



Global EMS Provider Increases Productivity with XJTAG Boundary Scan

“BSE Electronic, one of Europe’s top providers of global high-tech manufacturing services, chose XJTAG as its preferred boundary scan system for efficient screening of complex boards prior to in-circuit and functional testing. Since being installed, the system has helped drive test coverage well beyond the company’s initial expectations.”

BSE Electronic is a provider of global high-tech solutions including R&D, design, test engineering, assembly, integration, logistics and after-sales support. The company provides expertise covering electronic, computing and mechanical subsystems from its headquarters in Le Creusot, France, and has facilities in Tunisia and China.

To ensure consistently high product quality and reliability, BSE applies a number of test techniques including optical inspection of each electronic assembly, prior to in-circuit test and functional testing using custom-built test stations.

“Our established practice is to screen boards after soldering using optical inspection, to save performing ICT and functional test on units with obvious faults,” says Patrick Guerinel, Sales Manager at BSE. “With the increasing numbers of BGA devices, which position their I/O pins beneath the package, the coverage we can achieve using optical inspection has diminished. We decided to remedy this by testing soldered boards using a boundary scan system, and chose XJTAG after evaluating a number of alternatives. In practice, it has delivered much greater testing capability than we expected.”

To illustrate, he describes one of the first boards to be tested using XJTAG, comprising an FPGA-based embedded processing subsystem, a number of memory chips, and discrete mixed-signal components including A-to-D and D-to-A converters.

“XJTAG allows us to simulate bus signals, which permits testing of the SDRAM and Flash memories connected to the FPGA, even though these are not connected to the boundary scan chain. We can also verify the outputs of adjustable power supplies from within XJTAG, using the A-to-D converter on the board.”

XJTAG provides unique features that allow engineers to use on-board devices such as A-to-D converters to capture responses from components

that cannot be tested using traditional boundary scan systems. Custom tests can be written using XJTAG’s high-level language, XJEase, to control individual devices. XJTAG also includes code to manipulate industry-standard interconnects such as an I²C or SPI bus. This allows the system to communicate with a wide variety of analogue and mixed-signal components, as well as JTAG or non-JTAG digital devices.

The second-generation XJTAG XTR-series boundary scan system, which was introduced in January 2010, further extends XJTAG’s capabilities to include direct measurement of up to 18 analogue voltages allowing multiple supply rails to be sampled before or during

testing. The new system is also able to measure clock frequencies within 10 ppm accuracy up to 200 MHz, and supports multiple boundary scan chains.

Making use of XJTAG’s extensive test capabilities has allowed BSE’s engineers to screen assembled boards more rigorously than was previously possible using optical inspection. According to Patrick Guerinel, future projects will achieve even greater test coverage. “By applying best design practice, with help from XJTAG’s built-in DFT analysis, we will be able to test most parts of a system using boundary scan. This will enable us to drive productivity still higher, to further increase value for our customers,” he concludes.

opinion

Patrick Guerinel
Sales Manager
BSE Electronic

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“Simulating bus signals using XJTAG allows us to test the SDRAM and Flash memories connected to the FPGA, even though they are not connected to the boundary scan chain. We can also verify the outputs of adjustable power supplies from within the boundary scan environment, using the A-to-D converter on the board. Going forward, XJTAG will help us drive productivity still higher, to further increase value for our customers.”

Data Bank	
Company	BSE, HQ France
Nature of business	Major Electronic Manufacturing Service provider in Western Europe
Main product	Sourcing, design, manufacture and testing of electronic components, circuits and finished IT products
Customers	Leading electronic product innovators in France and Worldwide, serving all sectors
Locations	Le Creusot, France. Production facilities in France, China, Tunisia
Incorporated	1987
Revenue	€15 millions (2009 France only)
Employees	80 France, 200 Tunisia, 4000 China
Web site	www.bse-electronic.com