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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASA Selects Ridgetop Group to Develop an Innovative Modular SiGe 130 nm Cell Library

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Ridgetop Group, Inc. (Ridgetop) announced that it has been selected to receive a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 contract from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Ridgetop will create a cell library of key "building block" analog cells needed to accelerate the development, improve the reliability, and reduce the cost of a wide range of integrated circuits (ICs) essential for space missions and other demanding applications that must tolerate harsh environments.

NASA space missions use application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs) under extreme operating conditions, and these ASICs have a critical need for high performance analog cell libraries to support the mission requirements. With the introduction of silicon germanium (SiGe) semiconductor fabrication processes, there is an opportunity to provide resilient analog and mixed-signal (AMS) data converter designs that handle both temperature and radiation hardening requirements. Ridgetop's library builds on the underlying performance and robustness of SiGe and will include pipeline, flash, and successive approximation register (SAR) analog-to-digital data converters (ADCs); and capacitor array digital-to-analog data converters (DACs), all critical functional blocks for many AMS ICs. Ridgetop's technology supports improved circuit design that will provide both radiation-hardened and extreme temperature performance. Applications for this technology include satellite systems, space exploration vehicles, medical imaging systems, and high-energy physics instrumentation.

"Ridgetop has been very successful in developing custom high-reliability ICs for NASA and other organizations," said Andrew Levy, vice president of Ridgetop's Semiconductor and Precision Instruments Division. "We are gratified that NASA has asked Ridgetop to capture some of our design expertise in a library that others may use to design similar chips. This innovative technology will provide substantial benefits to NASA, the space community at large, and others who design and build electronics for extreme conditions."

About Ridgetop Group, Inc.

Established in 2000, Ridgetop Group is a Tucson, Arizona-based firm that produces electronic solutions for harsh environments and challenging applications. The firm is qualified as an aerospace supplier under its AS9100C certification, and became a Category 1A Trusted Supplier under the DoD's Trusted Foundry Program in 2010. A privately held firm, Ridgetop operates two divisions in Tucson, and has a related subsidiary firm based in Europe. For further information, please visit our website at www.ridgetopgroup.com or contact information@ridgetopgroup.com.

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