Analog engineer shortage

Paul Rako - June 02, 2008

EETimes has a nice article about the never-ending shortage of analog engineers. I remember being at a conference here in Silicon valley where a big boss was saying that it is easier to teach analog guys digital than to teach digital guys analog. I think every engineer needs both these days. When I was at National Semiconductor my boss would talk about the “analog design group” at the customer’s company. I had to tip him off that most companies cannot afford an analog design group. It is more like when I was a consultant. We all have to select the micro-controller, design the power system, do the analog signal path and then write the firmware to make it all work. If you want to get things done fast, the engineers are laying out our own circuit boards and procuring the parts from Digikey and Mouser and Newark, to boot. So I don’t think there is just a shortage of analog engineers, I think there is a shortage of well-versed generalists that can switch between analog and digital and get the job done.