

SMIC to produce configurable processor for ARC

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Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC) and ARC International today announced a strategic partnership with SMIC performing the one-stop design and manufacturing services for ARC's configurable processor.

SMIC is the first China-based foundry that has partnered with ARC and this partnership aims to serve system-on-chip (SoC) developers in China.

This joint agreement is part of ARC's strategy to expand its business throughout Asia and highlights SMIC's commitment to continue to provide a total package solution for its customers.

A number of ARC licensees selling into China are already leveraging SMIC to produce a range of ARC-based designs for high-volume embedded applications. ARC licensees can use ARC's configurable CPU/DSP cores and multimedia subsystems with SMIC's manufacturing processes.

ARC claims to have more than 100 licensees of its configurable processors and the company ships an annual volume of close to 100 million units of ARC-based products.

China's semiconductor industry represented close to US\$7.5 billion in 2004 and is expected to grow about twice the rate of the overall growth of the worldwide semiconductor industry with consumer electronics serving as a chief driving force, according to Semico Research.