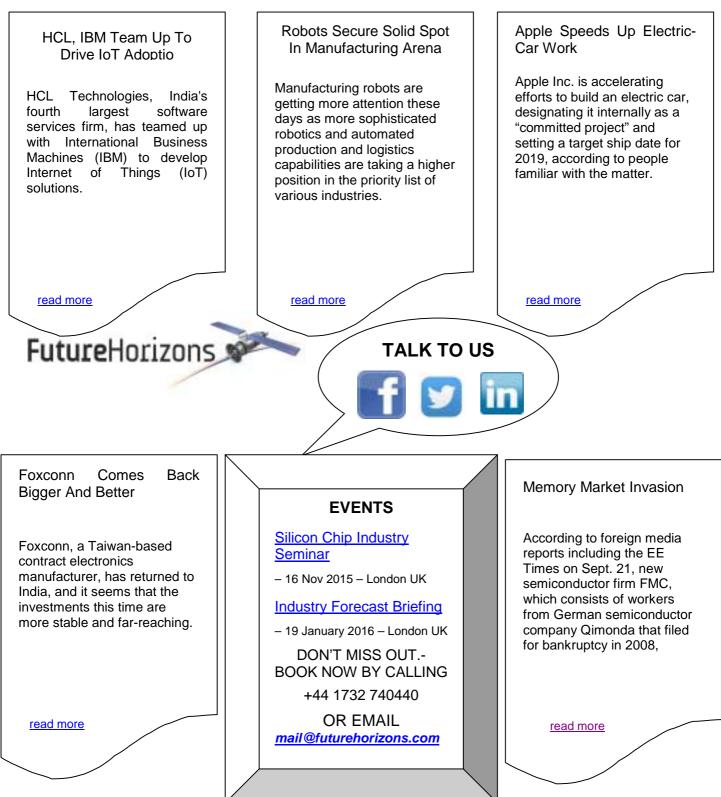
FutureHorizons

FH MONDAY

28th September



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HCL, IBM Team Up To Drive IoT Adoption

HCL Technologies, India's fourth largest software services firm, has teamed up with International Business Machines (IBM) to develop Internet of Things (IoT) solutions.

IoT is a technological concept that aims to make machines communicate with each other to send and receive information in real time.

Under the deal, HCL and IBM will focus on connected products and operations such as remote monitoring, smart inventory management, smart building and facilities management.

The two companies also plan to put up an incubation centre in Noida, India, to develop these solutions for the chosen industries.

Robots Secure Solid Spot In Manufacturing Arena

Manufacturing robots are getting more attention these days as more sophisticated robotics and automated production and logistics capabilities are taking a higher position in the priority list of various industries. While it is true that robots have been around for some time, recent headlines suggest that robots are set to take even more pronounced roles. While robots are becoming faster, cheaper and smarter (like their consumer device counterparts), they also are being developed with more human-looking capabilities such as those involving sensing, dexterity, memory building and training, noted PwC. This means they are also winning more jobs on the shop floors, including picking and packaging, testing or inspecting products or assembling minute electronics. A PwC survey of manufacturers indicated that 59 per cent said they are using some sort of robotics technology, and the firm predicts that traditional and new industries will be looking to include more robotics technology in their plants.

Apple Speeds Up Electric-Car Work

Apple Inc. is accelerating efforts to build an electric car, designating it internally as a "committed project" and setting a target ship date for 2019, according to people familiar with the matter.

The go-ahead came after the company spent more than a year investigating the feasibility of an Apple-branded car, including meetings with two groups of government officials in California. Leaders of the project, code-named Titan, have been given permission to triple the 600-person team, the people familiar with the matter said.

Apple has hired experts in driverless cars, but the people familiar with Apple's plans said the Cupertino, Calif., company doesn't currently plan to make its first electric vehicle fully autonomous. That capability is part of the product's long-term plans, the people familiar with the matter said.

Foxconn Comes Back Bigger And Better

Foxconn, a Taiwan-based contract electronics manufacturer, has returned to India, and it seems that the investments this time are more stable and far-reaching.

The Taiwanese company appears to be taking several steps to build a bigger R&D and manufacturing base in India, according to reports.

A noteworthy one is presumed to be linked to the Indian government's "Make in India" campaign, a national programme aimed at attracting investment and talent, extending its manufacturing infrastructure and encouraging innovation.

On that front, Foxconn (known also as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd) inked a memorandum of understanding with Indian government officials pledging to invest \$5 billion in an electronics factory and an R&D centre that will create 50,000 new jobs. The Indian government will give the company 6.07km2 of land for the facilities, according to reports.

Chinese, German Semiconductor Manufacturers Set for Memory Market Invasion

In the global memory semiconductor market, which is being led by Korean firms such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, the recent actions of Chinese and German producers are alarming.

According to foreign media reports including the EE Times on Sept. 21, new semiconductor firm FMC, which consists of workers from German semiconductor company Qimonda that filed for bankruptcy in 2008, will soon be officially established. Currently, FMC is separating from the Technical University of Dresden and is raising funds from numerous investors, including the government.

FMC is a company that was funded after being recognized for ferroelectric semiconductor technology using hafnium oxide (HfO2). The firm is trying to produce Ferroelectric RAM (FRAM), which is called "dream memory," by using hafnium, a chemical element with atomic number 72. FRAM has all the advantages of next-generation RAM. Many countries, including Korea, have been studying FRAM, but the research has come to a standstill, since there are many problems in terms of materials and the degree of integration. Samsung Electronics has also been studying FRAM since the 1990s.