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## **Certus Semiconductor reaches an agreement for a transfer of technology licenses.**

**-Certus brings to market a new class of IO and ESD design IP, based on Freescale Semiconductor's proprietary ESD/IO technology.**

Queen Creek, AZ and Austin, TX - August 2009 - Certus Semiconductor, LLC., announced a Technology Transfer License Agreement with Freescale Semiconductor. With this agreement, Certus has acquired rights and licenses to market and distribute Electrostatic Discharge Protection (ESD) and Input/Output (IO) design IP, based upon Freescale's class leading proprietary ESD/IO technology.

This agreement allows Certus to broaden its IP and technology products and services by offering both standard and custom ESD and IO libraries that leverage Freescale's patented world class ESD and IO technology. At the same time Freescale looks to create a new market for its proprietary ESD/IO portfolios.

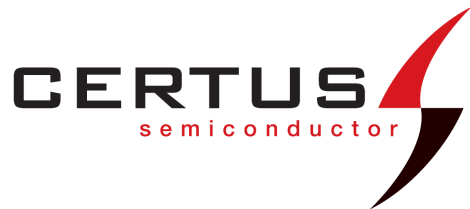
"With the addition of Freescale technology, Certus is able to offer its customers more modular, portable and predictable ESD solutions than their competitors. Benefits include custom ESD solutions optimized for each application, improved first pass success rate on products, smaller ESD/IO footprints, lower parasitic capacitance and power consumption. All of this, with a faster time to market and at a lower cost," says Stephen Fairbanks, Co-Managing Director of Certus.

"The proven Freescale SPICE ESD simulation and optimization methodology guarantee a high level of confidence for IC qualification, even for the highly package-dependent CDM specification," states James W. Miller, ESD Design Manager at Freescale. "Comprehensive ESD simulation with silicon validated compact models is mandatory for successful ESD design in advanced CMOS technologies."

"As a further extension of the new ESD design methodology, Certus and Freescale are creating an entirely new model for what is possible in the world of ESD and IO design IP. Rather than burden the customer with marginally robust, oversimplified and difficult to integrate ESD design kits, Certus offers optimized ESD solutions fully integrated into both IO physical architecture templates and full functional IO libraries," says Dr. Markus Mergens, Co-Managing Director of Certus.

### **How are the CERTUS ESD/IO IP solutions different?**

Certus is now offering their customers exciting new options for IO design. In addition to the standard "off the shelf" IO libraries offered by many foundries and IP companies, Certus, working with Freescale technology, is offering very flexible IO template libraries. An IO cell template defines the cell physical architecture and includes the cell frame, pads, power bussing, ESD circuitry, etc. In other words, the template includes everything except functional I/O circuitry. In addition to the IO cell template, a



complete I/O template library includes the full set of required power/ground cells, filler/cut cells and corner cells. These IO template libraries allow our IC design customers to concentrate on what they do best, custom functional IO design, while leaving the process technology specific challenges of robust ESD and physical architecture definition to Certus. These template library offerings allow our customers to create fully custom IO libraries in an amazingly short amount of time.

Certus has both IO template libraries and full featured IO libraries in a variety of processes including the 180nm, 130nm, 90nm, 65nm and 45nm nodes. These solutions are Si-proven in hundreds of products and in a variety of foundries world-wide including TSMC.

#### **About Certus Semiconductor**

Certus Semiconductor is a global company, founded by a collaborating team of world renowned experts in both ESD and IO design. Certus is offering the semiconductor industry a new approach to custom IO and ESD design libraries, including tailored IO designs, and ESD solutions based on simulation that leverages specialized silicon ESD models. The privately held and privately funded company is based in Queen Creek, AZ, with an additional office and design center in Munich, Germany. DR. Markus Mergens, founder of QPX, and Stephen Fairbanks, founder of SRF Technologies, are the Managing Directors of Certus. [www.certus-semi.com](http://www.certus-semi.com).