

# The Xilinx-Neocad Merger

by CURTWOZNIAK ♦ President and Chief Operating Officer

The continued growth of the high-density, high-performance programmable logic market is increasingly dependent upon the capabilities of the development software. While continuing our efforts to make programmable logic devices faster, denser and less expensive, we also realize that the design software needs to be easier to use, must provide more powerful design and debug capabilities, and should be supplied to users in advance of device availability.

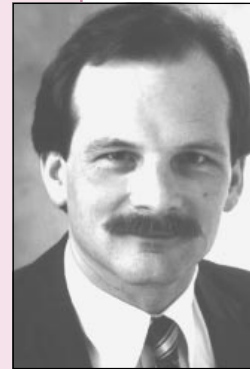
To help in the continuing efforts to achieve these goals, Xilinx recently announced the acquisition of NeoCAD, Inc., a developer of high-performance design software for FPGAs. Combining our strength in FPGA and EPLD programmable logic devices and process technologies with NeoCAD's advanced FPGA software technology, this merger will provide Xilinx users with access to even more powerful FPGA software design solutions. It is clear that NeoCAD can provide innovative technology that will accelerate software and hardware development efforts in order to keep pace with user demands. This increased capability will allow us to significantly enhance our industry-leading FPGA and EPLD solutions and bring new solutions to market more quickly.

We now face the challenge of combining the best of both the Xilinx and NeoCAD development system technologies. The next development system release from Xilinx and NeoCAD, XACTstep, version 6, and NeoCAD Foundry V7.0, respectively, will ship as planned. We will continue to support all Xilinx and NeoCAD users with active software maintenance agreements. Migration paths to allow current NeoCAD users access to the XACT solution and XACT users access to the NeoCAD software will soon be established. *(See related article, page 21.)*

NeoCAD software will continue to be supported out of Boulder, Colorado. The former NeoCAD research and development team will remain in Boulder and comprise the nucleus of the Xilinx Boulder research and development site.

NeoCAD's software technology will be merged into future XACT releases to provide a flexible, technology-independent methodology that enables us to quickly support current and emerging architectures. Equally important, the NeoCAD FPGA technology evaluation capability, whereby users can perform "what if" scenarios and select the optimum device based on their cost, speed and density requirements, will also be incorporated within the XACTstep software system. The development team in Boulder will develop software jointly with other Xilinx development teams worldwide; we will leverage this team's expertise and experience, and anticipate that they will take a leadership role in driving our overall software direction.

Programmable logic users demand a wide range of architectures and programming technologies to satisfy their product needs, and software is a key enabler in this regard. This merger underscores our continued commitment to provide a diverse suite of programmable logic solutions. Our vision of the Xilinx-NeoCAD merger is that we can combine the best aspects of our technologies and the talents of our employees to achieve a design system for our users that is the absolute best in the industry. **This is the vision on which Xilinx was founded.** ♦



NeoCAD  
INC.