

**Calendar**  
UPDATED DAILY  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT  
COMMUNITY  
MEETINGS, SPEAKERS

# INDIA New England


**DON'T MISS AN ISSUE**  
Subscribe Today!!  
INDIA New England  
PRINT EDITION  
Two locals make it big on the small screen

**2003** Gala Awards Dinner  
INDIA New England Woman of the Year January 29, 2004  
The Plaza Ballroom, Seaport Hotel, Boston MA

Search

Go [Calendar](#) [Partners](#) [Archives](#) [Advertise](#) [Forums](#)

[My Info](#) [Logout](#)

-  news
- Front Page
- Arts & Entertainment
- Access Bollywood
- Business
- Community
- Your Money
- Letters to the Editor
- Opinion
- Connecticut
- Up Close With ...
- People
- Lists
- World News

-  focus
- Focus: Immigration
- Columns
- Submit List Entries

-  resources
- Search
- Archive
- Community Calendar
- Discussion Forum

-  advertising
- Advertising Information
- Demographics
- Media Kit Request
- Become a Partner

-  contact
- Letter to the Editor/Feedback
- Submit a Story Idea
- Send Press Release
- Post Calendar Event
- Editorial
- Advertising
- Business/Circulation
- Production

Welcome

[MY ACCOUNT](#) [LOG OUT](#)

Issue Date: January 1, 2004

January 5, 2004

## Bluespec has designs on saving billions for semiconductor industry

New company launches with \$4 million in funding  
*By Mark Pickering*

WALTHAM, Mass. - Two local entrepreneurial luminaries have co-founded a new startup, Bluespec, whose software is being used to speed up the microchip-design process.

"I'm really quite delighted to have it going," said Arvind, a Bluespec co-founder and board member.

Arvind, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, is best known for founding Andover-based Sandburst Corp., a semiconductor company backed by \$36 million in venture capital.

"Arvind's research has come up with a key breakthrough" in how chips are designed, said Shiv Tasker, Bluespec co-founder and chief executive officer.

Tasker has more than 15 years of experience in the chip-design industry and, most recently, was CEO of Waltham-based PhaseForward, a health-related software company.

Working together on Bluespec, the two have landed \$4 million in venture capital from Atlas Venture and Waltham-based North Bridge Venture Partners.

There is a major opportunity for companies such as Bluespec "to save the semiconductor industry billions of dollars," said Rita Glover, principal analyst at EDA Today, which covers electronic-design automation.

Bluespec has 14 full-time employees, mostly in engineering, said Tasker. Now, efforts are moving beyond the research phase.

"The technology is very robust," said Tasker. "We're looking to ship products in the first quarter of 2004."

The process of starting Bluespec actually began last January, said Arvind, who goes by just the one name. At that point, Arvind had stepped down from his CEO role at Sandburst and was back teaching computer science at MIT.

Meanwhile, he had begun to see real potential in research he had been doing first at MIT and then at Sandburst, which owned all the related intellectual property, he said.

Ultimately, the company's board decided the software being developed now by Bluespec was not a good fit for Sandburst, a chip company.

Having separate businesses, Arvind said, also seemed a better strategy for appealing to venture capitalists.

"You don't want to confuse investors," he said.

Arvind stepped aside from voting on that matter, given that he could benefit from the decision being made, he said. Sandburst, where Arvind remains a board member, now has a minority stake in Bluespec.

Mutual friends then introduced Arvind and Tasker.

"The technology looked intriguing, so I wrote a business plan," said Tasker. "We had to assess what it would take to build something as a commercial product and to identify whether the market size was large enough to interest venture capitalists."

In fact, Tasker said, "the market is clamoring for solutions to design problems." It is increasingly difficult to design chips, because of the drive to put more and more complex electronics onto the same semiconductors.

The result, Tasker said, is that "the ability to manufacture chips has vastly outstripped the speed at which they are designed."

Working with the venture capitalists, Tasker and Arvind formed the company in June and gained funding in July.

Asked about his return to teaching after being Sandburst's CEO, Arvind said it suits him fine.

"My leave was for two years from MIT," Arvind said.

As for Bluespec, Arvind said, "I'm there one day a week, but there in spirit even more."

Asked if he thought of being a CEO there, Arvind insists genially: "I'm a college professor."




Arvind



Tasker

**EXPLORER VACATIONS**  
877-EXPLOR1  
(397-5671)



- Community Directory**
- Community Organizations
  - Places of Worship
  - Grocery Stores
  - Restaurants
  - Dance Schools
  - Music

**Archives**

**Dec. 1st**

**INDIA New England**

New labs' aim: Weather fewer losses

New councilor proves every vote counts

Conn. group vows to build home for abused women

**Nov. 15th**

**INDIA New England**

Fire destroys family's home on Diwali

Alleged gropper barred from T

Political novice loses council bid

**Nov. 1st**

**INDIA New England**

Prabasi members drop suit

Marketing trumps tech at Reebok

Virtusa flourishes with outsourcing, doubles staff

**Oct 15th**

**INDIA New England**

Two locals make it big on the small screen

Group building \$3m mosque

Panel: Outsourcing here to stay — and that's not bad