

# Upgrading to NeoCAD FPGA Foundry

Both the XACT Development™ System and NeoCAD's FPGA Foundry™ are available for implementing designs in the XC3000 and XC4000 FPGA families. Each has its respective strengths; for some high-density designs, the XACT system produces a better implementation; for others, the NeoCAD system generates a better solution.

It will take some time for the combined companies to integrate these products into a single development system. In the meantime, some current XACT users may be interested in adding the FPGA Foundry to their tool suite — particularly those users implementing very high-density FPGA designs.

For users with in-warranty XACT systems, special upgrade pricing has been established in order to allow add-on purchases of the FPGA Foundry software. Upgrade prices range from \$2,700 to \$3,000 (U.S.), dependent on the platform (PC or workstation). For users purchasing new systems, an "Advanced" system that

contains both the XACT and FPGA Foundry software is available. *Please contact your local Xilinx sales representative for ordering codes and pricing for both new packages and upgrades.*

Designers purchasing such an upgrade should be aware that these are two different development system suites, with their own licenses, user interfaces, documentation, and packaging. Both support X-BLOX™, the Unified Libraries, and XNF file formats, but FPGA Foundry does not support XACT-Performance or the upcoming XACT-Floorplanner™. The FPGA Foundry system supports only the XC3000 (and its derivatives — XC3000A, XC3100, XC3100A) and XC4000 FPGA families. It is available for the Windows, HP, SunOS and Solaris operating systems.

Users should review their needs with their local Xilinx Field Application Engineer before purchasing the upgrade to FPGA Foundry or the Advanced packages. ♦



## Solaris Support Status

According to Sun, all programs compiled for SunOS 4.1x should work under Solaris 2.3 (and higher) in emulation mode. XACT software, for the most part, fits this category. Even though Xilinx has performed no formal testing with the Solaris operating system, some users are designing successfully with XACT-SN2 products under Solaris.

However, there are a few known problems when running under Solaris 2.3:

- FLEXLM License Manager: Running XACT under Solaris, requires a special version of the Highland License Manager program, flexlm, compiled for Solaris. This software can be requested from the Xilinx Hotline and e-mailed directly to the user.
- Mentor Interface: The gen\_sch8 and xblxgs programs do not work under Solaris.
- XChecker: XChecker bitstream download and debugging are not

expected to work with Solaris. Therefore, this program must be used on a SunOS machine or on a different platform (e.g., a PC).

FPGA Foundry from NeoCAD supports Solaris and is available now as an option for Xilinx users that require immediate Solaris support.

With the recent merger of Xilinx and NeoCAD, plans are being developed to support Solaris with a future combined product. ♦