

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Analog Design Tools And Services Startup MDA Spins Out of K.U.Leuven**

**April 10, 2006, Leuven, Belgium** – Mephisto Design Automation (MDA) has spun out of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven to commercialize highly-performant analog and mixed-signal optimization tools. MDA also provides accompanying consultancy services.

Two of the founders of Mephisto Design Automation have been working on analog and mixed-signal design automation for more than eight years under the direction of Professor Georges Gielen, one of the leading experts in the field.

The research work was carried out in the MICAS laboratory which is headed by world-renowned industry expert Professor Willy Sansen.

MICAS staff members have actively supported the founding of Mephisto Design Automation and the research lab also took a share in the company. Professor Georges Gielen will be actively supporting the company in its further development as a technical advisor. Georges Gielen stated: “Improving analog circuit design productivity is a big challenge in today's technologies. Mephisto Design Automation addresses this problem by providing analog designers with an outstanding mix of services and analog design tools.” Willy Sansen confirms: “Mephisto Design Automation has the advantage that it has intensively collaborated with several designers of our ESAT-MICAS division during the development of their design methodology. As a result their design system reaches a high efficiency and is more focused compared with many other design packages.” Michiel Steyaert, head of circuit design in the MICAS lab continues: “Experienced designers were able to improve performances by fully optimizing their circuits, taking parasitic effects into account. The same results would be extremely difficult and time-consuming to obtain by hand-calculations alone.”

The technology of Mephisto Design Automation is based on 16 years of research. For the first time a comprehensive, fully-functional, intuitive, industrial-grade tool is available that can directly be applied to the most challenging analog design problems. “We’ve seen little success so far to automate analog design, and this is not only due to less intuitive tools and unrealistic automation expectations, but also due to the lack of proper services that go with the software,” argues Kenneth Francken, co-founder and CEO. “Mephisto Design Automation is perfectly placed to address these shortcomings and to truly solve our customers’ design problems through unique consultancy services that complement the software.” To this end, co-founder Jan Decaluwe, a successful entrepreneur who co-founded Easics – a design services company – joined the team to roll out the consultancy business model. Martin Vogels, co-founder and CTO, stressed the fact that the developed software can easily interface with any design flow or design framework. Already, the flagship product M-Design has been successfully used in industry in combination with several third-party analog design tools.

Geert Everaert, Managing Director of Allegro Investment Fund is excited to have realized the starting venture funding: “Allegro is convinced that the unique qualities of the software tools of Mephisto Design Automation combined with the expertise of the management team in place will unlock tremendous value for all stakeholders.”

The software of Mephisto Design Automation was prepared for commercialization during the past two years with the support of the Flemish IWT. The company has relied on the experience of SO KWADRAAT, an initiative from seasoned entrepreneur Johan Van den Bossche, that strives to ease and stimulate the spin-off creation process in Flanders.

Operational and research facilities of Mephisto Design Automation are located at the Research Park in Leuven, Belgium.

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