJ Monitor™ is hardware on an IC chip.

Prior to SJ-BIST™ and SJ Monitor™, there were no known methods for detecting high-resistance faults in solder-joint networks belonging to the I/O ports of operational, fully programmed FPGAs. SJ BIST™ can also be used in newly designed manufacturing reliability tests to investigate PWB-FPGA assembly failure modes.

Ridgetop Group, Inc. introduced the SJ-BIST™ product in early 2007. SJ-BIST™ consists of a Verilog softcore synthesized into a customer’s FPGA along with full documentation and application assistance. The product is a new addition to Ridgetop’s InstaBIST™ family of built-in self-test IP solutions. IP Licenses are available.

Ridgetop Group is a privately-held firm founded in 2000 providing mission-critical electronic prognostics tools, fault-to-failure progression libraries, and semiconductor IP libraries. Customers include NAVAIR, Air Force Research Labs (AFRL), Missile Defense Agency (MDA), DaimlerChrysler, Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS), ATK/Mission Research, Honeywell, NAVSEA, DARPA, NASA Ames, NASA Goddard, and the Department of Energy (DOE).

For further information, please visit our website at www.Ridgetop-Group.com or contact Milena Thompson at milena@ridgetop-group.com.

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