

# FutureHorizons



The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

## FH MONDAY

12 February 2018

### Q'com Snags 5G OEMs, Carriers

Qualcomm announced that 19 OEMs plan to use its Snapdragon X50 5G cellular modem and 18 carriers will conduct 5G field trials with it. The news marks some of the first system commitments in a race to deliver commercial 5G devices and services by early next year.

[read more](#)

### Nokia, Q'comm Prep for 5G Trials

Nokia and Qualcomm completed a lab test of a 5G New Radio connection for 10 carriers that they hope will take their systems into field trials soon. The announcement is the latest step in a marathon toward commercial 5G services stretching this month from the Winter Olympics in South Korea to the Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona.

[read more](#)

### Chinese Firm To Open UK Chip R&D Center

The China-based parent company of Dynex Semiconductor is establishing a semiconductor R&D center in the UK. The center will employ up to 200 engineers over the next three years and provide additional research capability for its CRRC's two UK subsidiaries, Dynex and Soil Machine Dynamics.

[read more](#)

FutureHorizons



### TALK TO US



### Earbuds Go Beyond Entertainment

MADISON, Wis. — Earbuds are not widely esteemed as a hotbed for new technology development. But while few people were watching, these little audio gadgets have gone remarkable evolution, as demonstrated at the Consumer Electronics Show last month.

[read more](#)

### EVENTS

#### [Silicon Chip Industry Seminar](#)

– March 2018 – London UK

#### [Industry Forecast Briefing](#)

– 16 January 2018 – London UK

**DON'T MISS OUT.-  
BOOK NOW BY CALLING**

**+44 1732 740440**

**OR EMAIL**

**[mail@futurehorizons.com](mailto:mail@futurehorizons.com)**

### Apple Watch Pulls Further Ahead of Competitors

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple shipped an estimated 18 million Apple Watches in 2017 — including roughly 8 million in the fourth quarter alone — reinforcing its dominance in the wearables product category, according to market watcher Canalis.

[read more](#)

Future Horizons Ltd, • 44 Bethel Road • Sevenoaks • Kent TN13 3UE • England

Tel: +44 1732 740440 • Fax: +44 1732 740442

e-mail: [mail@futurehorizons.com](mailto:mail@futurehorizons.com) • <http://www.futurehorizons.com/>

Affiliates in Europe, India, Israel, Japan, Russian, San Jose California, USA

## **Q'com Snags 5G OEMs, Carriers**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Qualcomm announced that 19 OEMs plan to use its Snapdragon X50 5G cellular modem and 18 carriers will conduct 5G field trials with it. The news marks some of the first system commitments in a race to deliver commercial 5G devices and services by early next year.

The OEMs include five of the top 10 smartphone makers but not Apple or Huawei. Wall Street analysts speculate that Apple is poised to shift entirely to Intel LTE modems in its next handsets, and Huawei's HiSilicon division may design a 5G baseband on its own or in its partnership with Taiwan's Mediatek. Samsung, the world's largest smartphone maker, announced previously that it is working with Qualcomm on 5G.

## **Nokia, Q'comm Prep for 5G Trials**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Nokia and Qualcomm completed a lab test of a 5G New Radio connection for 10 carriers that they hope will take their systems into field trials soon. The announcement is the latest step in a marathon toward commercial 5G services stretching this month from the Winter Olympics in South Korea to the Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona.

The duo showed a version of Nokia's AirScale base station and a prototype Qualcomm handset making 5G NR links over 3.5- and 28-GHz bands at a Nokia lab in Oulu, Finland. The FPGA-based systems will provide the basis for field trials with operators this year including BT/EE, Deutsche Telekom, Elisa, KT, LGU+, NTT DOCOMO, Optus, SKT, Telia, and Vodafone Group. The companies hope that the trials lead to commercial deployments of a variety of 5G services next year in China, Europe, Korea, Japan, and the United States.

## **Chinese Firm To Open UK Chip R&D Center**

The China-based parent company of Dynex Semiconductor is establishing a semiconductor R&D center in the UK. The center will employ up to 200 engineers over the next three years and provide additional research capability for its CRRC's two UK subsidiaries, Dynex and Soil Machine Dynamics.

CRRC Times Electric, a Chinese developer of rail and electric vehicle control systems, said it plans to establish the Times Electric Innovation Centre (TEIC) in the first half of 2018 in Birmingham, England. It will focus on cutting-edge research and development of semiconductor-based products and technology across a wide power range. This research will be applicable to key growth markets, including electric vehicles, rail traction, aerospace, power distribution and renewable energy, the firm said.

## **Earbuds Go Beyond Entertainment**

MADISON, Wis. — Earbuds are not widely esteemed as a hotbed for new technology development. But while few people were watching, these little audio gadgets have gone remarkable evolution, as demonstrated at the Consumer Electronics Show last month.

Launching a new era for earbuds is a team of engineers at Qualcomm — formerly at Cambridge Silicon Radio (CSR) — known for their technical chops in wireless connectivity and audio technology. Qualcomm acquired CSR in 2015.

Until recently, the biggest advance in earbuds was when they went totally wireless, as seen in Apple's AirPods. While Apple got a lot of flack for their decision to forgo a headphone jack on their iPhones, this started a trend to cut the cord between a music source and earbuds, or between earbuds.

## **Apple Watch Pulls Further Ahead Of Competitors**

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple shipped an estimated 18 million Apple Watches in 2017 — including roughly 8 million in the fourth quarter alone — reinforcing its dominance in the wearables product category, according to market watcher Canalsys.

Apple shipped nearly 9 million units of Apple Watch Series 3 — the latest version which adds for the first time standalone cellular connectivity — making up nearly half of total Apple Watch shipments for the year, Canalsys said.

"Apple has won the wearables game," said Jason Low, a senior analyst at Canalsys, in a press statement. Low said that Apple has pulled far ahead of competitors by continuing to focus on its core iPhone user base, even while rivals have brought to market innovative designs featuring things such as rotating bezels and circular screens