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Smartwatches Give Mobile TI Stays Steady Without Startup Releases Vehicle-Uptick Blockbuster Deal Agnostic Autopilot Software Semiconductor vendor Texas Technology company Smartwatches are poised for Instruments Inc. Monday (July 25) Oxbotica (Oxford, UK) has a surge as the giant but reported second quarter sales launched its mobile autonomy maturing smartphone market and profit in line with Wall Street's software Selenium. Although cools, said analyst Linley expectations as the company the developers demonstrated Gwennap in a keynote at the continues to perform steadily the software in a purpose-built Linley Mobile & Wearables amid a generally sluggish macroeconomic environment and concept car, they claim that it Conference here. Rivals Ceva without the boost from a can be applied to more or less and Tensilica used the event blockbuster acquisition that has any vehicle. Another unique to announce their latest DSP buoyed many of its peers over the feature: the software gets its cores past two years. bearings without relying on GPS read more read more read more FutureHorizons TALK TO US UMC Sees Jump in 28nm GaN Power Amplifier Demand Addresses 5G **EVENTS** Silicon Chip Industry United Microelectronics Corp. The next generation of mobile (UMC), Taiwan's second largest radio networks, called 5G, will Seminar foundry, said it's seeing stronger offer the platform for demand for 28nm products, - 14 November 2016 - London innovative applications driven by customers in the UK requiring extreme short smartphone business. latency times and / or high The company said revenue from Industry Forecast Briefing data rates up to 10 Gbps. communications chips increased - 20 September 2016 - London Fraunhofer IAF (Freiburg, to 55% of second-quarter sales, UK Germany) has developed one up from 48% in the first quarter this year. of the building blocks required DON'T MISS OUT.to roll out 5G networks BOOK NOW BY CALLING +44 1732 740440 read more read more **OR EMAIL**

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Startup Releases Vehicle-Agnostic Autopilot Software

Technology company Oxbotica (Oxford, UK) has launched its mobile autonomy software Selenium. Although the developers demonstrated the software in a purpose-built concept car, they claim that it can be applied to more or less any vehicle. Another unique feature: the software gets its bearings without relying on GPS.

Selenium can work in pedestrianized environments as well as roads and motorways, and is not reliant on GPS to operate—meaning it can easily transition between indoor and outdoor settings, over ground or underground. The system has been developed to be "vehicle agnostic"; according to the developers, it can be applied to cars, self-driving pods (e.g. for campuses and airports), and warehouse truck fleets.

The software was developed by Oxbotica's team of scientists, mathematicians and engineers in the UK and is able to provide any vehicle it is applied to with an awareness of where it is, what surrounds it and, with that knowledge in hand, how it should move to complete a task.

Smartwatches Give Mobile Uptick

Smartwatches are poised for a surge as the giant but maturing smartphone market cools, said analyst Linley Gwennap in a keynote at the Linley Mobile & Wearables Conference here. Rivals Ceva and Tensilica used the event to announce their latest DSP cores.

Gwennap predicted smartwatches will dominate a market of 380 million wearables in 2020 currently growing at a 38% compound rate. Last year fitness bands led the market with sales of about 49 million units compared to about 24 million for smartwatches, he said. The forecasted shift assumes Apple will ship next year a well-received upgrade of its watch, followed by similar models from the Android camp in 2018.

"There's still innovation in smartphones, but we renamed the mobile event to 'mobile and wearables' because wearables are where there is most interest and innovation these days," Gwennap said in an interview before the event.

TI Stays Steady Without Blockbuster Deal

Semiconductor vendor Texas Instruments Inc. Monday (July 25) reported second quarter sales and profit in line with Wall Street's expectations as the company continues to perform steadily amid a generally sluggish macroeconomic environment and without the boost from a blockbuster acquisition that has buoyed many of its peers over the past two years.

In a conference call with analysts following the second quarter report, Kevin March, TI's chief financial officer, said TI hasn't been pressured by customers to participate in the wave of unprecedented consolidation that has roiled the semiconductor industry since late 2013.

"The only time we had a conversation with our customers about consolidation we've had was when we acquired National Semiconductor [in 2011]," March said. "At that point in time, we had a lot of customers congratulating us and pleased that we were doing it because they knew we were friendly with business terms. Aside from that, I cannot point to an example of a customer coming up to us and saying anything about the consolidation going on in the industry and what they think we should be doing about it."

UMC Sees Jump in 28nm Demand

United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), Taiwan's second largest foundry, said it's seeing stronger demand for 28nm products, driven by customers in the smartphone business.

The company said revenue from communications chips increased to 55% of second-quarter sales, up from 48% in the first quarter this year.

UMC's most advanced process technology, 28nm, represented 17% of its total sales in the second quarter, increasing from 8% in the first quarter. That's in line with the company's forecast three months ago that by the second quarter of 2016, 28nm would account for 15% to 20% of its overall sales revenue.

GaN Power Amplifier Addresses 5G

The next generation of mobile radio networks, called 5G, will offer the platform for innovative applications requiring extreme short latency times and / or high data rates up to 10 Gbps. Fraunhofer IAF (Freiburg, Germany) has developed one of the building blocks required to roll out 5G networks: An integrated circuit for power amplifier transistor implemented in gallium nitride technology. The specific structures on the chip enable base station designers to run the device at relatively high voltages which translates into higher transmitting power than usual, said Fraunhofer researcher Rüdiger Quay. In the related project Flex5Gware, Fraunhofer IAF is already testing prototypes of the device at frequencies to 6 GHz.