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Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2001

UBC's System-on-Chip lab to lead the revolution in computer chip design

- **Event:** Opening of the System on Chip Research Lab
- **Date/Time** Thursday, Nov. 29, 2001, 3-5 p.m.
- **Place:** Electrical & Computer Engineering Dept., Room 418, MacLeod Bldg., 2356 Main Mall.
- **Parking:** Lot B4, corner of Main Mall and Agronomy Road. Enter at Gate 11 off Wesbrook Mall onto Thunderbird Boulevard.

With the opening of the University of British Columbia's System on Chip (SoC) research lab Nov. 29, North America will have the first lab of its kind devoted to the design, testing and verification of SoC technology.

The revolutionary area of research will allow engineers to shrink systems now found on several chips or printed circuit boards onto a single, thumbnail-sized chip.

"Currently, it's possible to put a system on a chip but it is extremely challenging to deliver a chip design guaranteed to function and perform with the ever-shrinking market windows," says Electrical and Computer Engineering Prof. Resve Saleh, who heads up the SoC lab with Prof. Andre Ivanov.

The research team's goal is to develop technology that can be used to design complex chips containing up to one billion transistors by the end of this decade. This innovation will allow high-tech manufacturers to develop innovative products while increasing productivity and reducing design cycles, meaning consumers won't have to wait as long for new electronic products to hit the market.

"We're very proud to have such a high-visibility research program on campus," says UBC President Martha Piper. "Not only will it offer a leading edge curriculum in integrated circuit design that reflects the most advanced techniques in the industry, it will produce engineers with a comprehensive understanding of SoC designs."

Part of a nation-wide university network for SoC research, the world-class lab puts UBC at the forefront of an area of innovation that is considered strategically important by federal funding agencies.

UBC's SoC lab initiative has received approximately \$3.2 million in funding from sources including the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Other major partners include the Canadian Microelectronics Corporation (CMC), and network communications chip maker PMC-Sierra.

"PMC-Sierra is pleased to support UBC's state-of-the-art System on Chip research lab," says Greg Aasen, PMC-Sierra's chief operating officer. "This research facility is an important investment for our future high-tech graduates and the advancement of the high-tech industry in British Columbia."

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[to top](#) |

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