



For More Information

Contact Phil Davies
Director, Sales and Marketing
520-742-3300
Phil.Davies@ridgetopgroup.com

For Immediate Release

Intermittency Solution for FPGA/Ball Grid Array (BGA) Applications
Now Available

Tucson, AZ (Feb. 10, 2009) – Ridgetop Group, Inc., a developer of advanced tools for prognostics-enabling critical systems, has announced its Sentinel SJ BIST Electronic Prognostic Unit (EPU) product.

Directly addressing the large number of FPGAs being used in critical applications, Sentinel SJ BIST™ is a synthesizable softcore that provides in-situ fault detection for solder joint degradation on ball grid array packages, according to company President and CEO Doug Goodman.

“With this unique technology, you can use real-time sensors to monitor the actual health of critical components or systems to determine, based on rate-of-change, their specific remaining useful life,” he said.

“This ‘canary’ sensor approach is applicable to mission-critical design situations where a possible failure could lead to significant revenue losses, create safety issues, and/or lead to an inability to support a military mission. Our automotive and aerospace customers are enthusiastic about the results that they have achieved in applying this technology in critical applications. Intermittent connections are very difficult and time-consuming to isolate and Ridgetop has introduced an easy-to-apply solution to this problem,” he said.

In addition to the ability of the Sentinel SJ BIST EPU to forecast failure, the Ridgetop Group technology can pinpoint the source of intermittent failures. Maintenance costs can be significantly reduced by employing condition-based maintenance (CBM) strategies that eliminate automatic replacement policies based on time, not true operating conditions experienced by the equipment.

With Ridgetop's approach, users of critical equipment have real-time information on the capability of their component, can schedule maintenance down time based on usage, and can save significantly through implementing a need-based maintenance program.

Ridgetop's electronic prognostic products are based on rigorous physics-of-failure progression models developed over many years of experience.

Ridgetop Group, Inc., founded in 2000, is the world leader in providing a wide range of unique and innovative products in several forms, including hardware, software and system-level diagnostic and prognostic solutions.

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