CENTILLIUM LICENSES MIPS32 4KP CORE

By Tom R. Halfhill {1/31/00-05}

Centillium Communications *(www.centillium.com)* has licensed the MIPS 4Kp core from MIPS Technologies for a new family of hybrid CPU/DSP processors scheduled for introduction in 2H00. The company, which is based in Fremont (Calif.), plans to integrate the

4Kp with its own DSP core to create a system-on-a-chip (SOC) device for wired-communications products.

Centillium's cofounder and vice president of marketing, Faraj Aalaei, declined to release details about the future processors or their target markets at this time. But Aalaei says the chips will be application-specific standard products (ASSPs), not ASICs for a single customer. The 4Kp is a 32-bit MIPS core introduced last year for embedded

applications (see *MPR 5/31/99-05*, "Jade Enriches MIPS Embedded Family").

Founded in 1997, Centillium currently makes chip sets for ADSL modems and central-office equipment. Those chips are based on Centillium's proprietary DSP core. The company also develops its own DSP software. Using one of Centillium's two-device chip sets, it's possible to build a G.lite-standard DSL modem no larger than a PC Card. ◇