

New **X_SA_TC_ET_P**[™] Release Adds XC4000E and XC9500 Family Support

The new versions of XACTstep (versions 6.0.1 for PCs and 5.2.1 for workstations) will begin shipping in June. This new release will add production software support for the new XC4000E FPGA and XC9500 CPLD programmable logic families, enabling designers to take full advantage of these latest component offerings.

XACTstep v5.2/v6, introduced in November 1995, combined a number of new graphical design tools to shorten software learning curves, simplify design flows, increase design performance, and speed design debug:

- **Design Manager and Flow Engine** — These easy-to-learn and use, Windows-based graphical user interface tools simplify the design process for Xilinx programmable logic devices. The Design Manager provides a hierarchical project management environment, automatically managing design files and providing version control. The Flow Engine walks users through each step in the design implementation process. Designers can use fully automatic design flows, or customize the flow by setting breakpoints at different stages of the process to allow detailed design analysis or optimization. In XACTstep v5.2.1/v6.0.1, Design Manager support for both the XC4000E and XC9500 families is added.
- **High Performance Floorplanner[™]** — This comprehensive, Windows- and UNIX-based graphical floorplanning tool makes it easy for users to maximize a design's performance and density. With this tool, users can interactively place structured design elements and graphically plan their data flow, then pass their design knowledge to

the automatic placement and routing tools. It also allows optimization of the XC4000 architecture's unique high-speed distributed RAM and three-state internal bus features. In XACTstep v5.2.1/v6.0.1, Floorplanner support for the XC4000E family is added to the existing support for the XC3x00A, XC4000 and XC5200 families.

- **Hardware Debugger** — This Windows-based tool frees designers from the time-consuming task of writing exhaustive simulation vectors by allowing them to view internal signals while the FPGA device is running in-circuit. An unlimited number of internal nodes can be displayed in a waveform window. In XACTstep v5.2.1/v6.0.1, support for the XC4000E family is added to the existing support for the XC3x00A, XC4000 and XC5200 families.

The new v5.2.1/v6.0.1 release will allow XC4000E and XC9500 users to fully leverage these proven design tools to maximize design productivity. Registered Xilinx development system owners with an active software maintenance agreement will receive this update automatically. *To check on the status of your maintenance agreement, call Xilinx customer service at 408-559-7778 or contact your local Xilinx sales office.* ♦

Highlights of XACTstep v5.2.1/v6.0.1 Update

- ♦ Design Manager support for both the XC4000E and XC9500 families.
- ♦ Floorplanner support for the XC4000E family.
- ♦ Hardware Debugger support for the XC4000E family.

