THE EUROPEAN ELECTRONIC CHIPS & SYSTEMS DESIGN INITIATIVE (ECSI) IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM


ECSI was created in May 1993 by the European project ESIP/ESPRIT. Since then, it has a successful record of both standardization activities and of consulting services in the EDA field. Having been involved in the evolution of EDA standards, the members of ECSI have come to realize the potential for a wider scope of joint actions within the European systems industry.

Supported by the telecom, semiconductor and EDA industries, ECSI has been a European voice at standards working groups and a centre for the management of European projects.

Without limiting its standardization efforts, ECSI members now want to focus on the application of standards, i.e. on design methods. Recognizing the fact that implementation oriented design is comparatively well supported and standards thereof are becoming relatively mature, it is intended that this activity will concentrate on the system design challenge of designers achieving more in less time. Unless it meets this challenge, the systems industry will fail to develop. Given that the design process is an enabling technology, generally being considered of secondary importance to a company’s products and less sensitive to loss of proprietary know-how, it is an ideal candidate for joint efforts among the systems companies.

In addition to continuing the efforts of standardization, especially in connection with electronic systems design, ECSI will take initiatives to promote and develop efficient methods of systems design, in particular drawing on reuse of intellectual property, i.e. know-how, and on senior designer education.

Although ECSI is open to all industry having an interest in its subjects, there are sectors of the European industry, like the automotive industry, that have not yet joined ECSI, due to its narrowness of its previous charter. As a first step towards a broader membership, ECSI has constituted the ECSI-SYDIC, an advisory board of ECSI for new activities, including the SYDIC-Telecom project and other similar activities to come.

For the time being, the strategy will be relying on ECSI’s well proven, light and flexible operational structure and proceed through of projects. With significant results will come increased visibility and relevance to companies not yet members of ECSI, meaning the joining of new sectors of the industry.

Another major action would serve to make the member companies more aware of new opportunities, to refine the skills of the designers with new and not easily and readily available knowledge and to make the member companies successful customers vis-à-vis the EDA vendors.

To reflect the change of charter and direction the members have adopted a new name for the organisation, The European Electronic Chips & Systems design Initiative (ECSI).