RISC-V – Success factors & opportunities for dependable automotive applications

Thomas Böhm Senior Vice President Automotive Microcontroller June 2024



Infineon at a glance



Growth areas



Financials



FY23 revenue by segment¹

- Automotive (ATV)
- Green Industrial Power (GIP)
- Power & Sensor Systems (PSS)
- Connected Secure Systems (CSS)



Employees²



For further information: Infineon Annual Report.

¹ 2023 Fiscal year (as of 30 September 2023) | ² As of 30 September 2023





Microcontrollers innovation runs out of steam, no more new products, no more disruption?

Wait a minute ...

Major innovations are software driven Number of vehicle ECUs is reducing Automotive industry design cycles are shortening Here's how open source technologies can enable affordable and dependable car architectures

Performance, Cost & Dependability: Microcontroller architectures have infineon undergone major innovations in the last 25 years

Performance	Security & Safety	Software & Al	
 2000: 8 & 16bit is standard, 32bit gains share in >2005 	2010-2015: Security extension added: instructions, HSM module	 2020-2025: Software: Virtualization, SOTA and new types of NVM 	
2008-2010: Memory integration & 16bit instructions introduced	 2015-2020: Safety becomes a standard: ISO26262 ISO 26262 	2020-2025: Security: CSRM security acceleration	What is next
2000	2010	2020	→
 2008-2010: Real-time capabilities: interrupt latency minimized & fast context switching 2008-2010: Safety: 	• 2015-2020: Performance: Direct NVM access & application-specific accelerators, e.g. radar processing	 2020-2025: Performance: Al acceleration 2020-2025: Performance: Data routing acceleration 	Features disruption Cost focus
Memory protection			Development speed

Enabling SDV: Key innovation areas for automotive microcontroller platforms in future vehicle architectures



Performance and throughput

 Handling of large amounts of parallel tasks and I/O without compromising real-time performance



Determinism and low latency

Reliability and availability



- Predictable execution time and guaranteed timing of computations
- Minimal downtime, robust fault tolerance and fast recovery mechanisms
- Hardware redundancy and software diversity
- High diagnostic coverage, fault detection and mitigation, mechanism to brings systems to safe state
- Secure boot, restricted access to resources and data encryption



- Modularity and reuse of existing software components
- Ability to adapt to software loads, memory, communication capabilities and system target costs

Safety and security

Reuse and Scalability

Source: Arnold NextG, X-by-wire

Application classes require specific computational capabilities but common requirements exist for all domains









Traditionally microcontroller consisted of two building blocks using programable cores:

– System management

- Reset management, clock system, memory initialization
- Power mode handling

Real-time control

- Predictable execution time & low-latency interrupt handling
- RTOS support incl. scheduling, task management

but complexity has evolved...

Microcontroller today: Change in automotive computational tasks requires specialization, standardization & instruction set reuse





System management - Reset management, clock system, memory initialization - Power mode handling		
 Embedded accelerators Security sub-systems and accelerators Application-specific signal processing, Networking & protocol engine 	1-4x cores	
 Real-time control Predictable execution time & low-latency interrupt handling RTOS support incl. scheduling, task management 	1-6x cores	
 Data processing tasks High-performance handling of complex processing tasks Memory management support & Privileged execution modes 	1-4x cores	
 Al inference tasks Specialized hardware for matrix and tensor computations Model compression and optimization support 		

Microcontroller today: Change in automotive computational tasks requires specialization, standardization & instruction set reuse







Modern core architectures address two main challenges: Dependability & Scalability



Challenge: Dependability

Dependability is a measure of a system's availability, reliability, maintainability, safety and security. The ability to maintain functionality when parts of a system break down is referred to as graceful degradation





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Dependability and graceful degradation require highly integer and scalable core portfolio



Core architecture needs to support extensions to support all application domains



New technologies entering the automotive and IoT domain Open source HW/SW standards and community platforms drive trends





- Open source becomes an essential part of our approach to "getting customers started"
- IFX is working on development environments combining open source technologies with qualified toolchains

Infineon and industry partners build a strong RISC-V eco-system First Virtual prototype of new RISC-V architecture available this year





Infineon and Synopsys bringing together expertise in MCU- and IP-Development – leveraging learnings and deep understanding to bring benefit to RISC-V community

The mission to make RISC-V available for Automotive



•QUINTAURIS a joint platform to foster standardization in the ecosystem

Aligned with the RISC-V community and government bodies



Accelerating the commercialization of RISC-V based products, addressing certification and maintenance challenges

Leveraging RISC-V benefits of flexibility, control and visibility, providing a blueprint for reliable implementations



Quintauris as trusted bridge between RISC-V innovation & commercial solutions – defragmenting the ecosystem without lock-in Five leading industry players as shareholders: BOSCH (Infineon NORDIC: NORDIC)

Quitauris logo protected by https://www.quintauris.eu/

Key take-aways

- IFX as #1 automotive microcontroller company is investing in open source technologies – RISC-V is a key technology for further expansion of our portfolio
- RISC-V offers both, a very lean and cost-efficient starting point for future high-performance, dependable and scalable controller products
- Infineon is actively shaping the RISC-V eco-system in the market – we are driving standardization with partners



