

## PRESS RELEASE - Nantes, 24 September 2008 -

### MHS Electronics contributes to the success of the CERN LHC particle accelerator.

Last week, on 10 September 2008, the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) was launched. MHS Electronics, as a silicon foundry service provider, contributed to the success of this major industrial project.

In September 1995, MHS was selected to develop and commercialize a specialized silicon based semiconductor manufacturing process known as DMILL microelectronic technology – DMILL is a French acronym for Durcie Mixte Isolée Logico-Linéaire. This mixed analog process technology, developed between 1990 and 1995 by the French agency CEA (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique) and its partners, provides unequalled radiation hardened characteristics compatible with the harsh environmental conditions of the planned LHC experiments. The process will be exposed to ionizing radiations up to 10 Mrad and to neutron flows up to 100,000 billion neutrons per square centimeter ( $10^{14}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>) accumulated over ten years

The complex applications specific integrated circuits (ASICs) developed on this process by more than twenty worldwide physics laboratories, and produced by MHS, are utilized within the particle detector experiments. These ASICs will assist in the understanding of the principles of the fundamental particles that make up the matter in our universe and to advance the boundaries of scientific understanding.

Christian Le MOUELLIC, the DMILL process project leader in MHS, said, "The programme of work could not have been finalized without the close cooperation between the CEA laboratories and MHS as the manufacturer. It was a pleasure to be involved in this important and exciting body of work and to help make a contribution to its success."

MHS Electronics has used the knowledge transfer to strengthen its position as the European silicon solutions provider in mixed signal and high performance analog processes. This specialized expertise held by MHS Electronics in their silicon fabricating facilities in Nantes, France and in Swindon, England enable the business to continue to pursue ambitious technological projects in the space, avionics, medical, industrial and automotive markets.





### **About MHS Electronics:**

As a subsidiary of the French MHS Industries holding company, MHS Electronics is a Silicon Foundry provider of specialized Analog and Mixed-Signal technologies.

Since the acquisition of the ATMEL Nantes Fabrication SAS (France) in December 2005, and of the ZARLINK Analog Foundry activities in Swindon (UK) in March 2008, the company is composed of 370 employees, out of which 250 in Nantes.

With several decades of experience in the microelectronic domain, the company offers dedicated solutions to markets such as Automotive, Space, Defense, Telecommunications, Medical and Industrial.

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