



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forza Silicon Announces High Dynamic Range CMOS Sensor Development

Company is in Joint Development with Leading Image Sensor Foundry

Pasadena, California, June 22, 2010 – Forza Silicon Corporation announced today that it is in a joint development effort with a leading image sensor foundry to bring to market the next generation of high dynamic range CMOS image sensors.

Forza Silicon Corporation Chief Technology Officer, Daniel Van Blerkom, PhD, and his associates recently released an article evaluating the pros and cons of various high dynamic range approaches for CMOS image sensors. The article appeared in the June 1, 2010 edition of Laser Focus World:

http://www.optoiq.com/index/photronics-technologies-applications/lfw-display/lfw-article-display/1076284207/articles/laser-focus-world/volume-46/issue-6/features/cmos-detectors_new.html

“These techniques all require extensive modifications to the traditional pixel design that can lead to degradations in sensitivity and dark-current performance. Modulating the integration time instead of the conversion gain can reduce the pixel modifications required” said Dr. Van Blerkom. “The next generation of HDR image sensors will require customization and optimization of the pixel, analog signal chain, and the image processing algorithms. We are happy to announce our co-operation with our foundry partner to develop this sensor IP.”

Forza demonstrated an image-aware tone-mapped image set in its labs in Pasadena, California, which represents a close approximation of how a natural scene looks to the human eye.

FORZA SILICON CORPORATION | www.forzasilicon.com
48 SOUTH CHESTER AVE | SUITE 200 | PASADENA | CA 91106 | USA
TEL +1-626-796-1182 | FAX +1-626-796-5582



About Forza Silicon

Forza is a privately held fabless semiconductor company, specializing in high-resolution, high-speed CMOS image sensors, high-speed communication chips, high resolution data converters and high speed serial interface custom IP blocks. More information can be found at www.forzasilicon.com.

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Media contact:

Cynthia Guiang

CG Communications

(858) 793-2471

cynthia@cgcommunications.com



Figure 1. An HDR image is created from multiple images: first through fifth are for conventional, single exposures; the last is a tone-mapped HDR image from a prototype HDR sensor and real-time tone-mapping system in Forza Silicon's labs. (*Courtesy of Forza Silicon*)