FPGA Based Signal Acquisition System

- Sarah Leeper, sleeper@mc.com
- Robert Frisch, bfrisch@mc.com
- Scott Geaghan, sgeaghan@mc.com
- Scott Tetreault, stetreault@mc.com
- Mike Vinskus, mvinskus@mc.com
- Erich Whitney, ewhitney@mc.com
Objective & Motivation

• **Objective**: Develop a FPGA based real-time 4 channel signal acquisition system composed of frequency channelizers and signal detectors in a single 6U VME slot

• **Motivation**:
  - Benchmark computational density between FPGAs & PPCs for a typical streaming application
  - Analyze FPGA integration into a heterogeneous computing environment
  - Examine interoperability of COTS components due to emerging I/O standards such as VITA 49 (Digital IF)
Application Design

• The signal acquisition system separates a wide radio frequency band into a set of narrow frequency bands to enable automatic detection and exploitation of signals of interest
• Processing for each incoming antenna channel is composed of a channelizer and an energy detector

Implementation Specifications
- 4:1 Overlap Buffer: 16K sample buffer (Dual Ported BRAMs)
- Window Coef Memory: 8K symmetric coefficients (Dual Ported BRAMs)
- Blackman Window (Embedded Multipliers)
- 16K real FFT: 8K complex FFT (Xilinx’s streaming Radix-2) with the last DIT stage implemented using custom logic
- Log-magnitude: magnitude squared computed and inputted into log table
- Threshold: adjustable register and comparator to determine detections
System Data Flow

High performance heterogeneous systems require sophisticated I/O solutions

- Data streams into the FPGA in Digital IF packets over fiber links running at 2.5 Gbps
- VITA 49 prototype cores in each V2P70 device parse packets
- Each input is channelized; baseband data is stored in delay memory and passed to the energy detector
- In the detector the log-magnitude of the data is calculated and compared to the threshold value
- Frequency bins that exceed threshold are stored in detection packets in memory
- The FPGA DMA’s detections to downstream PPCs for clustering across time and frequency
- PPCs determine signals of interest and DMA baseband data from delay memory for channel recombination and demodulation