

Petrov Group Announces Report on IBM IC Design Automation Tools

PALO ALTO, Calif.—January 6, 2004—The Petrov Group today announced that it has produced the latest addition to its Advanced Chip Design Factory™ studies and reports on trends and opportunities in chip design technologies. The new report is titled *IBM IC Design Automation Tools: Focusing on Automation and Productivity*. “This report examines IBM’s tightly integrated and highly automated EDA tools and their relationships, including 47 major IC design tool systems. We estimate that only a very small percent of IBM’s formidable chip design tool arsenal is visible to the mainstream semiconductor industry,” said Boris Petrov, managing partner of the Petrov Group.

“This report identifies and examines IBM’s key research efforts in IC design automation and IC design automation requirements and challenges from both the economic and technology perspectives. Emphasis is shifting away from individual EDA tool approaches toward IC design systems that integrate all aspects of IC design, manufacturability, testability, and reliability. Major investments and progress have been made in the integration of IC design and manufacturing processes, promising to have high impact in increasing effective yields and design performance. The new approaches in this area encompass all aspects of IC and system design, including power, timing, noise, yield, reliability, failure analysis, other.”

“Our series of reports and studies aims to uncover a forward-looking and detailed blueprint and performance metrics of the IC Design Factory™, which will deliver superior performance via highly automated design systems. The term IC design factory is our metaphor for the new frontier of the sub-90nm IC design technology, and IBM is certainly the benchmark company in this area. There is very high interaction among chip design, processing, and volume manufacturing in sub-90 nanometer technologies. This requires an entirely new class of probabilistic EDA tools and an approach that integrates chip design and manufacturing—the technology transfer step will not exist much longer. There are very few places that can demonstrate today what the industry, investors, and system/solutions vendors should expect in coming years. IBM’s Research Division is one of them, demonstrating IBM’s ability to rapidly transform innovation into production. We have developed a model for classifying and evaluating a seemingly limitless number of IBM’s EDA tools.”

According to Petrov, this report provides invaluable information for executives responsible for design automation decision making. It evaluates IC design automation approaches and solutions using models that can also be used as decision-making tools.

The Petrov Group, LLC, is a strategy consulting and market research firm that is focused on the semiconductor industry. It is renowned for pragmatic due diligence on companies, technologies, and

competitive opportunities, always with the highest standards of independence and integrity. Boris Petrov founded the Petrov Group in 1981.

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