
Second Armenian Microelectronics Olympiad Held During Synopsys Week In Armenia

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Synopsys, Inc., a world leader in semiconductor design software, today announced that the Second Armenian Microelectronics Olympiad took place on Sep 14-26, 2007 in Yerevan. The Olympiad reflects the growing development of microelectronics design in Armenia. The competition spotlights Armenia's brightest and most talented young engineers under the age of 30. Its goal is to stimulate interest in microelectronics design, add the element of competition to the educational process, and determine these young engineers' depth of knowledge in order to adjust future educational programs if necessary.

The Olympiad topics included: Digital IC Design and Testing, Analog and Mixed-Signal IC Design and Testing, Semiconductor Devices and Technology, and Mathematical and Algorithmic Issues of electronic design automation (EDA).

The Olympiad was conducted in two stages. The first was a test, involving a number of basic tasks. The top contestants were admitted to the second stage, involving a challenging contest and complex tasks requiring advanced solutions. There were 118 participants in the first stage, 48 of which passed to the second stage. Synopsys held an evening reception to announce the winners.

Prizes were given for the following categories:

- 1st Place - Notebook (1 prize)
- 2nd Place - 300,000 AMD (2 prizes)
- 3rd Place - 150,000 AMD (3 prizes)
- Most elegant solution
- Most efficient solution
- Most creative approach
- Best engineering solution
- Best out-of-the box solution
- Youngest participant
- Best result among student participants
- Best result among employed participants

Olympiad Sponsors were: Synopsys Armenia CJSC, USAID CAPS project, Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF), ACBA bank, UNICOMP CJSC, Virage Logic Corporation, Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, Viasphere Technopark CJSC, Apaven LLC, Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE), nsourcer TM ArtSight LLC, Armenia TV, Economics magazine, "Delovoy Express" weekly newspaper, "168 Hours" daily newspaper.

"The Olympiad presents an excellent occasion for youth entering the field to express themselves and to learn about state-of-the-art requirements and news in microelectronics. I am glad to see that most of the participants will use this opportunity to carve a road for their future professional development so the field of microelectronics in Armenia will benefit from new as well as experienced resources," said Levon Mkrtchyan, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.

"The first Olympiad surpassed all of our expectations and inspired us to make it an annual event," said Rich Goldman vice president, Strategic Market Development at Synopsys, chief operating office for Synopsys Armenia CSJC, and chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Armenian Microelectronics

Olympiad. "The energy and enthusiasm in this year's competition was indeed impressive. These young, talented engineers will help lead the Armenian microelectronics industry to a vibrant future."

"It's exciting to see these young engineers in intense, but friendly, competition," said Vazgen Melikyan, director of Synopsys Armenia Educational Department, head of the interdepartmental chair of SEUA, Microelectronic Circuits and Systems, and president of the Program Committee of the Armenian Microelectronics Olympiad. "We're sure that they will bring that same drive and passion to their professions as they embark on careers in Armenia's microelectronics industry."

"It's inspiring to look at the continuation of a great competition among so many talented engineers," said last year's 1st prize winner Grigor Harutyunyan. "I can attest to the excitement they feel during the competition and have experienced first hand the feeling of pride and accomplishment when the competition is finished."
