

Gauda, Inc. , the Company that Accelerates Computational Lithography , Announces its Advisory Board

Startup attracts semiconductor veterans & industry luminaries

SUNNYVALE, Calif., May 30, 2008 — Gauda, Inc., the first company to offer the technology to accelerate computation for OPC (optical proximity correction) using GPUs (graphical processing units), has formed a business and technical advisory board. The advisory board includes experts from industry and academia who will provide guidance as the company continues to develop its long-term technology and business roadmap.

The Gauda advisory board includes Chris Mack, lithography guru and architect of industry standard simulator PROLITH; lithography luminary John Petersen; Ken Rygler, founder of DuPont Photomask; and Naeem Zafar, a long time EDA veteran and now a faculty member at University of California, Berkeley.

“Gauda has developed a fast, accurate and low-cost solution for computational lithography,” said Dr. Ahmet Karakas, Gauda’s founder, president and CEO. “We are honored to have this group of experts join us to help deploy a leading-edge technology that has the infrastructure to address the current and future computational requirements of the semiconductor industry. Just like the well-known DRC business model, we have a solution that can be used by both designers and fabs.”

About the Advisory Board members

Chris A. Mack, Ph.D., is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin. Currently, he writes, teaches, and consults on the field of semiconductor microlithography in Austin, Texas. Dr. Mack founded FINLE Technologies, the developer of the lithography simulation software PROLITH, in 1990, serving as president and Chief Technical Officer until the acquisition of FINLE by KLA-Tencor in 2000. For the next five years he served as vice president of lithography technology for KLA-Tencor. In 2003, he received the SEMI Award for North America for his efforts in lithography simulation and education, and he became a fellow of SPIE in 2006.

“The speed of the Gauda models enables significant improvements in model calibration capability. Methods of global optimization that are impractical with other OPC tools become easily implemented in the Gauda framework,” said Dr. Mack.

John Petersen is the president, chairman and founder of Petersen Advanced Lithography, Inc. Mr. Petersen has performed advanced semiconductor imaging since 1980 and is internationally recognized as an industry leader in the field of optical microlithography. He has published sixty papers, holds six patents, has taught classes for SEMI and SPIE, and currently teaches for PTI-Seminars. Mr. Petersen was a fellow at International SEMATECH where he assessed the use of advanced optical techniques for 150nm (and smaller) imaging in production and provided widely accepted roadmaps that are still used today. His current research includes development of advanced optical lithography and e-beam distributed-computing simulation tools that are used in mask-transform-correction and other design-for-manufacturing (DFM) techniques needed for development and production of 65nm and smaller technology nodes.

"Gauda's next-generation models bring a combined level of speed, accuracy and flexibility never before observed in the computational lithography market. For the first time, we can easily bring decoupled, first principle model-level accuracy to full chip simulation and we can do it with greater speed than any other product – without breaking the bank. This is truly a tool suite designed with lithographers for lithographers," said Mr. Petersen.

Ken Rygler is the president of Rygler and Associates, Inc., a technology consulting firm. He is the founder of Dupont Photomasks, Inc. (DPI), which became one of the world's largest manufacturers of photomasks, and was executive vice president of DPI before resigning in 2001. Mr. Rygler held numerous senior business management responsibilities in a variety of businesses in the electronics, industrial, and consumer markets for E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, Inc. for over 30 years. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Austin Symphony and Petersen Advanced Lithography, and is CEO of Pixelligent Technologies.

"The Gauda approach to OPC and OPC verification is classic semiconductor industry innovation. Technology is extended beyond what was originally considered feasible, using a variety of less-than-optimal solutions. Startups emerge to focus on the problem/opportunity. Better, faster solutions are developed, but at very high price points because they solve a high value problem. Finally, an optimal solution is developed which encompasses the twin virtues of high performance and low cost, and, in Gauda's case, faster time-to-money as well," said Mr. Rygler.

Naeem Zafar is a faculty member of Haas Business School at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches entrepreneurship and innovation in the MBA program. Mr. Zafar is also with Concordia Ventures, which focuses on educating and advising entrepreneurs on all aspects of starting and running a company. He has been with six startups and has extensive experience in mentoring and coaching CEOs. Mr. Zafar's last position was as the president and CEO of Pyxis Technology Inc., a company specializing in advanced chip design software for nanometer technology. Mr. Zafar has been president and CEO of two other high tech startups -- Silicon Design Systems and Veridicom, a Bell Labs spin-off that invented the silicon fingerprint sensors today found on most laptops.

"This is probably the most capital-efficient startup that I have ever seen. The Gauda team has been able to achieve some remarkable milestones and is poised to play an important role at 32 nm and below," said Mr. Zafar.

About Gauda

Gauda is the first company to introduce the technology to accelerate computation for OPC (optical proximity correction) using GPUs (graphical processing units). The company has developed a new breed of algorithms that accelerate the most computation-intensive EDA applications by utilizing both the GPUs and CPUs commonly found in all computers, without sacrificing accuracy. Gauda technology can significantly reduce time to market and improve yield. The company has been in operation since mid-2006 and is located in Sunnyvale, CA. More information is available at www.gauda.com

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Media Contact:

Linda Marchant, Cayenne Communication LLC
(919) 451-0776 or linda.marchant@cayennecom.com