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Samsung, Micron form Hybrid Memory consortium

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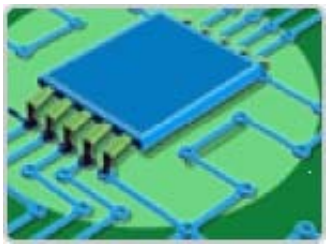
Samsung Electronics and Micron Technology have formed a consortium for developing and implementing an open interface specification for a memory technology called the Hybrid Memory Cube (HMC). Working closely with Altera, Open Silicon and Xilinx, they collectively aim to accelerate industry efforts in bringing to market a broad set of technologies.



The consortium will initially define a specification to enable applications ranging from large-scale networking to industrial products and high-performance computing.

A key motivation for forming the HMCC is that the memory bandwidth required by high-performance computers and next-generation networking equipment has increased beyond what conventional memory architectures can provide. The term "memory wall" has been used to describe the problem.

HMC capabilities could offer a leap beyond current and near-term memory architectures in the areas of performance, packaging and design efficiencies. By defining an industry interface specification for developers, manufacturers and architects, the consortium claims it is committed to making HMC a successful high-performance memory technology.

The consortium believes that HMC could lead to unprecedented levels of memory performance and facilitate new applications in networking, medical, energy, wireless communications, transportation, security and other markets. For example, the development of systems and technologies will offer a more efficient, reliable and secure smart grid infrastructure with integrated renewable energy resources.

"HMC is unlike anything currently on the radar," said Robert Feurle, Micron's VP for DRAM Marketing. "HMC brings a new level of capability to memory that provides exponential performance and efficiency gains that will redefine the future of memory. Guidance by the industry consortium will help drive the fastest possible adoption of the technology, resulting in what we believe will be radical improvements to computing systems."

The HMCC's memory specifications will be co-developed among the consortium members. The consortium is open to an unlimited number of adopters, with the opportunity to receive early access to draft specifications and participate in specification discussions and development.

- Phil Ling
EE Times

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