Research Assistant / PhD position (m/f/d) for Embedded Software Design for Heterogeneous AI Platforms with location in Cottbus

Job-ID: 3033/26 | Department: System Architecture | Working Time: 40h/week| Salary: E13 TV-L | Limitation: 2 years with option of extension | Entry Date: as soon as possible | Location: Cottbus

IHP is an institute of the Leibniz Association and conducts research and development of silicon-based systems and ultra-high-frequency circuits and technologies including new materials. It develops innovative solutions for application areas such as wireless and broadband communication, security, medical technology, industry 4.0, automotive industry, and aerospace. IHP employs approximately 410 people. It operates a pilot line for technological developments and the preparation of high-speed circuits with 0.13/0.25 µm-SiGe-BiCMOS technologies, located in a 1500 m² cleanroom that meets the highest industrial nanotechnology requirements.

The position:

We are looking for a motivated researcher to join the System Architectures The research focus is on developing a software design flow for a heterogeneous embedded AI platform featuring RISC-V-based processors, FPGAs, and custom AI accelerators — including both CMOS-based and emerging non-conventional technologies. A key challenge is programming these heterogeneous accelerators and co-designing the HW/SW split at the system level. While RISC-V is our current baseline, the flow should not be limited to a single ISA or platform.

This position offers a deep insight into the programming of state-of-the-art hardware design. It is anticipated the candidate will work towards a PhD. Your detailed tasks will include:

- Application mapping and software development for embedded AI platforms including RISC-V (on bare-metal or linux-based systems)
- HW/SW partitioning, accelerator selection, and dimensioning
- Driver development for custom AI and signal-processing accelerators
- Integration of heterogeneous hardware accelerators into existing software stacks
- Flow development for continuous hardware integration and software deployment

Your qualifications:

You have a solid understanding of embedded systems and HW/SW interfaces, and good programming skills in C/C++ and Python. Familiarity with hardware description languages (e.g. SystemC, VHDL, or Verilog) is a plus. You are comfortable working in Linux-based environments and with version control. Most importantly, you are eager to dig into real hardware and understand systems end-to-end. Experience with AI inference frameworks, accelerator integration, or performance profiling on heterogeneous platforms is welcome.

You will also be a strong team player. We are looking for a team member who can structure their own work and bring a well-organized and systematic approach to working with creative minds. You will be an ideal fit for this position if you have experimental, analytical, and problem-solving skills, very strong communication skills, and the ability to quickly learn how to use the latest technical equipment, including various software. You must be fluent in English. German language skills are welcome. Further development of German language skills is expected and strongly encouraged, e.g. through in-house language courses and intensive courses.

Our Offer:

Conduct research in a challenging, multinational environment giving you excellent career opportunities. You will have the chance to establish international reputation at the edge of top-notch technologies.

It is important to us to support the individual career developments (e.g. conferences, advanced trainings) as well as the personal needs of our employees by offering flexible working hours and the possibility to work off-site. The compatibility of work and family is highly valued. More information about our scientific excellence and the working environment at IHP can be found on our website.

IHP is TOTAL E-QUALITY-certified for equal opportunities for women and men at work and actively pursues the equality of all gender and all groups of people. We promote the professional development of women and strongly encourage them to apply. Disabled applicants, qualified according to the above criteria, will be given preference over other candidates with equivalent relevant qualifications.

Further advantages:

30 days holiday | special annual payment | Company pension scheme (VBL) | Flexible working hours, also part-time (no core working hours) | Possibility to work up to 40 % independent of location according to company agreement | A wide range of further training opportunities in-house or within the framework of business trips | Discounted company ticket with monthly allowance of € 15,75 for various fare zones | Good transport connections, free parking at the institute | Structured induction and actively supported integration into the institute (welcome workshop, intercultural workshop, joint leisure activities)

Your application:

Have we sparked your interest? We look forward to receiving your application in German or English via our **online application form.**

For more information about the position, please contact Markus Ulbricht: career@ihp-microelectronics.com.