



NEWS RELEASE

Forte Closes 2008 with Record Revenue, 30% Q4 Sales Growth Wraps Year with Volume Orders from NXP, Toshiba Information Systems (Japan) Corporation

SAN JOSE, CALIF. — February 10, 2009 — Forte Design Systems today announced that 2008 was a record year for revenue and bookings, closing the year with Q4 sales growth of 30% and firmly solidifying its position as a leading provider of high-level synthesis software.

The year produced two of the top three quarters in Forte's history and was lead by several multi-year agreements with large multinational companies, including Toshiba Information Systems in Japan as well as a renewal order from NXP in Europe.

"Toshiba Information Systems (Japan) Corporation has been a Forte customer for several years and has successfully used Forte's Cynthesizer and SystemC on a variety of products shipping today," says Takashi Saigo, general manager, LSI Division II, Toshiba Information Systems (Japan) Corporation. "We recently extended our commitment to Forte for another three years, allowing us to custom develop new, advanced products for our customers in less time with lower overall costs."

Highlights of 2008 include a new version of Cynthesizer™, Forte's high-level synthesis software. Enhancements added features for optimized control-based design, improved quality or results (QoR), including power, electronic change order (ECO) management and a graphical user interface. Cynthesizer's flow automation environment supports more electronic system level (ESL) and register transfer level (RTL) tools and continues to provide the most comprehensive third-party tool support of any high-level synthesis product.

Engineers worldwide are employing Cynthesizer for the design of chips for automotive, storage, video, audio, wireless, imaging, printing and other applications. Many of these designs have been successfully taped out and are being shipped as high-volume silicon from all regions of the world.

Adds Sean Dart, Forte's president and CEO: "2008 was a breakthrough year for Forte and high-level synthesis as design teams around the world added Cynthesizer to their mainstream flows. Even with difficult economic times, we were able to expand our reach by providing a unique value proposition allowing design teams to invest in the future and save money."

About Forte Design Systems

Forte Design Systems is a leading provider of software products that enable design at a higher level of abstraction. Its innovative high-level synthesis technology allows design teams creating complex electronic systems from algorithmic designs using ASICs, FPGAs, and SoCs to significantly reduce their overall design and verification time. Forte is headquartered at 100 Century Center Court, San Jose, Calif. 95112. For more information, visit www.ForteDS.com.

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