

Rambus licenses Cell BE chips to IBM

Rambus has licensed chip technology to IBM for use in the production of Cell Broadband Engine (Cell BE) processors for computers and consumer electronics.

Rambus said in a news release Friday the agreement allows Big Blue to make use of the FlexIO processor bus and XDR memory interface in improving performance of high-volume consumer products and in high-performance computer servers and systems.

Cell BE processors were developed by IBM in a joint venture with Sony and Toshiba for use in "computationally intense applications," Rambus said. A Cell BE peak performance can top 200 gigaflops, about the equivalent of a blazing 200 billion flops (floating-point operations per second).

Rambus' XDR and FlexIO account for most of the Cell BE processor signal pins, which provides processor bandwidth of some 100 gigabytes per second and data rates between 3.2 and 8.0 gigahertz.

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