



Mellanox InfiniBand HCA to Feature PCI Express Technology

PCI Express and the InfiniBand Architecture Complement and Enable each other with 20 Gb/sec of Bandwidth

Santa Clara, California and Yokneam, Israel, -- February 18, 2003: Mellanox™ Technologies, Ltd., today announced that it is working with the Intel Corporation to provide high bandwidth serial connections for the enterprise data center with PCI Express™ and the InfiniBand architecture. Mellanox, the leader in InfiniBandSM silicon, announced the architecture of an upcoming PCI Express enabled dual port 10Gb/sec InfiniBand HCA device. The Mellanox InfiniHost™ Express device features an 8X PCI Express interconnect designed to connect to future Intel chipsets enabling up to 40Gb/sec of total data bandwidth from the InfiniBand fabric all the way into the server's core logic. Intel has previously announced plans to provide high bandwidth PCI Express links in future Intel server chipsets.

The current second-generation InfiniHost HCA features a modular interconnect that can be upgraded to keep pace with the advancements of local interconnects within the major server chipsets. This third-generation InfiniBand HCA upgrades the current PCI-XTM interconnect with PCI-Express and further enhances the performance capabilities of the core architecture. The core is designed with the internal data bandwidth to scale beyond 40 Gb/sec providing future head-room for even faster chipsets. In addition, InfiniHost software is structured to transparently migrate from PCI-X to PCI Express while providing full backwards compatibility. This enables software investments in drivers, APIs and applications to be preserved.

"Joint design and verification testing on our PCI-Express links is happening today," said Michael Kagan, vice president of architecture and software for Mellanox Technologies, Ltd. "Together,

Intel and Mellanox will offer the best cost/performance solutions for clustering, storage and I/O for the server, storage, and embedded markets with the complementary chip sets of Intel north bridges and Mellanox HCAs."

"Mellanox providing an 8X PCI-Express interconnect for InfiniBand completes a 20Gb/sec 'fat pipe' from the InfiniBand fabric, which includes server clusters and InfiniBand storage, all the way into the server processor sub-system," said Jim Pappas, director of initiative marketing for Intel's Enterprise Platform Group. "The enablement of a high bandwidth serial connection between Intel Xeon® and Itanium® processors and an InfiniBand data center is a key driver in next generation of enterprise data center computing."

PCI-Express is the next generation of PCI bus technology. PCI-Express is a serial I/O interconnect that decreases pin count and increases bandwidth resulting in improved cost effectiveness, better bandwidth per pin and higher scalability for both server and PC platforms. By taking advantage of the volume economics of broad based implementations across client, server and communications applications, PCI Express offers cost effective I/O attach points while providing the high performance and low latency of direct chipset attach for enterprise interconnects like InfiniBand technology. PCI-Express links will be featured on future Intel server chipsets enabling 20Gb/sec per sec of bandwidth into server system logic. The requirement for higher bandwidth is being driven by InfiniBand architecture and the performance that HCA devices are delivering today.

About InfiniBand Architecture

InfiniBand Architecture is the only 10Gb/sec ultra low latency clustering, communication and storage interconnect in the market today. InfiniBand, based on an industry standard, provides the most robust data center interconnect solution available with reliability, availability, serviceability and manageability features designed from the ground up. These parameters greatly reduce total cost of ownership for the data center. Low cost InfiniBand silicon that supports 10Gb/sec RDMA transfers is shipping today providing eight times the bandwidth of Ethernet and three times the bandwidth of proprietary clustering interconnects. With an approved specification for 30Gb/sec, InfiniBand is at least a generation ahead of competing fabric technologies today and in the foreseeable future.

About Mellanox

Mellanox is the leading supplier of InfiniBand semiconductors, providing a complete solution including switches, host channel adapters, and target channel adapters to the server, communications, data storage, and embedded markets. Mellanox Technologies has delivered over 50,000 ports of InfiniBand over two generations of 10Gb/sec InfiniBand devices including the InfiniBridge, InfiniScale and InfiniHost devices. The company has strong backing from corporate investors including Dell, IBM, Intel Capital, Sun Microsystems, and Vitesse as well as, strong venture backing from Bessemer Venture Partners, Raza Venture Management, Sequoia Capital, US Venture Partners, and others. Mellanox has been recognized with awards in 2001 and 2002 from Computerworld, Network Computing, Red Herring, and Upside magazines as a key emerging technology company. The company has major offices located in Santa Clara, CA, Yokneam and Tel Aviv Israel

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