

**Electronic System Design Alliance  
2023 – 2025 Governing Council Election**

**Candidate Statement**

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**Aart de Geus**  
**Synopsys**

The ESD Alliance serves a set of key roles in our industry:

- a) Be the voice of the industry
- b) Protect the Industry against unexpected and dangerous downsides (export control Issues. piracy, etc.)
- c) Drive efficiency for our Industry (align on conferences, align on supported platforms, etc.)
- d) Drive value perception of our offerings
- e) Be a central meeting point for communication within our industry

I have supported all five of these for our industry for many years and hope to continue to do so on the ESD Alliance Governing Council going forward.

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**Anirudh Devgan**  
Cadence Design Systems

As new paradigms in Generative AI continue to transform and democratize the semiconductor and system design landscape, we are entering the golden age of EDA.

As the electronics industry works to realize the Metaverse, navigate the journey beyond Exascale, and achieve near zero-latency cloud-to-edge, we see a clear pathway for EDA to assume its place at the electronics industry's center of gravity.

The ESD Alliance represents the unified voice of our industry, and now as part of SEMI, we have an even stronger voice to communicate the value of tools, equipment, services and computational software to address the rapidly evolving needs of our customers.

Cadence has been a strong proponent of ESD Alliance since the beginning, and our employees are active in many ESD Alliance committees. I support ESD Alliance's ongoing efforts to address issues such as export control and compliance, software piracy, and protection of intellectual property – while nurturing innovation and developing new talent. ESD Alliance has worked with government agencies to bring about policy changes, which in turn have accelerated the success of the EDA business. It is important for us to continue these efforts.

In addition to my role at Cadence, I am also a 2023 inductee into the National Academy of Engineering, and a pioneer of SPICE technology. For more than 25 years, I've served as both a technology and business leader in our industry, and this combined experience gives me a unique background to address the challenges facing the EDA and semiconductor industry today.

If elected to the board, I promise to serve as a dedicated contributor and passionate advocate for issues that increase EDA's value to the electronics industry and increase recognition of that value by customers and the financial community.

Thank you for your vote,  
Anirudh Devgan, Ph.D

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**Dean Drako**  
**IC Manage**

I have been serving on the ESD Alliance Council, previously the EDAC board, for 11 years.

I am President and CEO of IC Manage, a design & IP management and hybrid cloud computing company which has ranked in the Deloitte Fast500 fastest growing technology companies.

I first became involved with EDA three decades ago, as a designer at Apple; I then founded Design Acceleration, maker of design analysis and verification tools, which Cadence acquired. I have also built and run multiple other successful companies, including Barracuda Networks, which went public in late 2013.

If given the chance to continue to serve on the ESD Alliance governing council, I'd like us to take a closer look at how our industry can take full advantages of opportunities to fortify our sector during the CHIPS Act implementation.

Additionally, to seek out opportunities for our industry to continue to be visible as central to technology innovation -- even during the ebbs and flows of our semiconductor industry supply chain cycles.

I would appreciate your vote.

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**Niels Faché**  
Keysight

I have had the distinct pleasure of bookending my career in the EDA industry. It started with the acquisition of my electromagnetic simulation software startup by HP in the early 1990s and has come full circle today as I became the head of Keysight's EDA software business in 2021. While those HP EEs of professionals before me grew our EDA business into the recognized leader in the RF and microwave design and simulation market, we now strive to digitally transform our business and our customers' businesses to take full advantage of our future system design opportunities. I believe many of these opportunities will be domain or context specific.

The EDA industry is the foundation upon which innovation emanates no matter what level of abstraction that we are working or which application context that electronic engineers are developing. The promise of innovation in the decades ahead is certainly equal to or greater than what we have witnessed to date, with all due respect to the 75th anniversary of the transistor and the astute observation of Moore's Law.

EDA must continue to play a prominent role in trends such as AI/ML, Cloud-based design, heterogeneous integration and 3D IC packaging, Shift Left, design for context, connected design and test workflow automation, and IP, data, and enterprise product lifecycle management. The EDA industry must remain vibrant as a community that supports such forward-looking innovations as AV/EVs, 5G/6G wireless communications, wired communications, aerospace and defense systems, traditional and quantum compute, and so much more. With a collective voice represented by ESDA/SEMI, the EDA industry will chart a new course that benefits all constituents in the design-emulate-test ecosystem.

I will bring a broad perspective to the governing council that reflects more than 30 years of electronic systems experience not only serving the interests of EEs and designers, but also those of test, measurement, and manufacturing engineers. The knowledge I've gained working in and across multiple lines of global business at Keysight has earned me the opportunity to reinforce EDA's importance and value in the electronic product development process. I will participate in council business with an open mind and active listening skills honed over years of customer and R&D interactions. I welcome your vote and support in joining the council as it transitions to a new era of accelerated innovation to connect and secure the world.

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**Aki Fujimura**  
D2S

I'm a strong believer in competitors teaming together to grow the whole pie. While we each fight for a bigger share of that pie, the whole pie is competing for dollars and talent against other whole pies.

I'm also a strong believer in innovation as the driver for growth. I know many believe that the growth driven by innovation is in the past for EDA, though continues for IP. There is much innovation in EDA, but the belief is that it isn't contributing to growing the whole pie, just moving shares around. I believe we are about to see the next cycle of innovation that is significant enough to drive growth in EDA software.

The ESD Alliance makes it possible for many smaller companies to make an impact on the industry and I believe that helps promote entrepreneurship along with healthy industry growth. I've been an entrepreneur since being a founding member of Tangent in my early career to being the CTO at Cadence in charge of incubators, from which D2S was born. I now sit right in the middle of the design to manufacturing handoff at D2S, helping enable curvilinear manufacturing. It's an exciting time as multi-beam mask writing, deep learning and GPU acceleration, all maturing simultaneously in the last decade to enable curvilinear shapes to be manufactured on masks and wafers. This shift is happening because manufacturing of curvilinear shapes on the mask enables higher wafer quality which is essential for the leading-edge nodes. But this transformation will also enable curvilinear design sometime in the future. I've come full circle, having invented DEF/LEF that was the first format to explicitly optimize for Manhattan designs (later adopted by OASIS too) and now looking at curvilinear manufacturing that makes no Manhattan assumption. This is but one example of a platform for innovation that can grow the pie.

This one happens to be a design-to-manufacturing example, but there are many other opportunities all throughout with the underlying driver of computing having changed its scaling dynamics drastically with single-instruction multiple-data (SIMD) computing with GPUs. This gave rise to deep learning (DL) as one example of what I call "useful waste." Today, "useful waste" is a way of thinking of the brute-force, "just do it" computing needed for DL training that accepts that doing a lot of what seems to be wasteful computing can yield astonishingly useful results. DL is an existence proof of the potential benefit of this useful waste approach. I'm certain there are other uses of useful waste that will enable what we have been thinking as unattainable in polynomial time. I believe innovation in heavy doses will return throughout the EDA's collection of micro markets in this decade. Properly nurtured by the industry

through the efforts of its industry consortium to bring top talent into the industry, to encourage new ideas and investments directed where it will help the pie grow, and effectively to publicize new wave of energy and excitement, we can accelerate this growth. I feel compelled today to help the ESD Alliance promote growth of the industry at this exciting crossroads of software, deep learning and GPU acceleration.

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**Maheen Hamid**  
**Breker Verification Systems**

Since November 2021, I have had the privilege of serving on the Electronic Systems Design Alliance Governing Council, alongside some of the leading changemakers in the Electronic Design Automation industry. Weighing in on deliberations that protect and promote industry interests has been an honor as the voice of small to mid-size EDA companies on the forum.

As co-founder and COO of Breker Verification Systems, one of few pure play growth companies defining system verification solutions through industry standards and a scalable technology platform, I have been at the forefront of its strategic growth. I also sit on the boards of companies providing software and IT solutions across a broad range of industries in international markets, enhancing my understanding of foreign trade issues.

I will have a bias towards supporting ESD Alliance's undertakings in growth and efficiency initiatives for emerging companies. If given the opportunity to continue, I also plan to work with the council to amplify our industry's importance in the ever-changing technology landscape. With the CHIPS Act and a national focus on regaining global technology leadership on every front, our industry is rife with opportunities. I would like to help the ESD Alliance Governing Council realize that potential.

Thank you for your consideration and I am grateful for your vote.

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**John Kibarian**  
**PDF Solutions**

Our industry is clearly in an interesting time, and in interesting times leadership is even more critical. I am asking to be re-elected to the ESDA governing council because I believe I can aid in the leadership required to direct the organization through these times.

Why are the times interesting? First, the demand for IC's has never been bigger, and it is forecasted that the IC industry will be a \$1T business by 2030, up from \$500B just a couple of years ago. This growth will come on the backs of the tremendous increase in the hardware that supports AI, the electrification of the energy economy, electrification of autos, and continued growth in IOT, mobile, computing and other more established markets.

Technologically, the growth will come despite the slow down in geometric scaling as we innovate new ways to improve the performance of semiconductor systems per watt per dollar through hybrid package integration, 3-D IC's, novel materials, software driven hardware, and novel architectures, among others. As a result, design automation will be increasingly important in expanding software/hardware co-design, effective manufacturing, and eventually life-cycle management during in-field usage of chips.

While the market we serve grows and the technological challenges expand, the geopolitical environment in which we operate has become and will continue to become increasingly complex. We are an industry that grew by leveraging world-wide talent and markets. Today design automation R&D is performed around the world and serves the world's customers. Now regulations are resulting in our re-evaluating how we best operate.

ESDA as part of SEMI is an important component of our eco-system, allowing for our companies to do together what we cannot do alone. This includes articulating our industry's view on export licenses, cross border commerce, and government involvement in financing research, workforce development, and other economic stimulus. ESDA also is an important forum for our companies to share insights.

Over my last two years as an ESDA governing counsel member, I have aided the integration of ESDA into SEMI by finding the opportunities where ESDA can leverage the larger resources available within SEMI. My position on this counsel is somewhat unique in that PDF Solutions is neither one of the large, conventional EDA companies, nor is it a smaller start-up. We chair numerous standards bodies within SEMI particularly around equipment data collection, and actively participate in the SMART

manufacturing initiative. Hence, I can bring an important perspective on the advantages that ESDA can gain from embracing the capabilities SEMI offers.

Should the community re-elect me for the next two years, I am looking forward to continue the work in bringing ESDA closer to SEMI so that we can benefit from the services SEMI provides particularly with respect to government relations, export, workforce development, and license protection, all areas where we can work effectively as a community rather than individual companies. These are also areas that disproportionately serve the smaller and mid-size companies because the resources required to work independently in these fields is prohibitive.

I am asking for your vote so I can further enable the success of ESDA and our community by enabling us to further benefiting from the capabilities that SEMI offers while advocating our perspective within the larger community.

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**John Lee**  
**Ansys**

Ansys will bring valuable and unique perspectives to the ESDA Governing Council.

### **Ansys has significant scale and influence.**

Ansys, with our singular focus on Multiphysics, and open and extensible platforms, has grown to be the 4th largest EDA company\*. Nearly 1/3 of the Ansys business is focused on the high-tech and semiconductor market\*\*, and as such, we work with all 20 of the top-20 semiconductor companies, all tier-1 foundries, and we have interoperability programs with key EDA and simulation companies.

<< Ansys has context and perspectives in industries that are key growth vectors for semiconductors >>

Additionally, Ansys has a strong presence in industry verticals important to the semiconductor industry -- including automotive, aerospace / defense, and industrial. Therefore, we bring a valuable perspective to our semiconductor customers, as we enable value-add go-to-market. An example is for semiconductor sensors and processors that are used in automotive systems -- Ansys Multiphysics models from semiconductor companies enable reliable and efficient design of automotive electronic systems such as ADAS at tier-1 and OEM automotive companies.

### **Ansys has relevant interests and experience in areas that relate to current geopolitical challenges.**

Ansys has operations across the world -- including China, India, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, UK and the US. Ansys has strong government initiatives, through the acquisition of AGI, which is a significant business with strong ties with US government and defense agencies. As such, we will bring unique perspectives, additive to the view from other EDA companies.

\* (ref. Jay Vleeschouwer, Griffin Securities)

\*\* (ref. Ansys Feb 2023 earnings call)

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**Feng Ling**  
**Xpeedic**

Statement Not Available at Publication

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**Prakash Narain**  
**Real Intent**

I have been serving on the ESD Alliance Council for four years and have been involved with the EDA and semiconductor industry for my entire career. My first position was with the EDA group within IBM, after which I worked at AMD and Sun Microsystems. In 1999, I cofounded Real Intent, an EDA company focused on static sign-off, where I continue to serve as President & CEO.

During my tenure at Real Intent, I have successfully navigated the company through the major economic swings, while staying focused on creating value and competing through innovation.

Our EDA industry creates tremendous value; it's something I'm passionate about. If given the chance to continue to serve on the ESD Alliance Council, I would support improved integration and alignment with SEMI to better leverage the available avenues and resources to advance the EDA ecosystem.

I would also focus on supporting joint efforts between ESDA and Semi to align with the opportunities made available by the 2022 Chips Act.

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**Joseph Sawicki**  
**Siemens EDA**

Joseph Sawicki is a leading expert in IC nanometer design and manufacturing challenges. Formerly responsible for Mentor's industry-leading design-to-silicon products, including the Calibre physical verification and DFM platform and Mentor's Tessent design-for-test product line, Sawicki now oversees all business units in the Mentor IC segment (now Siemens EDA).

Sawicki joined Mentor Graphics in 1990 and has held previous positions in applications engineering, sales, marketing and management. He holds a BSEE from the University of Rochester, an MBA from Northeastern University's High Technology Program, and has completed the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

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**Babak Taheri**  
**Silvaco**

Babak A. Taheri, Ph.D., is the CEO of Silvaco, a leading provider of TCAD, EDA, and semiconductor design IP software. He has served as Silvaco’s CEO and member of board of directors from August 2019 to September 2021 and from November 2021 to present. From October 2018 to August 2019, Dr. Taheri served as Silvaco’s Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President of Products. Prior to joining Silvaco, Dr. Taheri served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Integrated Biosensing Technologies (IBT), an advisory and consulting firm, from May 2015 to October 2018. Dr. Taheri has also served on various advisory boards, including MEMS World Summit, a conference for MEMS manufacturers, equipment and material suppliers and research institutes, Novasentis, Inc., an electromechanical polymer technology development company, and as the advisory board chair of the electrical engineering department at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Taheri also served on the board of directors of Parisi House on The Hill, a residential alcohol and drug non-profit, from June 2021 to May 2022. Dr. Taheri received a B.S. in engineering from San Francisco State University, a M.S. in electrical engineering from San Jose State University and a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of California, Davis.

Babak was on the ESDA Governing Council from 2020 to 2021. He would like to rejoin the Governing Council to contribute to ESDA’s vision and strategy. As the CEO of a leading provider of innovative TCAD, EDA and design IP to semiconductor design community, Babak will ensure the technical, economical, and legislative needs of semiconductor community is reflected in ESDA initiatives, governed by the bylaws, and help guide its industry activities.

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**Jinsong Zhao**  
**Lorentz Solution**

Lorentz Solution, Inc is one of the few EDA companies in Silicon Valley that has steadfastly remained independent for over 20 years. Our long term focus has always been on the core technology strength and customers success since the day of our inception, which has helped our product portfolio to evolve into a unique cutting-edge Electromagnetic Design Platform with a large loyal customer base.

Our focus and independence have enabled us to respond to our customer's needs swiftly and collaborate with foundries and other EDA companies neutrally and unbiased, consequently it enabled our products to grow and mature organically based on market needs and to reach a broadest customer base. I hope to bring the values of our business and technology success, and the accompanying challenges we face, to the ESD Alliance Governing Council to benefit our members.

If elected as a council member of ESDA, I would like to contribute and share the vision for the following objectives and voice some of the challenges and needs from the smaller EDA companies:

1. Continue advocating and enhancing the collaboration and relationship among smaller and the larger EDA companies to strive for the collective success for ESDA members.
2. Continue to seek a concerted collaboration and leveling of playing field with semiconductor foundries to collectively benefit the entire ecosystem.
3. Drive for an informed community on the latest updates in fair global business practices and export control system, enabling the ESDA to advise the community members for the best practices.

I appreciate your kind considerations for my candidacy and the opportunity to serve.

Jinsong Zhao