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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

September 27, 2007
Tucson, Arizona

NEW INVENTION TAKES THE MYSTERY OUT OF PROCESS VARIATION IN IC FABRICATION

Ridgetop Group, Inc., of Tucson, AZ, a fast-growing high-technology firm, has received U.S. Patent 7,239,163, Die-level process monitor and method. Ridgetop's invention provides a means for independently determining whether an IC malfunction is a result of the design or the manufacturing processing and further for gathering data on specific process parameters.

Fabless designers rely on the accuracy of the Process Design Kit (PDK) supplied by the foundry in accounting for the statistical nature of the offset voltages. Matching performance is a key parameter for CMOS processing. Mismatch in transistor threshold voltage, resistance, and capacitance are dominant factors in IC performance. Process-related parameter variance is inversely proportional to transistor area and therefore becomes increasingly important as the dimensions of the transistors are reduced.

Ridgetop's invention is offered to customers as PDKChek® Independent Die-level Monitor. Ridgetop's PDKChek® helps independent verification of process design kit (PDK) parameters; expedites problem resolution; resolves yield detractors; optimizes design margins; and provide feedback for self-calibrating circuit.

Doug Goodman, Ridgetop's CEO stated: "The patented PDKChek® Independent Die-level Monitor is one of our many innovations in semiconductor IP. The influence of local process-related variations in device characteristics on electrical parameters of an IC is becoming a critical issue as device geometries and power supplies continue to decrease. Ridgetop's PDKChek® helps customers solve this issue."

Ridgetop Group is a privately-held firm founded in 2000 that provides mission-critical electronic prognostic tools, and semiconductor IP libraries. Customers include a diverse mix of government and commercial firms in North America, Europe and Asia.

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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