

PROCESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION MAX 7000 & MAX 9000

Altera to Add Additional Source of Supply for MAX 7000, and MAX 9000 products.

Overview

Altera's MAX 7000 and MAX 9000 families have gained tremendous acceptance in the market place. In order to accommodate this increased customer demand, Altera is in the process of qualifying additional fabrication facilities. Currently, all of the MAX 7000 and MAX 9000 family products, with the exception of the EPM7128S-7, are fabricated using Sharp's 0.8 micron and 0.65 micron processes. The EPM7128S-7 is currently shipping from TSMC's 0.5 micron process. Altera has jointly developed more cost effective 0.5 micron CMOS EE processes with both, Sharp and TSMC, and is on the verge of completing an extensive evaluation.

This PCN is to notify you of Altera's intent to meet the increased demand by supplying product from either of the two fabrication lines, TSMC and Sharp. These products can be manufactured using the 0.8 micron, 0.65 micron, or the 0.5 micron processes.

Implementation

In addition to the existing Sharp 0.8 micron and 0.65 micron processes, Altera plans to start shipping MAX 7000 and MAX 9000 devices using TSMC's 0.5 micron process and Sharp's 0.5 micron process, beginning May 15, 1997. After this date, Altera may use die from either process line.

As Altera transitions to the more cost effective 0.5 micron process, additional product specific notifications will be sent. These notifications will provide pertinent details about product, substitution schedule, reliability qualification results, and the identification criteria.

Note: MAX 7000 family includes all MAX 7000, MAX 7000E, and MAX 7000S products.