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MONDAY NEWS BYTES

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STMicroelectronics

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Tablet Processors Drop

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China Stocks Fall

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Nokia

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Intel & Micron

Intel Corp. and Micron Technology Inc. say they developed a new breed of memory chips that could bring dramatic performance gains to computers, smartphones and other kinds of high-tech products.

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World's First Automotive-Qualified 2Mbit EEPROM from STMicroelectronics Helps Make Cars Greener and Safer

STMicroelectronics has introduced the industry's first AEC-Q100-qualified 2Mbit EEPROM device extending the possibilities for parameter storage and management in complex automotive modules.

New advanced applications such as hybrid, electric, or high-power truck engines require extensive use of various parameters, including the information on air volume, fuel injection, exhaust, or battery charge, to maximize power-conversion efficiency for greener driving. Similarly, automotive-safety applications, such as event recording for airbag or body and braking controllers, increasingly rely on storing and processing large amounts of parametric inputs that include object detection, 3-axis motion, wheel speed, and steering angle.

Tablet Processors Drop As Smartphone Processor Market Rises

Strategy Analytics has released a report indicating that the market for application processors for smartphones rose by 20 per cent in 1Q15 compared with a year before. At the same time, the market for tablets dropped six per cent in 1Q15 on the same basis, added the market research firm.

Bigger smartphone displays and the creation of the so-called phablet product category are one explanation of the contrasting fortunes compared with the tablet processor market, which would then depend on how phablets are classified.

The 20 per cent annual growth took the smartphone application processor market up to a quarterly value of \$5.3 billion. The top five vendors were ranked in order Qualcomm, Apple, MediaTek, Samsung and Spreadtrum. Qualcomm led the market with 47 per cent revenue share, followed by Apple with 16 per cent and MediaTek with 15 per cent.

China Stocks Suffer Sharpest Daily Fall Since 2007

China stocks suffered their sharpest daily percentage decline since 2007, as worries mount that authorities are pulling back on its measures to prop up the market.

The Shanghai Composite Index ended down 8.5% at 3725.56, its second-straight day of losses and worst daily percentage fall since February 27, 2007. China's main index is up 6% from its recent low on July 8, but still off 28% from its high in June.

The smaller Shenzhen Composite fell 7% to 2160.09 and the small-cap ChiNext Closed 7.4% Lower at 2683.45

Analysts say the selling came as investors fear the government is curbing it's buying of blue-chip stocks—and could even be testing whether the market can support itself.

Nokia Returns To Consumer Tech With Virtual Reality Camera

Nokia is plotting a return to the consumer market inspired more by a hovering robotic sphere from Star Wars than its once dominant smartphones business, with an unexpected shift into virtual reality.

The Finnish technology group will on Wednesday reveal plans to enter the market for virtual reality games and entertainment with the world's first real-time professional production equipment to make immersive films, TV and games.

The spherical Ozo camera will be the first in a portfolio of media equipment and services. "This is the rebirth of Nokia, which we have seen so many times in its 150-year history," said Ramzi Haidamus, president of Nokia Technologies, the company's Silicon Valley-based unit.

Intel, Micron Claim Chip Breakthrough

Intel Corp. and Micron Technology Inc. say they developed a new breed of memory chips that could bring dramatic performance gains to computers, smartphones and other kinds of high-tech products.

The companies say the chips they plan to sell next year will be up to 1,000 times faster than the NAND flash memory chips now used in most mobile devices, while storing 10 times more data than dynamic random access memory, or DRAM, chips that are another mainstay of electronics hardware.

Their technology—dubbed 3D Xpoint—doesn't quite match the speed of DRAM. But unlike those chips—and like NAND flash memory—the new chips will retain data even after they are powered off, the companies say.