# Semiconductor Intellectual Property Conference



Arthur L. Swift President and CEO Transmeta Corporation http://www.transmeta.com





Transmeta develops and provides efficient computing technologies that improve performance, reduce power consumption and control heat generation in electronic devices

- Transmeta Business Model
  - Processors and Customized Processor Development
  - Technology and IP Licensing
  - Synergistic Engineering Services
- Serves Industry Leading Customers
  - Sony, Fujitsu, NEC, HP, Sharp ...
- Headquartered in Santa Clara, CA
  - Founded 1995
  - Publicly traded NASDAQ:TMTA
  - 200+ employees



### Transmeta led the industry with a focus on energy efficient x86-compatible processing

History of Innovation

**Power Management Panel:** 

- Looked at things differently and innovated
  - Processor Design VLIW, Software/CMS

Code Morphing Software

LongRun Power Management

- Power Management LongRun
- Enabled customers to innovate •

VLIW Core



User Starts

DVD Movie



1GHz

00 MHz 800 MHz

667 MHz

533 MHz

133 MHz

Pretating Systems [ Windows Linut

Storenet Applications





to Necessary Level tain Application

DVD Finishes;

System Returns to

Sleep Mode

Power Efficient Mode



### Power Management Panel: Moore's Law and Rising Power



"Moore's law drives the industry for higher performance and lower cost, but... The leakage power explosion and V<sub>t</sub> fluctuation will be big stumbling blocks for Moore's law."
-Professor Takayasu Sakurai, Ph.D., University of Tokyo

## Power Management Panel: Problem of Leakage



#### To the future, the largest inhibitor to maintaining low power - Leakage

- Main sources of leakage are
  - Source/Drain leakage
  - Gate leakage

Other leakage mechanisms
 can be controlled by transistor
 design and process parameters.



Source: http://www.ece.uci.edu/codes+isss/Invited/JamesLin.pdf

## Power Management Panel: Problem of Leakage



#### Huge concerns and extensive coverage in the last three years

"Scaling died at 130-nm"

Bernie Meyerson, CTO, IBM Systems & Technology (Semico Conf., 1/19/04 & In-Stat/MDR Forum, 10/5/04)

#### "Leakage threatens CMOS scaling, panel warns"

Silicon Strategies Headline (EDA Industry Panel in San Diego, 6/8/2004)

#### "Power cliff, performance wall"

EE Times Headline (2/5/2004)

#### "Semiconductor firms find leakage a problem at 90nm"

Electronics Weekly Headline (2/8/2004)

#### "Power is a growing concern at 90, 65-nm nodes"

Silicon Strategies Headline (2/5/2004)

#### And, many more headlines, papers, articles, panels, and seminars

Power Management Panel:



Potential Solutions to Leakage and Power Challenges

- New Materials
- Improved Processes
- Design solutions and CAD tools
- Architectural approaches
- Circuit techniques
- Non-planar devices
- Thermal control

## Conventional solutions can be very complex and costly

Power Management Panel: LongRun2<sup>™</sup> Technologies



- Mix of multiple technologies that effectively address leakage problem
  - Implements Dynamic V<sub>t</sub> control in a new way (Process, Circuit & S/W)
  - Complementary to other power and leakage control
  - Retrofit-able to existing "bulk silicon" designs
- Current LongRun2 Licensees: NEC, Fujitsu and Sony
- First prototype demonstrated on Efficeon<sup>™</sup> Processor, Oct. '03





### **Power Management Panel:**

NEC Cuts 65nm Standby Power by Two Orders of Magnitude

- NEC (LongRun2 Licensee) has cut standby current leakage by 30X to 100X using:
  - Transmeta's LongRun2
  - High-k gate dielectric
- As stated in the article, most of the power and leakage reduction is from LongRun2.



 NEC also stated that it expects to use LongRun2 enabled low-power technology in applications from low power portable phones to highperformance advanced servers.

Source: Yasushi Yamagata and Kiyotaka Imai NEC Electronics Corp., Advanced Device Development Div., Solid State Technology, November, 2004 Initially published in Nikkei Microdevices (SST partner)

#### 

- Typically, V<sub>t</sub> may have a wide distribution
  - Lower yields and higher costs.
- LongRun2 allows the tuning of the V<sub>t</sub> for each die
  - Allows a very tight distribution.
  - LR2 can result in higher yields and better manufacturability through dynamic V<sub>t</sub> control.









#### Continued innovation will deliver semiconductor scaling to the future

- LongRun2 is an excellent example of a practical solution
  - Applicable to existing CMOS designs
  - Complementary to other proposed leakage control and power management solutions, such as high-k gate dielectrics.
  - Effectively addresses
    - Active power
    - Both main leakage mechanisms (gate leakage and source/drain leakage)
    - Threshold voltage fluctuations.
  - Improves manufacturing yields
  - Offers effective DFM solution for controlling V<sub>t</sub> variability



## Thank You!

