

## **Silver Spring Networks**

Silver Spring Networks is at the forefront of smart grid technology, providing a unified Smart Energy Platform of hardware, software and services that connects every device on the smart grid.

Given that Silver Spring enables utilities to achieve operational efficiencies, reduce carbon emissions and empower their customers to monitor and manage their energy consumption it is no surprise that their customers include top tier US and overseas utility companies. And it is also no surprise that the company is experiencing dramatic growth.

Silver Spring's ASIC chips are at the heart of their network devices, field service units and pole top boxes. With the explosive demand for these products, any unforeseen production delays would be extremely unfortunate, and conversely any time saved in getting product to market is pure gold. "We buy complex chips from ASIC suppliers," said Jeff Ebert, ASIC Design Manager, "and the unfortunate reality is that we need to verify these third party cores, a critical initial step to save major headaches later in the process."

Before the start of his current project Ebert evaluated his options for effective verification, and considered both in-house scripting and commercially available tools. "Our design revolves around different IP-XACT versions, and we needed to read these 'standard' IP-XACT files. CSRCompiler just seemed the obvious way to go. No-one wants to get caught in the endless waste of creating proprietary scripts," he added.

But CSRCompiler is much more than an effective IP-XACT linting tool. Downstream teams are now also benefitting from CSRCompiler output, with both firmware designers and verification engineers already consuming the consistent standards-based output. The documentation team will start using CSRCompiler output later this year.

"We are only just beginning to understand the full power of Semifore's tool suite," said Ebert. "It improves the efficiency of all our teams, and makes us better able to deliver products that keep us ahead of the market. In addition, and no small bonus, the Semifore team is a pleasure to work with and has responded quickly with modifications to make us even more efficient."

### **Lifted quote for wider use**

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