

level languages (of particular concern for many users there appears to be no Fortran compiler and none on the horizon either).

The most encouraging thing is there does seem to be a drive both from the vendors of HPC and the user community to see where FPGAs can go, and to see if they can solve some of the future problems facing HPC systems.

The meeting was very successful attracting over 100 delegates from very varied backgrounds and countries – the objective of bringing together people with a common interest in this technology was certainly achieved. The new OpenFPGA forum (see separate article) will also help to drive forward the use of FPGAs in HPC.



Figure 1: Overview of Virtex by Clive Walker of Xilinx.

For further information, please see the following review: <http://www.hoise.com/primeur/05/articles/monthly/CL-PR-03-05-1.html>, or contact either of the organisers

Kevin Roy or Carl Ward at the University of Manchester. A CD of the presentations is available from Carl Ward (carl.ward@manchester.ac.uk).

OpenFPGA Effort Announced at Manchester Reconfigurable Computing Conference

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The Manchester Reconfigurable Computing Conference was the perfect opportunity for the Ohio Supercomputer Center to announce an effort to bring together developers and hardware manufacturers, academic, government and commercial organizations to work together to advance the use of FPGA technology in high level applications. The effort has the mission to promote the use of Field Programmable Gate Arrays in high-level and enterprise applications by collaboratively defining, developing and sharing critical information, technologies and best practices for exploiting FPGA applications.

Following an earlier OSC conference on reconfigurable computing hosted in October 2004, efforts began to determine the interest of these diverse communities in banding together to solve common problems

of portability, interoperability and intra-application communication. With international interest confirmed, the task to create the organization commenced in February with the formation of an ad hoc steering group with representatives from multiple application areas, computing centers, government, academic and commercial organizations spanning multiple countries. This group has established objectives to pursue in several areas including characterizing best practices, exploring standardization, improving education and promotion of reconfigurable computing solutions and encouraging broad participation and collaboration.

More information on this effort can be obtained at the organization's new website located at www.openfpga.org where those interested can register and become a part of the effort.