

DWIGHT WILLIAM DECKER

Chairman, CEO

Conexant Systems Inc.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba, March 18, 1950

Lives in Newport Beach (Back Bay)

Back running—and trying to right—Conexant.

Took reins in November after nine months as chairman. Planned to step back after buying New Jersey's Globespan-Virata, headed by former Conexant protégé Armando Geday, and moving company HQ to New Jersey.

Pulled back in after two quarters of losses, botched integration. Company returned to Newport. Says he's "really energized" to be back at helm. Looking to chips for satellite TV boxes, DSL, wireless networking to revive sales.

Says to regain investor confidence, Conexant has to "show measurable, steady progress each and every quarter." Hopes to end losses, break even by year's end.

Part of cost cutting includes outsourcing with December buy of Paxonet, chip developer with India operation.

Decker's return is latest in long-running series of changes for Conexant, dating back to 1999 spinoff from Rockwell, which he led. Starting in 2002, set out on major reworking of company, selling off businesses, spinning off Mindspeed Technologies.

Still waiting on public debut of Newport's Jazz Semiconductor, Conexant's former chip plant. Conexant still owns 38% of Jazz, is big customer.

Contract extended through 2006. Involved in executive search for replacement.

Headed business when it was chip arm of Rockwell. Almost fired from Rockwell decade ago for insisting on shift away from making custom chips to producing modem chips, years before Internet entered mainstream.

Professorial, fiercely competitive, demanding.

Big donor, particularly to UCI. Key mover behind tech group Octane. Chair, UC Irvine Chief Executive Roundtable, recruited 20-plus members. Still involved but community endeavors on backburner for now. In January, handed over chairmanship of San Jose-based Fabless Semiconductor Association to Qualcomm's Sanjay Jha. Now vice chairman of trade group.

Dabbled in real estate: recently sold headquarters buildings for about \$110 million, leased back. Before sale, Conexant had complex arrangement where it leased buildings from Deutsche Bank, gained appreciation, tax breaks, had option to buy, sell.

Long way from rural Canadian upbringing. Bachelor's in physics, math from Montreal's McGill University, doctorate in applied math from Caltech.

Was a math prof at North Carolina State, Raleigh, 1978 to 1984. Took sabbatical with modem maker TeleBit in Silicon Valley, fell in love with corporate life. Still visits family in Canada, but prefers weather in OC.

Wife Silla, 3-year-old son. Enjoys spending time with family.

—Andrew Simons