

For Immediate Release:

Samtec Unveils New 448 Gbps Optical FireFly™ Demonstration at Xilinx Developer Forum

Demonstration of High-Performance Link Between FPGAs/SoCs and Fiber Optics

SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 2, 2018 (Xilinx Developer Forum) - Samtec, a privately held \$713MM global manufacturer of a broad line of electronic interconnect solutions, has unveiled a new 448 Gbps throughput demonstration of its FireFly™ optical engine technology at the Xilinx Developer Forum (XDF) 2018. XDF connects software developers and system designers to the deep expertise of Xilinx engineers, partners, and industry leaders.

The new demonstration couples [Samtec's 28 Gbps FireFly™ FMC+ Development Kit](#) with the [Xilinx Virtex® UltraScale+™ FPGA VCU118 Evaluation Kit](#). The production-version platform highlights a low latency, high performance, on-board optical engine passing 448 Gbps throughput, without FEC, while fully complementing the Xilinx Virtex UltraScale+ FPGA GTY transceivers.

Samtec's 28 Gbps FireFly™ FMC+ Module provides up to 448 Gbps full-duplex bandwidth over up to 16 channels from an FPGA/SoC to an industry-standard multi-mode fiber optic cable. The new kit supports protocols including Ethernet, InfiniBand™, Fibre Channel and Aurora typically found in Video, Mil/Aero, Embedded Computing, Instrumentation, HPC and Data Center applications.

[FireFly™ optical engines](#) make the electrical to optical conversion in the transmit path and the optical to electrical conversion in the receive path. They are based on proven MultiMode optics and support cable lengths up to 100 meters.

As a VITA 57.4-compliant FMC+ Module, Samtec's new solutions can be used for optical data communication on any FPGA/SoC development platform that supports the VITA 57.4 interface. The kit can run system data or BERT testing from one to sixteen channels in parallel. Technical documentation and FPGA reference designs are available for quick start-up.

"Evaluating 448 Gbps optical engine technology has high barriers of entry," said Matt Burns, Product Marketing Manager at Samtec, Inc. "Samtec's new FireFly™ FMC+ Development Kits simplify the evaluation and development of FireFly™ technology by using the emerging VITA 57.4 FMC+ interface typical of high-performance Xilinx FPGA/SoC development tools."

“Samtec has an excellent track record as a high speed connector company” said Evan Leal, Director of Product Marketing, Development Kits at Xilinx. “With the FireFly technology, Samtec has further positioned itself as a leader in on-board optical engine technology. This technology demonstrates the performance, versatility and robustness of on-board optical engine which made it the perfect choice for development platforms including the Xilinx VCU118 development kit.”

For more information on the 28 Gbps FireFly™ FMC+ Development Kit and demonstration, please visit Samtec in Booths 9 and 10 and XDF. Additional technical details are available in the kit [Product Brief](#) and [website](#).

More information about XDF is available at:

<https://www.xilinx.com/products/design-tools/developer-forum/silicon-valley.html>. For additional updates from XDF, follow Xilinx on Twitter at [@XilinxInc](#) or via the hashtag [#XDF2018](#).

About Samtec, Inc.

Founded in 1976, Samtec is a privately held, \$713MM global manufacturer of a broad line of electronic interconnect solutions, including High-Speed Board-to-Board, High-Speed Cables, Mid-Board and Panel Optics, Precision RF, Flexible Stacking, and Micro/Rugged components and cables. With 33 locations in 18 different countries, Samtec’s global presence enables its unmatched customer service. For more information, please visit <http://www.samtec.com>.

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