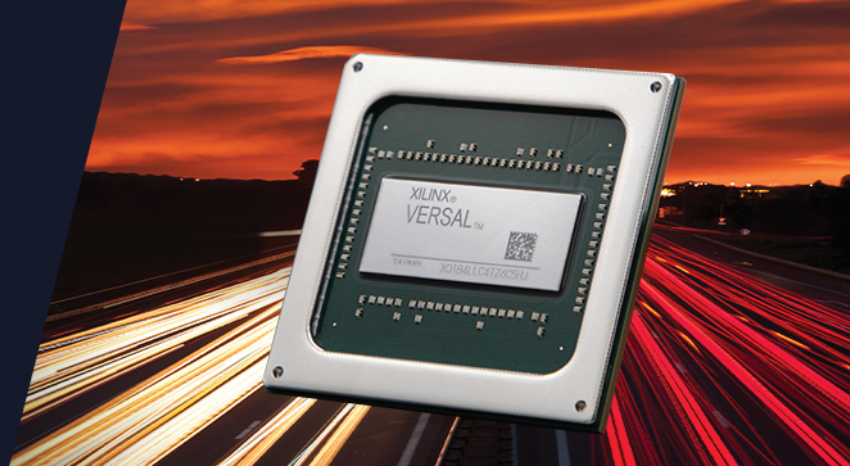**XILINX**

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Xena Networks Selects Xilinx Versal Premium Series for its Next-Generation Ethernet Platform

Xena Networks is a Scandinavian-based vendor of Ethernet traffic generation and analysis solutions that has recently chosen Xilinx's Versal Premium series for their next-generation Ethernet test platform and modules. Xena's goal, according to Claus Hoyer, VP Engineering, is to use the Versal Premium series to help build, "the ultimate Ethernet test platform."

Up until now, Xena Networks has always had to depend on separate PHY-chips for their high-speed products which complicated their architecture. But thanks to the native 112 Gbps PAM4 SERDES integrated into the Xilinx Versal Premium series ACAP, Xena won't need separate PHY-chips anymore; this will radically change the architecture of their high-speed Valkyrie Layer 2/3 stateless Ethernet traffic generator and analysis test solutions. This gives Xena more design options, such as the ability to implement advanced AN/LT protocol handling, while still enabling a much quicker path to market.

Another critical detail is the preliminary results which indicate that performance of the 112G PAM4 SERDES is amazing, allowing for a lot of margin on the Signal Integrity as is mandatory for high-end test equipment. All of these factors are crucial, Hoyer explained, because of the huge business potential that high-speed Ethernet represents.

Even though Ethernet has been around for over 30 years, it's currently undergoing an unprecedented phase of development caused by the convergence of multiple technology megatrends like Terabit Ethernet, Automotive Ethernet, and Industry 4.0. Accelerating the urgency right now is the overwhelming demand for people who want to work from home due to the pandemic, which is impacting video-conferencing services, remote mobile access and the data centers hosting the ubiquitous "Cloud."

As a result, network equipment manufacturers and service providers are seeking out highly versatile Ethernet test equipment that can meet very diverse speeds and needs. The net result is that while 400Gbps Ethernet has only been on the market for a couple of years, the era of terabit Ethernet is already on the horizon, with the new 112G PAM4 SerDes technology paving the way.

In Hoyer's opinion, choosing the Versal Premium series for Xena's new Ethernet test platform can therefore end up being a key enabler for Xena as they seize the market opportunity for new high-speed Ethernet test solutions.