DATE: Cagliari, June 6th 2011 16:00 -18:00

PLACE: Tiscali Auditorium - Tiscali Campus - Sa Illetta

TITLE: Delivering the next generation of supercomputing with reconfigurable hardware

ABSTRACT: As microprocessors reach the limits of attainable clock frequencies and acceptable power consumption, major microprocessor vendors are enabling higher degrees of parallelism by increasing the number of cores per chip. The resulting increased complexity in harnessing the extra compute resource presents a considerable challenge to the business community.

Many important applications, in fields as diverse as earth science and finance, exhibit significantly worse than linear scaling on multiple cores as they encounter the memory wall. This situation is only likely to get worse as the major microprocessor vendors move beyond quad/six-core chips to many-core architectures (GPUs). At the same time, programmers must now grapple with an even more complex programming model of parallelism at the core, chip, node and cluster level.

Maxeler's dataflow computing solution based on Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) accelerators offers a way to avoid the memory and power walls. By mapping compute-intensive algorithms directly into parallel FPGA hardware and tightly coupled to a CPU through a high-speed I/O bus, conventional CPU applications can be accelerated by orders of magnitude or more. At Maxeler we are bridging the gap between research and production quality systems, delivering complete HPC application solutions utilizing reconfigurable dataflow engines.

SPEAKER: Oskar Mencer - CEO and Founder Maxeler Technologies



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Oskar Mencer

Prior to founding Maxeler Technologies, Oskar Mencer was Member of Technical Staff at Bell Labs, leading the effort on "Computing with FPGAs" within the Computing Sciences Center.

He joined Bell Labs after receiving a PhD from Stanford University. Besides his work with Maxeler, Oskar is also affiliated with the Computing Department at Imperial College London and holds a Consulting Professor position at the Geophysics department at Stanford University.

Oskar's experience includes start-ups and more established companies in Silicon Valley such as DIGITAL, Rockwell and Hitachi (Tokyo).

KEYWORDS: reconfigurable hardware, supercomputing, dataflow, performance, FPGA, HPC



