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SerialTek Debuts Panda iTAP Protocol Analyzer for Broadcom PEA Technology at FMS

System Provides Critical On-Chip Visibility into Broadcom's PCIe 5.0 ExpressFabric Platform

Longmont, CO, USA — August 1, 2022 — [SerialTek](#), a leading provider of protocol test solutions for PCI Express®, NVM Express®, Serial Attached SCSI, and Serial ATA, today introduced an advancement in the PCIe® test and analysis market with the release of the Panda iTAP™ analyzer. The Panda appliance brings together SerialTek's iTAP technology and BusXpert™ software with Broadcom's PCIe Embedded Analyzer (PEA) technology to enable engineers to overcome the challenges of analyzing on-chip PCIe links. SerialTek staff will demonstrate the Panda iTAP analyzer at this week's [Flash Memory Summit](#) in Santa Clara, CA, USA (booth #219).

"With the increasing ubiquity of sophisticated, highly integrated systems employing switches and chip-to-chip interconnects, physical limitations to accessing PCIe traffic can prove challenging," said Paul Mutschler, CEO, SerialTek. "With the easy access provided by the Panda iTAP analyzer, developers can quickly set up, capture, decode, and view PCIe trace data collected on-chip by Broadcom's PEA technology."

"The latest PCIe innovations in the SerialTek Kodiak system, combined with Broadcom PCIe PEX89000 switches with PCIe Embedded Analyzer and iTAP software, is helping to modernize the data center and PCIe ecosystem," said Dan Roehrich, vice president of IC Development, Data Center Solutions Group, Broadcom. "The innovative, calibration-free Kodiak Si-Fi interposer enables customers to gather analyzer traces in seconds compared to hours with other analysis tools, which is critical in next-generation PCIe switching applications."

Fully Integrated Approach

SerialTek's iTAP technology is a specialized "tap" framework conveniently integrated with SerialTek's BusXpert software, the same web-enabled application used by the advanced, full-featured Kodiak™ Protocol Analysis System for PCIe 5.0 physical links. The Panda iTAP analyzer can capture the initial ordered set and packet sequences commonly missed during the locking period of interposer-based protocol analyzers. When used in conjunction with the Kodiak™ system, developers can seamlessly transition between Kodiak's extremely deep traces and iTAP's on-chip traces, from all instances of PEA stations / ports.

Panda iTAP Highlights

- Advanced BusXpert analysis software with collaborative web UI
- Can be used in conjunction with Kodiak PCIe 5.0 protocol analyzers with the same UI
- Captures TLPs, DLLPs, and Ordered Sets
- 288K capture buffers per station / port
- Synchronized multi-station capture
- Filtering capabilities:
 - Discard TLPs, DLLPs and Ordered Sets
 - Compression of repeating bytes

- Triggering capabilities:
 - Two-level triggering on input trace data
 - Input trigger can be pin-based or routed from internal signals
 - Output trigger can be routed to other trace buffer instances and to a chip output pin

Companion Kodiak Protocol Analyzer Features Advanced Processing Architecture

While on-chip analysis offers a complementary perspective, an analysis of physical links is required to gain deeper understanding of the protocol exchanges. With its unique calibration-free SI-Fi interposers, deep buffers and fully accelerated processing architecture, the Kodiak platform is the perfect companion to Broadcom PEA technology. Kodiak introduces major performance-oriented innovations made possible by an embedded architecture that breaks free from legacy data upload practices in favor of advanced, optimized embedded data processing, fully reimaged by SerialTek engineering from the ground up to handle latest- and future-generation PCIe technologies. Interface responsiveness is markedly advanced, searches involving massive amounts of data are fast, and hardware filtering is flexible and powerful. For more information on the Kodiak platform, please visit www.serialtek.com.

Availability, Product Photos, and Information

The Panda iTAP analyzer is available for immediate purchase with shipments 6 weeks from order placement. For more information, including software downloads, contact sales@serialtek.com or visit www.serialtek.com. A high-resolution picture of the product is available [here](#).

About SerialTek

SerialTek, a member of the Symbiosys Alliance, is a provider of innovative protocol test and analysis tools for the data center and storage industry. Leading manufacturers depend on SerialTek products to improve product quality and drive time-to-market requirements. SerialTek solutions support a variety of standards, including PCI Express (PCIe), Non-Volatile Memory Express (NVMe), Serial Attached SCSI (SAS), and Serial ATA (SATA).

About the Symbiosys Alliance

The Symbiosys Alliance is an I/O interconnect technology group chartered to create value for its membership and for their respective customers by strategically and collaboratively aligning member products and services to current and upcoming market opportunities. These synergized solutions can provide developers with the state-of-the-art resources they need to roll out highly competitive offerings efficiently and confidently to their respective marketplaces. The alliance addresses a range of verticals that are increasingly characterized by hyper-fast innovation cycles. These include semiconductors, data storage, IoT, cloud computing, consumer electronics, automotive, aerospace, medical, and more. Members leverage alliance partnerships to precisely anticipate and address these innovation cycles by delivering high-quality solutions that resonate with the latest technological advances. More information can be found at www.symbiosys.io.

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Protocol Test Solutions for Storage and Data Centers