# FutureHorizons



# The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

## **FH MONDAY**

16 July 2018

# UMC Takes Control Over MIFS

UMC has announced that it has acquired Mie Fujitsu
Semiconductor (MIFS) in a bid to boost its 300mm wafer production capacities. Having previously already owned a 15.9 percent stake in MIFS, UMC assumes ownership of the remaining 84.1 percent of shares in a 57.6 billion JPY deal, equivalent to approximately \$520 million USD.

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#### Memory Crucial for Edge A1

GRENOBLE, France — Addressing the "memory wall" and pushing for a new architectural solution enabling highly efficient performance computing for rapidly growing artificial intelligence (AI) applications are key areas of focus for Leti, the French technology research institute of CEA Tech.

LITE-ON and STM Cooperate on IoT Market

LITE-ON Technology Corp. (TWSE: 2301) announces that its wireless communication modules WSG300S, WSG304S, and WSG306S have been officially accredited with "Sigfox-Verified" certification and are ready for the booming market for Internet of Things (IoT).

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## TALK TO US







#### ST Offers eSIMs at Wafer Level

#### LONDON —

STMicroelectronics has become the first chip maker to be accredited by the GSMA for loading embedded SIM (eSIM) chips with connection credentials such as certificates and operator profiles before shipping.

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## **EVENTS**

### Silicon Chip Industry Seminar

- 12 Nov 2018 - London UK

### **Industry Forecast Briefing**

- 18 Sept 2018 - London UK

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# Chips Boom as Trade War Looms

The semiconductor industry is poised for as much as 15% growth this year and a shot at its first \$500-billion year in 2019, driven largely by rising memory prices. The big dark spot on the horizon is a growing trade war between the U.S. and China.

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#### **UMC Takes Control Over MIFS**

TAIPEI — UMC has announced that it has acquired Mie Fujitsu Semiconductor (MIFS) in a bid to boost its 300mm wafer production capacities. Having previously already owned a 15.9 percent stake in MIFS, UMC assumes ownership of the remaining 84.1 percent of shares in a 57.6 billion JPY deal, equivalent to approximately \$520 million USD.

"UMC is experiencing high demand from mature 12" processes. With new applications in 5G, IoT, automotive and AI requiring these technologies, we anticipate the market conditions driving this demand to remain strong for the foreseeable future. The acquisition of a fully qualified, equipped, and volume production proven 12" facility provides greater time and ROI advantages compared to building a fab from scratch, which would cost several billion dollars and several years to construct and equip," commented UMC co-president Jason Wang.

#### **Memory Crucial For Edge Al**

GRENOBLE, France — Addressing the "memory wall" and pushing for a new architectural solution enabling highly efficient performance computing for rapidly growing artificial intelligence (AI) applications are key areas of focus for Leti, the French technology research institute of CEA Tech.

Speaking to EE Times at Leti's annual innovation conference here, Leti CEO Emmanuel Sabonnadière said there needs to be a highly integrated and holistic approach to moving AI from software and the cloud into an embedded chip at the edge.

"We really need something at the edge, with a different architecture that is more than just CMOS, but is structurally integrated into the system, and enable autonomy from the cloud — for example for autonomous vehicles, you need independence of the cloud as much as possible," Sabonnadière said.

## **LITE-ON And STM Cooperate On IoT Market**

Taipei, Taiwan; Geneva, Switzerland – June 28, 2018 — LITE-ON Technology Corp. (TWSE: 2301) announces that its wireless communication modules WSG300S, WSG303S, WSG304S, and WSG306S have been officially accredited with "Sigfox-Verified" certification and are ready for the booming market for Internet of Things (IoT). The newest LITE-ON modules integrate RF and microcontroller technology from STMicroelectronics (NYSE:STM), a global semiconductor leader serving customers across the spectrum of electronics applications

"In working on the project with STMicroelectronics (ST), LITE-ON sees strong momentum for Sigfox applications. We are confident that our Sigfox-Verified™ modules are of the best quality," said Steven Wu, General Manager, Internet Communication Modules (ICM) Business Unit, LITE-ON.

#### ST Offers eSIMs At Wafer Level

LONDON — STMicroelectronics has become the first chip maker to be accredited by the GSMA for loading embedded SIM (eSIM) chips with connection credentials such as certificates and operator profiles before shipping.

The eSIMs, customized with connection credentials, enable smaller form factors, greater security, and increased flexibility. Chip-scale, permanently embedded, and electronically reprogrammable, eSIMs save space inside smartphones for extra features or battery capacity, while enabling different types of connected devices in tiny form factors for an expanding range of markets and applications, such as smart watches and internet-of-things (IoT) devices including smart meters, remote sensors, or gateways.

#### **Chips Boom As Trade War Looms**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The semiconductor industry is poised for as much as 15% growth this year and a shot at its first \$500-billion year in 2019, driven largely by rising memory prices. The big dark spot on the horizon is a growing trade war between the U.S. and China.

That was the outlook from a handful of analysts at a kickoff for the annual Semicon West event here.

"We are at or just beyond the peak in the economic growth cycle...but the potential for political uncertainty is greater than it has been in a while and that could knock us off the growth path," said Duncan Meldrum, chief economist at Hilltop Economics, forecasting a downturn will hit the capital equipment market next year and spread to the chip sector in 2020.

It's the second year rising DRAM prices amid tight supply have boosted the overall chip industry. The trend is expected to continue until 2020 when more supply comes online.