Session 2 Presentation 2

Test / System Challenges

TestConX 2025

HPC Test Challenges in the Era of Chiplet

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Test / System Challenges

Agenda

- Trends in SOC Product Development
- Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective
- KGD Monitoring and Traceability in Heterogenous ICs
- Security concerns in era of Chiplet
- System Level Test Key Differentiation
- Summary



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Test / System Challenges

Trends in SOC Product Development

- Data centre offers massive computing resources, typically in the form of an elastic cloud platform
- Carbon Footprint
 Electricity Consumption
 Water Consumption
 Lifetime of the Equipment
- Needs of Diverse Domain Specific Architectures Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Block Chain and NLP Dedicated Memory More / Scalable ALU Host of Interfaces, etc.
- Chiplets

Reduce Product Development time Integrating Pre-Developed Die (KGD) Different Process Node in the Same Package Substrate a key element in System Performance



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³ 2025

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⁴ **2025**

Trends in SOC Product Development

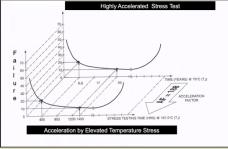
- Adoption of smaller process nodes in Mission Critical applications like Automotive
 - Reliability
 - TDP v/s Operating Temp
- Connected Vehicles
 - Latency (100 μs for 6G)
- Hi-speed Interconnect standards (PCIE, CXL ...)
- Co-Packaged Optics





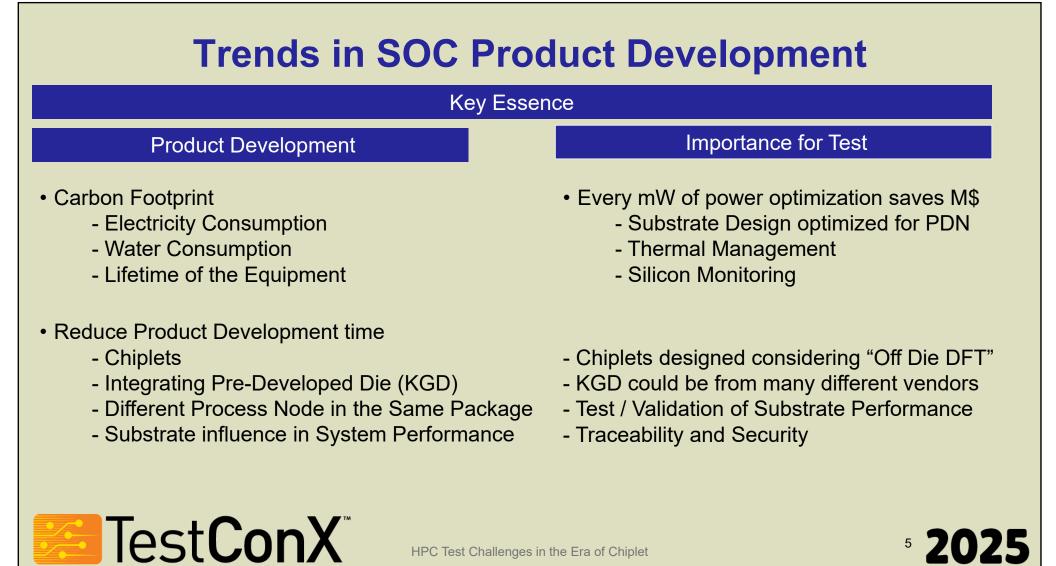


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Test / System Challenges

Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective

KGD in Monolithic

Assembly defects and functionality at speed are tested at package level.

Functional requirements of the packaged parts do not change drastically from the die level.

DPPM target is with in the product company control.

KGD in Heterogenous

Assembly defects after package of a particular KGD many not be 100% directly detectable – Additional test.

Individual Die not necessarily define the full functionality of the Packaged IC .. could be only partial.

Third party Die could be integrated .. such as HBM.

Individual Die DPPM comes into picture .. The over all package level DPPM becomes an addition of individual KGD DPPM



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Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective

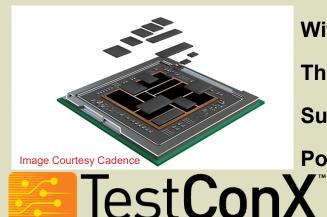
Die to die interconnect within the package only going to be in millimeters

- This will help to optimize the drive strength which will help to optimize the power consumption
- Testing them as an individual die poses a challenge.

Loop back test might be very much applicable for Hi-speed Interface

Reality of SI Simulation on Substrate interconnect actual manufactured substrate cannot be assumed to match

- Tight manufacturing tolerance of line width, space etc. is critical.
- Net list Open/Short test data of substrate + critical hi-speed substrate trace testing on sampling would help to improve packed IC yield. Possibility of critical signal trace coupon can be explored.





Thermal Consideration – Influence of Chiplet just few mm apart

Substrate material – Laminate / Silicon-Passive / Silicon-Active

Power Plane impedance inside the Package

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Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective

ATE Test and COT for Chiplet – Bumped Die

Every type of Chiplet considered for Heterogenous integration needs to tested

C4 bumped pitch (say 140 $\mu m)$ needs advanced probe cards such as Vertical Probe

While Multi Die testing on a Single touch down key for COT

Stack up will exceed 40 Layers .. Achieving a manufacturable Aspect ratio is a challenge as the PCB thickness in the range of 4 mm app.

HW fab complexity increases for Multi Site and hence the PCB Fab yield and reliability – A compromised balance of FAB Yield and NRE cost needs to be arrived at.

HW price including MLC and Vertical Probe Head would exceed \$100K for each type of Chiplet being Integrated



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Image Courtesy Advantest

www.testconx.org

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Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective

ATE Test and COT for IC using Chiplet – Heterogenous Package Test

Parallel testing of packaged part limitation could come from Power supply as well (apart from ATE digital channels)

Hi-speed interface lines length budget, tolerance across all test site.

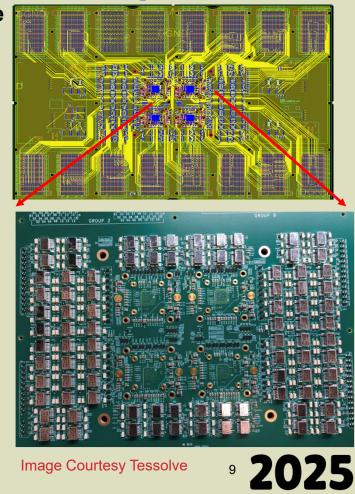
ATE instrument specific rules – Violation could result in inaccurate measurements.

ATE HW Diagnostics and Calibration offset for onboard components

PI and SI simulations are crucial for avoiding expensive HW design re-spin.

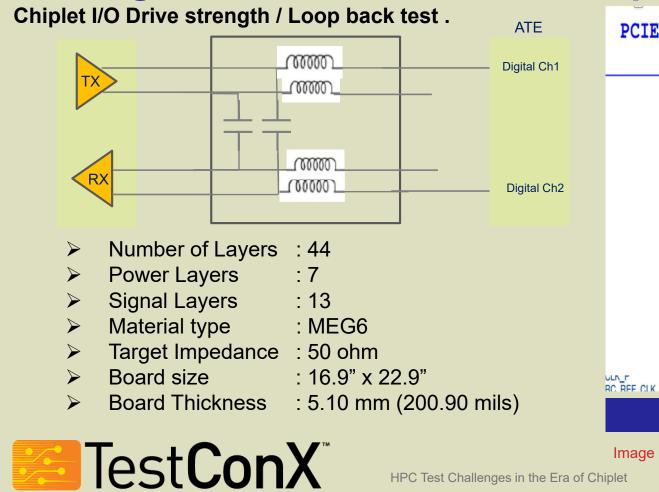


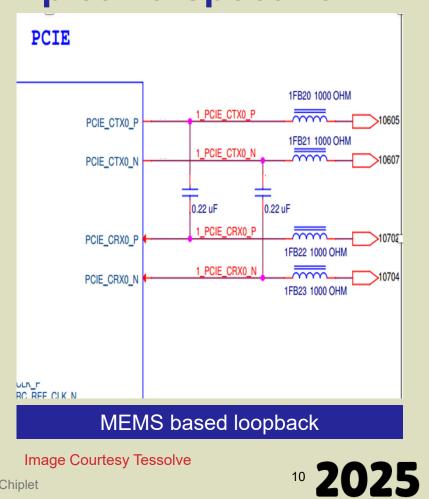
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Significance of KGD from Chiplet Perspective





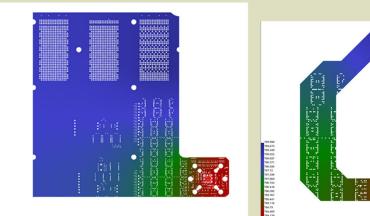
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PI and SI simulations : Avoiding HW design re-spin

DC drop analysis

Inputs considered for PI analysis:

- Stack up
- Layout Database
- Schematic
- Power net list
- Source Voltage, and Load current values



Note : In the DC drop analysis, the DC characteristics of the power plane shape are analysed by simulating for the amount of DC voltage drop from source to the load caused due to the DC resistance of the power plane shape.

For Example : One of the power supply rail (VDD core supply) 0.8 V (15 A current requirement). The maximum voltage drop observed is **25.3 mV.** Similarly **6.5 mV** on DDR core 0.8 V supply.

Plane Impedance: Need to be optimized for the critical switching Freq .. Low ESR cap banks selections



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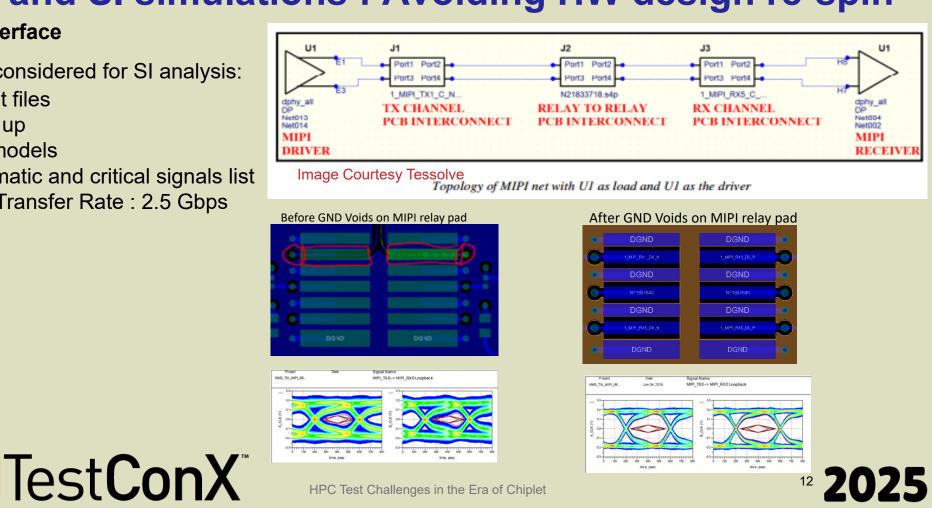
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PI and SI simulations : Avoiding HW design re-spin

MIPI Interface

Inputs considered for SI analysis:

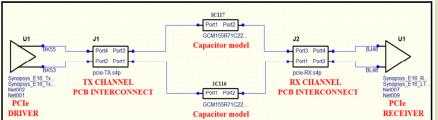
- Layout files
- Stack up
- IBIS models
- Schematic and critical signals list
- Max. Transfer Rate : 2.5 Gbps



PI and SI simulations : Avoiding HW design re-spin

PCIe critical ATE routing guidelines followed:

- 1. Max loopback length to be matched across sites.(PCIE TX* P/N,PCIE RX* P/N)
- 2. Voiding of ground plane directly beneath the Loop back capacitor pads.
- 3. 85 Ω differential routing.
- 4. Void size must be at least same dimension as the pad's size.
- For PCIe 4.0 interface max transfer rate is 16 Gbps
- Topology as shown below:



Bit rate : 16 Gbps

Bit interval (Unit interval)

Bit Pattern

Total # of bits simulated



: 0.0625 ns

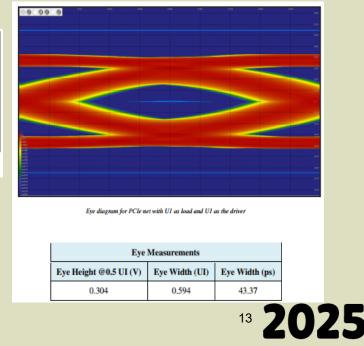
: PRBS order 11

Topology of PCIe net with U1 as load and U1 as the driver

: 1 million

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From the eye diagram we can observe that eye at the receiver meets the eye mask specifications



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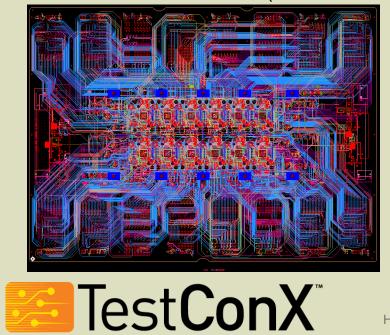
Correlation and Guard-banding

Bench Measurement to ATE Measurement

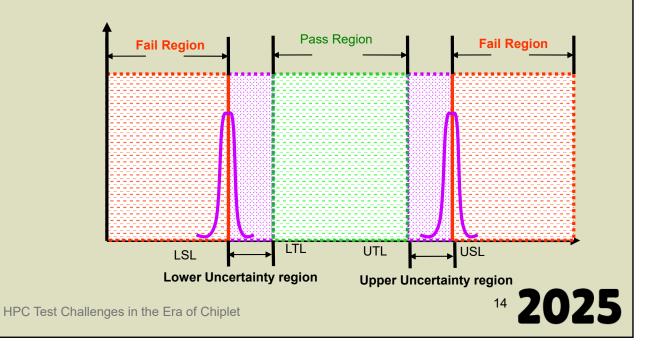
Board to Board Correlation

Site to Site Correlation

ATE to ATE Correlation as part of Acceptance Same ATE to Same ATE (Test Time Reduction)



Upper Test Limit = Upper Specification Limit - 3σ Lower Test Limit = Lower Specification Limit + 3σ



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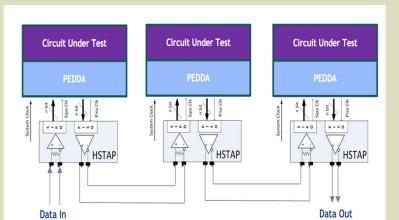
DFT Considerations for Chiplet

Package level failure that points to a specific Chiplet.

DFT architecture need to be implemented as sub-block approach.

Scan vectors could be still run by isolating the faulty subblock/chiplet and able to verify the remaining integration.

SSN/1149.10 based DFT architecture need to be explored.



Has the industry evolved to openly give DFT vectors of the chiplet to external companies?

• LBIST and MBIST enablement and result registry access.

Would the robust good old boundary scan IEEE-1149.1 be a fallback solution?

- Chiplet to chiplet interconnect on the substrate can be thought of multiple ICs on the PCB
- Ride on HSTAP / JTAG interface if available.



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Test / System Challenges

KGD Monitoring
What is happening inside the Chip? – Monitor (Design , Volume Test and In-Field) In-Chip-Monitor – Instantaneous Environmental Monitor. Process Monitor.
→ Power Rail Voltage Monitor.
Temperature Monitor. Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS)
Process Monitor
- Decision making before classify the Die a KGD On Die / Active Silicon Interposer
- Behavioral understanding of Wafer Level and Lot Level Power Rail Voltage Monitor
- Compute Performance optimization by monitoring Voltage
- Alarm / Interrupt Signal activation to other subsystem and bring the device to safe state
- Could be considered as a part of POST
Temperature Monitor
- Compute Performance optimization by monitoring Temperature
- Alarm / Interrupt Signal activation to other subsystem and bring the device to safe state
 Could be considered as a part of POST and for Mission Mode Test.
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KGD Monitoring

Thermal Management - Requirements

Active Thermal Control (ATC) for products requiring near 1 KW power dissipation

High speed, 1 ms closed-loop ATC for applications in Engineering Development, Test, Burn-In and System-Level Test

Control loop to interface with Device Diode Temperature sensor

Architecture to support multiple sites with multiple RTD sensors per site

Fast temperature ramp up/ Ramp Down in the range of 100 °C/s

Closed-loop Automatic Flow Control (AFC) for liquid-cooled, air-cooled or phase-change (refrigerant-cooled) thermal heads

Support for tri-temp testing with single insertion during Char routines / System Level Test

Multi-site Handler that has a capability to interface with ATC for volume test



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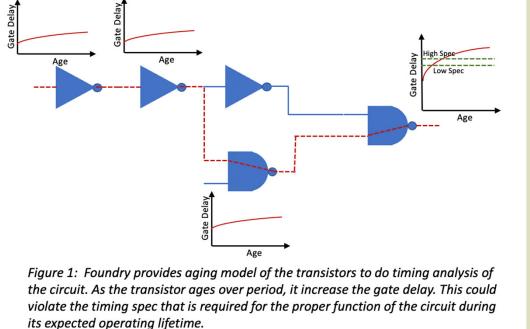
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KGD Monitoring

In-Chip-Monitor – Structural Monitor

Semiconductor do have ageing as inherent property as it is influenced by NBTI (Negative Bias Temperature Instability), HCI (Hot Carrier Injection) and TDDB (Time dependent dielectric breakdown).

→ Aging affecting Propagation Delay





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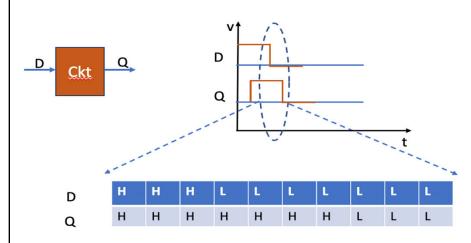


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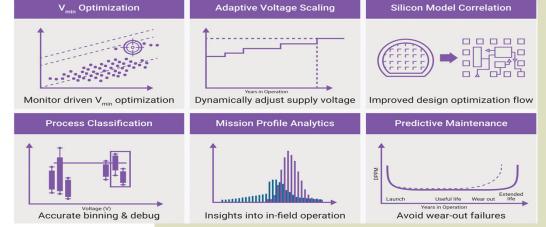
KGD Monitoring

In-Chip-Monitor – Structural Monitor

Path Margin Monitoring



SLM Use Case : EDA Vendors now provide Silicon Life Management Tool (SLM) for end-to-end Visibility.. Right from Design, Product Ramp, Volume Production and finally In-Field



Courtesy : Synopsys https://www.synopsys.com/solutions/silicon-lifecycle-management.html

Figure 2 : Response of a digital path in a circuit constituting a Delay and its time domain response. The dotted line captures the state of the input D and out put Q, which are sampled faster. In this illustration 10 logic states are collected from D and Q to form a Signature

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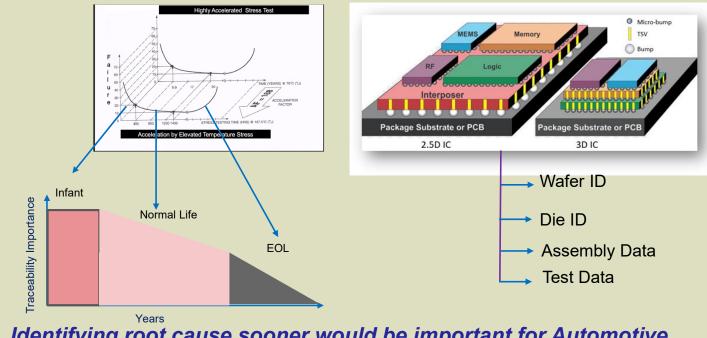
Seems no SLM Standards established yet !!

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Traceability of KGD

What happens when the Heterogenous packaged IC Fails in the Field?



Traceability of Chiplet to Individual Die level info form the Packaged IC on a established protocol Interface for quicker retrieval .. Thus, enabling Datal Analytics need to considered of Importance

OSAT provide Unit Level Traceability (ULT) by 2d Barcode on a Packed Device. Commercial Device may need about 5 years of traceability but for Automotive it would extend to 15 Years

Identifying root cause sooner would be important for Automotive Grade IC (especially for ADAS Levels 4 and 5) and probably for high end HPC ICs



SEMI Traceability Standards committee SEMI T23

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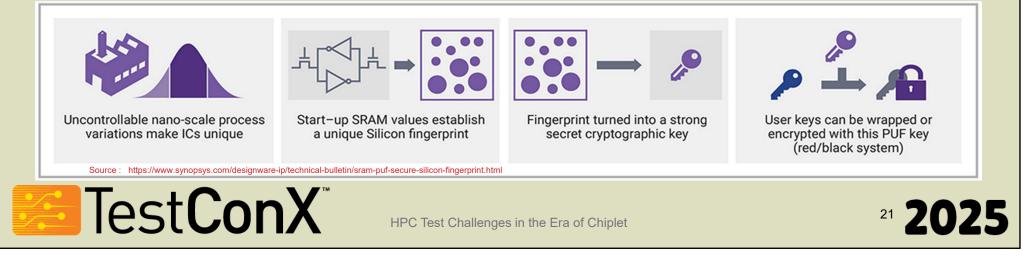
Security for the Chiplets Based Integration

Integrating multiple chiplets into a heterogeneous package opens the door for security breaches and potential risks for cyber attack

Companies that has own chiplets, which minimizes supply chain threats of clone. But companies assembling and integrating commercially developed chiplets will have a much tougher time.

SRAM PUF (Physical Unclonable Functions)

The behaviour of an SRAM cell depends on the difference of the threshold voltages of its transistors. Even the smallest differences will be amplified and push the SRAM cell into one of two stable states. Its PUF behaviour is therefore much more stable than the underlying threshold voltages, making it the most straightforward and most stable way to use transistor threshold voltages to build an identifier.

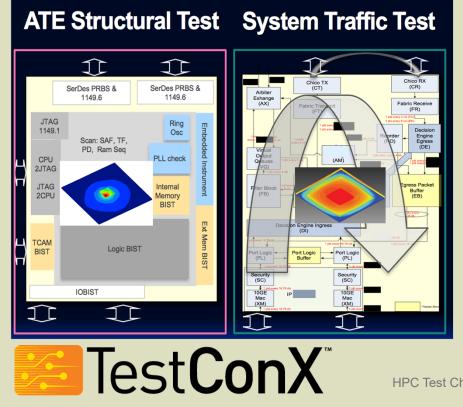


Test / System Challenges

System Level Test – Key Differentiation

System-level test is the ability to test a chip, or multiple chips in a package, in the context of how it ultimately will be used.

*Source: Semiconductor Engineering 9 Oct 2017



In ATE based test, the focus is more on getting the various blocks of the IC in for a pass and fail

HPC, Automotive IC needs to be tested along with the other supportive ICs such as PMIC, External Memory, Display, running on a customer-specific firmware. It is important to mention that the external support ICs mentioned may not be from the same manufacturer.

Testing for customer-specific Use Case is becoming a key need for the devices that are used for mission-critical applications such as Automotive and Data Centers (Silent Data Corruption) along with the need for DPPM quality levels... Drives SLT requirement

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System Level Test – Key Differentiation

System Level Test - Facts

Compared to ATE test time, usually in seconds .. SLT test time could run to several minutes

Number of parallel device tested in ATE is limited by ATE available resource and hence usually 4 to 8 device tested in parallel for high pin count device

SLT's massive parallel test brings the opportunity to move SCAN / BIST from ATE to SLT

SLT is performed in massive parallelism and hence a specialized SLT Handler Equipment needed .. Additional CapEx



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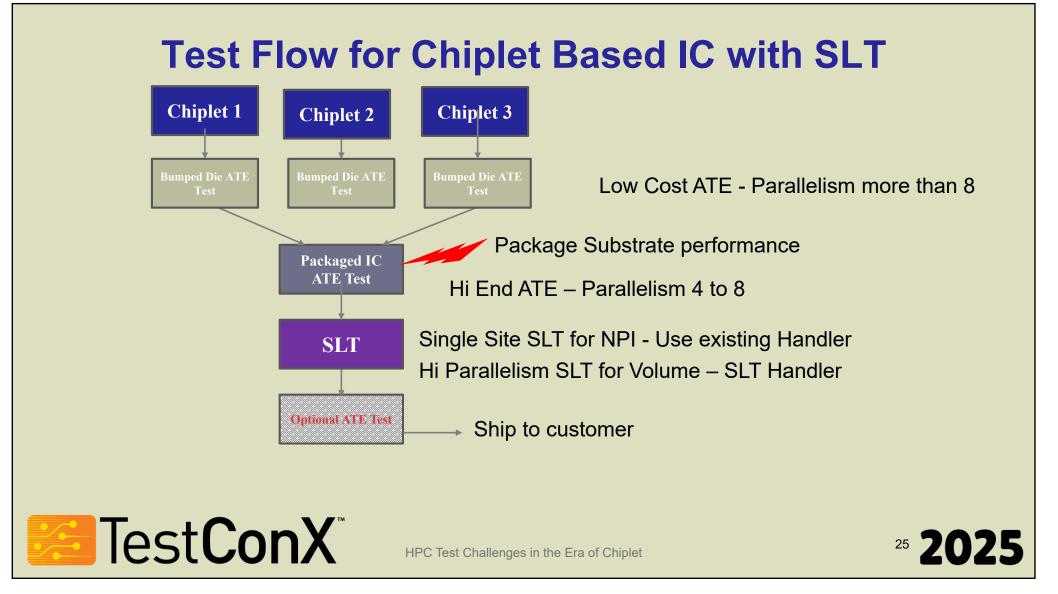


SLT as a strategy for NPI Safe launch

Example Single Site SLT Quad Arm®Cortex®-A9 core Processor A typical Test Engineer with ATE experience may not have the knowledge of writing Test Use Case on the Operating Systems such as Linux, Android etc. and hence a collaborative approach of Embedded expert along with experience of volume Test is required to enable a SLT solution to production. Powe SD-card HDMI Micro Single Site SLT to run small volume for NPI safe launch Picture Courtesy: Tessolve Semiconductor Test**ConX** ²⁴ **2025** HPC Test Challenges in the Era of Chiplet

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Summary

Chiplet I/O optimized for required drive strength for few mm D2D interconnect ... Loop back test might very much applicable for testing Hi-speed Interface

Chiplet being from different vendor need "Off Die DFT" considerations.

KGD Test Limit Guard band keeping in account of Heterogeneous IC Package

The over all package level DPPM in the Heterogeneous IC Package

Embedded Expertise step into Test (Semi Test and Embedded Software Expertise would be a Boon)

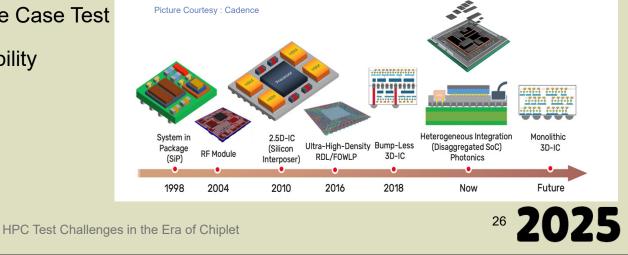
System Level Test – Running actual Use Case Test

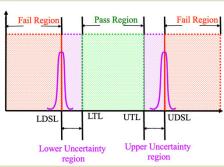
In Chip Monitoring and Die level traceability

Known Good Chiplet -- KGC

Known Good Substrate -- KGS







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