RISC-V and ARM are both popular instruction set architectures (ISAs) used in embedded applications. Comparing their promises in this domain involves evaluating their features, ecosystem, and potential for growth.

1. Open-source vs. Proprietary:

RISC-V is an open-source ISA, which means that it can be freely used and modified by anyone. This can lead to more innovation and collaboration among developers and chip manufacturers. ARM, on the other hand, is proprietary, and companies need to pay licensing fees to use it. This can limit the number of organizations that can access ARM technology.

2. Ecosystem and support:

ARM has been around for a long time and has a well-established ecosystem, with extensive software and hardware support. This makes it easier for developers to build applications on ARM-based platforms. RISC-V, while growing rapidly, is still relatively new, and its ecosystem is not as mature as ARM's. However, the open-source nature of RISC-V could accelerate its growth.

3. Customizability:

RISC-V offers more flexibility in terms of customization, which can be particularly important for embedded applications. Companies can create custom processor cores tailored to their specific use cases, potentially leading to better performance and power efficiency. ARM also offers customization options, but they are not as extensive as those of RISC-V.

4. Performance and power efficiency:

Both ARM and RISC-V can offer competitive performance and power efficiency. ARM has a proven track record in these areas, but RISC-V is quickly catching up. The open-source nature of RISC-V allows for more experimentation and optimization, which can lead to better results in the future.

5. Market adoption:

ARM is currently the dominant player in the embedded market, but RISC-V is gaining traction. Many companies, including industry giants like Google, NVIDIA, and Western

Digital, are investing in RISC-V technology. It's possible that we'll see a shift in market share as RISC-V matures.

In summary, RISC-V shows great promise for embedded applications due to its open-source nature, customizability, and growing ecosystem. However, ARM's established position, mature ecosystem, and proven performance make it a strong contender. The future of embedded applications could very well include a mix of both RISC-V and ARM, with the choice depending on factors such as cost, performance requirements, and ecosystem support.