



## **NEW SEMICONDUCTOR STARTUP SECURES \$10M FROM TOP TIER VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS**

**London, UK – 3rd February 2003.** Icera Semiconductor, a new UK-based, fabless semiconductor company, today announced that it has closed its first funding round for a total of \$10M from Benchmark Capital and Atlas Venture.

The Company was established in April 2002 by a team of leading semiconductor executives: Stan Boland and Simon Knowles, respectively were formerly President & CEO and Vice President Silicon Design, at Element 14, a start-up which successfully focused on building the world's highest density DSL chipsets built on a new high performance processor. Element 14 was acquired in late 2000 by Broadcom Corporation for over \$600M. Nigel Toon was previously the Vice President and Managing Director Europe for Altera Corporation and is Vice President, Marketing for Icera. Steve Allpress is a respected wireless communications expert previously with Lucent, Bell Labs and Broadcom in the USA and is Vice President Wireless Systems for Icera.

“Icera has an outstanding founding team bringing together a wealth of engineering and marketing expertise and experience in creating successful start-ups,” said Stan Boland, the new company’s President & CEO. “We are delighted to welcome Benchmark and Atlas as the first external investors in the company. Unlike the last industry cycle which was driven by infrastructure build-out, this coming one will be driven by devices that connect to this infrastructure, and that’s where we are focused.”

Icera has begun building its team of wireless system domain experts and full custom digital design engineers and will be utilising the very latest processes from leading foundries. To underpin its system products, Icera is developing a brand new class of

processor and this activity is being led by Simon Knowles, the Company's Vice President Silicon.

Graham O'Keeffe, Principal at Atlas Venture said "We were co-lead investor in Element 14 and are delighted to be co-leading this first funding for Icera. We are confident that this team knows how to build an incredibly successful company." Mark Evans, General Partner at Benchmark Capital added: "Icera addresses a large market with truly innovative core technology and has near-perfect market timing."

#### **About Benchmark Capital:**

Benchmark Capital was founded in 1995 with the mission of helping talented entrepreneurs build major technology enterprises focused on long-term growth. Benchmark takes a labour-intensive, team-oriented approach to venture investing in order to deliver a superior level of service to its portfolio companies. Benchmark's portfolio includes franchise companies such as Ariba (Nasdaq: ARBA), eBay (Nasdaq: EBAY), Handspring (Nasdaq: HAND), Juniper Networks (Nasdaq: JNPR) and Red Hat (Nasdaq: RHAT). Managing more than \$2 billion in committed venture capital, Benchmark focuses on early-stage investing in markets where the partners have direct, relevant experience. For more information on Benchmark, visit its web site at [www.benchmark.com](http://www.benchmark.com).

#### **About Atlas Venture:**

Atlas Venture is the leading international early-stage venture capital firm investing in life sciences, communications and information technology companies. With offices in Boston, London, Menlo Park, Munich, Paris, and Seattle, Atlas Venture's investments are split evenly between Europe and the US. Founded in 1980, Atlas Venture has organised six international funds, and currently manages more than US\$2.1 billion in committed capital. The Atlas Venture investment team is comprised of seasoned operating executives and career venture capitalists that have been deeply involved in the formation and development of more than 300 companies world-wide. For more information about Atlas Venture, visit [www.atlasventure.com](http://www.atlasventure.com).