Agile Analog and EnSilica Collaborate to Improve Quality and Reliability of Microchips

*Agile Analog Selects EnSilica for SoC Development*

Cambridge, UK, 16 June 2020:

Agile Analog, a leading provider of semiconductor analog IP, today announced that they have worked with EnSilica, a leading fabless design house focused on custom ASIC design and supply services, to both fabricate and test their latest analog IP products, and to validate that their advanced product delivery processes provide maximum benefit to Agile Analog’s end customers. The project speeds up the process of proving and qualifying analog IP, and reduces the time-to-market and risk of IC development cycles through a revolutionary top-down delivery of initial IP views.

The integration of analog IP onto a complex silicon chip is a time-consuming process that is exacerbated by the variable quality of currently available analog IP products. Analog circuits are also very sensitive to their on-chip surroundings so issues during integration and test can lead to reliability problems during the manufacture and mass production of such chips. Finally, waiting until the end of analog IP delivery can both slow down chip planning work, and mean that critical customer feedback is not available until it’s too late.

Agile Analog has developed an in-house system to automatically generate analog IP (including all associated IP product deliverables) to a high quality, according to customer specifications, and on any silicon process technology. This system produces a high-quality final IP delivery package (FDP), as well as an initial delivery package (IDP). The IDP is available very early and allows customers time to integrate it into their chip development process and provide feedback to be implemented in the FDP.

EnSilica’s world-class expertise in the design of custom analog, mixed-signal and digital chips was critical to developing a chip architecture together with a re-usable test platform that Agile Analog will use to test and validate their latest analog IP products. EnSilica has integrated a number of Agile Analog’s IP products, including their latest configurable analog-to-digital converter (ADC) IP and bandgap voltage reference IP, onto this System-on-Chip for fabrication in TSMC’s 28nm CMOS technology.

“What Agile Analog has achieved is impressive,” said Ian Lankshear, CEO at EnSilica. “The high quality of their automatically generated IP deliverables really does save integration time and effort and will benefit all their customers. Thanks to their comprehensive documentation, the integration of their analog IP onto an SoC and the development of a test setup and procedure was effortless for our engineers, and most of our work could be done using the IDP, so we were able to get a significant amount of work done early.”

Tim Ramsdale, CEO at Agile Analog, added: “EnSilica’s extensive chip design expertise was amply demonstrated in the re-usable SoC design and test solution they created. This work will be instrumental to Agile Analog and will allow us to prove more of our analog IP in silicon quickly and efficiently. The project also served as a pipe-cleaning exercise and EnSilica’s knowledgeable feedback and recommendations have allowed us to improve our products further.”

Agile Analog’s use of design automation to generate analog IP results in products that are guaranteed to be consistent and of high quality. Their innovative approach is transforming the
semiconductor market by producing analog IP that is customized to the application’s requirements and is available on any semiconductor process. The project with EnSilica enables Agile Analog to silicon-prove their analog IP products more efficiently. This will enable Agile Analog’s customers to take their chips into production faster and more reliably.

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About Agile Analog
At Agile Analog we have brought together a team of industry veterans from the analog, IP and design automation worlds to revolutionize the way analog IP is developed and delivered. Based in Cambridge, UK, we are growing quickly to become one of the world’s leading analog IP companies. Using our innovative core technology, we are able to design analog circuits faster, to a higher quality, and on any semiconductor process. We are widening market access to analog IP in a way that will greatly increase our customers’ opportunities to take innovative chip designs to market. As part of a dynamic industry, we are disrupting methodologies that have been unchanged for generations. For more information visit www.agileanalog.com.

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About EnSilica
EnSilica is a leading fabless design house focused on custom ASIC design and supply for OEMs and system houses, and IC design services for companies with their own design teams. The company has world-class expertise in supplying custom analog, mixed signal and digital IC’s to its international customers in the automotive, industrial, healthcare and consumer markets. The company also offers a broad portfolio of core IP covering cryptography, radar and communications systems. EnSilica has a track record in delivering high quality solutions to demanding industry standards. Visit EnSilica at www.ensilica.com.

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