
StarChip announces the successful tape-out of its 32bit-Secure Chip SIM platform based on Cortus APS3 processor.

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StarChip, high volume, secure microcontroller design expert, announces the tape-out of its 32bit-Secure chip SIM platform. This new technology includes Flash secure 32-bit SIM architecture based on Cortus APS3S core and providing high-level endurance management, fast personalization mode and fully secure lifecycle handling.

StarChip believes that the only way to implement a secure architecture including core protection and customization would require close cooperation with CORE IP design experts. Only Cortus were found who combines a native powerful and cost effective 32-bit architecture with access to the processor experts required to support the development of an innovative secure SIM architecture. Moreover, the redistributable complete Cortus tool chain enables StarChip to supply secure, customised and state-of-the-art development solution to its customers.

In addition to the close collaboration between StarChip Engineers and Cortus experts, the APS3 was chosen for its small silicon footprint and low power consumption. As part of the solution Cortus provided extensive test benches which saved weeks of the development time and improved confidence in the overall design.

Yves Fusella, CTO of StarChip, said "We were very satisfied with the exemplary reactivity and quality of the support provided by Cortus which was key to the success of our project. Cortus provides a powerful core solution which allows introducing the 32-bit performances in the SIM market with the cost and power consumption of a standard 8-bit core. In the future, we plan to build a complete and consistent 32-bit offer based on the APS3S core from the low-end SIM chips to the highest levels of security"

Mike Chapman, CEO of Cortus, said "We were delighted to rise to the challenge of developing the secure SIM solution with StarChip. Our processor experts were excited to be able to work closely with a customer to bring an innovative design to market. The result of this partnership has been an innovative solution that offers both security and ease of development to StarChip customers."

The Cortus APS3 is a fully 32-bit processor designed specifically for embedded systems. It features a tiny silicon footprint (the same size as an 8051), very low power consumption, high code density and high performance. A full development environment is available, which is available for customization and branding for final customer use. The ecosystem around the APS3 is rich and well developed, it includes a full development environment (for C and C++), peripherals typical of embedded systems, bus bridges to ensure easy interfacing to other IP and system support and functions such as cache and memory management units. For the most demanding designs the

APS3 can be used in a multi-core configuration. The APS3 processor core is currently in production in a range of products from security applications to ultra low power RF designs.

About StarChip:

StarChip has been founded in early 2009 by experienced former managers of the semiconductor industry.

StarChip is dedicated to help large OEMs designing, then transferring semiconductor products to high volume production, thus helping customers to directly benefit from a reduced added value chain.

We license a Product-IP™ which can be bought directly by our customers in volume from selected and qualified foundries and test houses.

StarChip expertise is of two folds :

- Focus on secured microcontroller design including Flash memory, analog and security for various commodity markets such as communications, consumer, PC, including circuits for Smart Card and M2M.
- Complete knowledge of Product Engineering, Quality and Production aspects of the semiconductor industry.

Products are specified according to customer requirements and integrate industry standard cores.

About Cortus S.A.:

Cortus S.A. is the price/performance leader for 32 bit processor IP for embedded systems. Cortus cores are used in applications where one or more of small silicon footprint, low power consumption, good code density/small code memory size and high performance are important.

<http://www.cortus.com>.

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