

For Immediate Release

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**ACCELLERA ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF LIBRARY
CHARACTERIZATION & INTEROPERABILITY COMMITTEE,
INVITES ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO PARTICIPATE**

NAPA, Calif., May 3, 2004, — Accellera, the electronics industry organization focused on language-based electronic design standards, today announced the formation of a technical subcommittee to improve electronic design library characterization and tool interoperability. Accellera's Harmony subcommittee will define the common library characterization dataset needed for IC implementation and equivalent representation of the same data in Synopsys' Liberty™ format and the IEEE Std 1603™-2003 (Advanced Library Format (ALF)).

The Harmony standard will improve EDA tool interoperability and reduce the need for tool-specific library extensions. It will specify the semantics of the library contents as well as a cross-reference between Liberty and ALF.

"Accellera welcomes every opportunity to extend our efforts to improve electronic design automation efficiency," noted Dennis Brophy, Chairman of Accellera. "Our Harmony group will improve design tool interoperability via a standard library format and address the challenges of next-generation semiconductor process technology characterization."

"The benefit of this work can be measured in cost reduction and improvements in quality of design libraries," added the technical subcommittee chairman, Dr. Wolfgang Roethig, Senior Design Engineering Manager, Design Solutions Center, NEC Electronics America, Inc., who initiated and leads this project. "With Liberty being the most widely used and ALF being the most comprehensive library format available to the industry, the technical subcommittee selected the strongest possible foundation for this project."

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Invitation to Participate and Industry Support

Accellera invites the electronics industry to participate and review this standard. For more information, please visit www.eda.org/alf or www.accellera.org.

Participation in Accellera's Harmony subcommittee is open to all interested companies and individuals. To date, more than 12 companies are represented. These include Accellera members such as Artisan Components, Inc., Cadence Design Systems Inc., Mentor Graphics Corp., NEC Electronics America and Synopsys Inc., among others.

Neal Carney, vice president of marketing at Artisan, added: "As a semiconductor IP provider, we focus on broad EDA tool interoperability support and welcome this standard to help better serve our customers."

About IEEE Std 1603-2003 (ALF)

IEEE Std 1603 standardizes the language and semantic representation for design libraries. It supports RTL to GDSII descriptions of functional, electrical performance and layout views for technology libraries, scalable from cells to complex hierarchical design blocks.

About Liberty

Synopsys' widely used open library format, Liberty, includes the .lib, .plib, and SPM formats. Liberty is supported by more than 100 semiconductor vendors with more than 750 submicron libraries, and by more than 30 EDA vendors that supply over 75 production tools. It has evolved over 15 years along with technology and modeling needs and is a proven format, which can easily be extended to meet the needs of designers. Recent enhancements to Liberty include the addition of noise modeling capabilities, which will allow library suppliers and developers using this format to make their cell libraries ready for a comprehensive signal integrity flow for 130 and 90 nanometer designs. For more information on Liberty, visit:

http://www.synopsys.com/partners/tapin/lib_info.html.

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About Accellera

Accellera provides design standards for quick availability and use in the electronics industry. The organization and its members cooperatively deliver much-needed EDA standards that lower the cost of designing integrated circuits and EDA products. As a result of Accellera's long-standing, successful partnership with the IEEE, Accellera standards are provided to the IEEE standards body for formalization and ongoing change control. For more information about joining Accellera, please visit www.accellera.org.

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Acronyms and definition

ALF	Advanced Library Format
EDA	Electronic Design Automation
GDSII	General Data System. This format is used to tapeout or produce silicon
HDL	Hardware Description Language
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
IC	Integrated Circuit
IP	Intellectual Property
RTL	Register Transfer Level
SoC	System on Chip
SPDM	Scalable Polynomial Delay Model

Liberty is a trademark of Synopsys, Inc.

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