

Press/Analyst Contacts:
Pat Rugg
VP Sales & Marketing
The Athena Group, Inc.
352/371-2567 x110
prugg@athena-group.com

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Next Generation Hifn Security Processors to Feature Athena's Public Key Cores — Scalable to 100,000 Exponentiations and Beyond

Licensing Agreement Guarantees Hifn Customers Highest Available Public Key Performance for VPNs and E-commerce

LOS GATOS, Calif., February 19, 2002 -- Network security and flow classification market leader Hifn™ (Nasdaq: HIFN) has announced a licensing agreement with The Athena Group, Gainesville, Florida, for the use of the TeraFire™ family of security accelerator cores. The first of the TeraFire technology products makes it possible to scale performance from 5,000 to 100,000 1024-bit RSA private key operations per second for Secure Socket Layer and Internet Key Exchange (SSL/IKE) computations.

Hifn currently produces the broadest array of security processors used in VPN (Virtual Private Network) and e-commerce applications by the world's leading networking equipment manufacturers. Future Hifn processors will utilize the Athena PK (public key) cores for both platforms, enabling the most cost effective solutions across the entire performance spectrum, with unmatched integration and scalability.

"The agreement with Athena puts Hifn in a strong position in terms of addressing future public key performance requirements for the most demanding applications," says Doug Makishima, Hifn vice president of marketing. "The combination of Athena's leading PK acceleration technology and Hifn's proven intelligent packet processing architecture will enable security platforms superior to anything seen before -- a truly unbeatable combination."

Designed specifically for computationally intensive SoC (System on a Chip) applications, TeraFire application specific accelerator engines execute over one trillion (1,000,000,000,000) 16-bit multiply-accumulates per second in power-efficient IP cores. Hifn's product portfolio includes security processors with varying performance characteristics up to the multi-gigabit range.

"Coupling Hifn's leadership in the security processor market with Athena's technology makes a formidable alliance," says Pat Rugg, Athena vice president of sales and marketing. "Our pledge is not only to match Hifn's dedication to the highest standards of quality

and performance, but also to parallel their ambitious road map with an equally aggressive agenda of new product introductions."

About The Athena Group, Inc.

The Athena Group, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida licenses high-performance DSP (digital signal processing) technology that delivers breakthrough performance, reduced area and reduced power consumption in a broad range of SoC products. Athena's proprietary technology powers leading edge applications such as secure e-commerce, wireless communications and video compression.

In addition to their high value application level solutions, Athena also produces a full line of fundamental DSP functions suitable for SoC integration.

Athena was founded in 1986 and is privately held. For more information contact: The Athena Group, 5522 NW 43rd St., Suite B, Gainesville, FL, 32653. Phone: 352-371-2567.

Fax: 352-373-5182. Web: <http://www.athena-group.com>.

About Hifn:

Hifn, of Los Gatos, California makes integrated circuits and software for network infrastructure developers. Hifn's integrated data flow technology enables intelligent secure networks with compression, encryption and application-aware classification. This is central to the growth of the Internet, helping to make electronic mail, web browsing, Internet shopping and multimedia communications better, faster and more secure. Most of the major network equipment manufacturers use Hifn's patented technology to improve packet processing.

Hifn was founded in 1996 and is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange under the HIFN symbol. For more information, contact: Hifn, 750 University Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Phone: 408-399-3500. Fax: 408-399-3501. Web: <http://www.hifn.com>.

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The Athena Group, Inc. / 5522 NW 43rd Street, Suite B / Gainesville, FL 32653
Phone: (352) 371-2567 / Toll-free: (800) 741-7440 / Fax: (352) 373-5182
www.athena-group.com

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