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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

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NXP develops tiny radar sensors for self-driving

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TALK TO US

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GE's Bluetooth smart control products

Smart lighting is generally used in various commercial and industrial applications. These days, there a number of solutions that offer over-the-top features that a full-blown smart lighting system can provide. So for many of us, systems like GE's latest family of Bluetooth-based lighting controls may be a sensible alternative.

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"The opening of a R&D facility in Taiwan represents our commitment to expanding our global footprint and our desire to bring next-generation LTE solutions to today's market," said Eran Eshed, VP of Marketing and Business Development at Altair Semiconductor. "We are rapidly expanding our customer footprint, many of which are designing innovative products based on our IoT chipset. We intend to further enhance the service we provide to this growing community and tap into the highly qualified talent pool that exists in Taiwan."

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Measured at 7.5mm x 7.5mm NXP's tiny radar chip, based on CMOS process technology, will open the door for car OEMs and Tier Ones to develop systems consisting of a 'cocoon' of radar sensors for self-driving cars, according to Lars Reger, chief technology officer of NXP Automotive. Such a system can provide a high-resolution, 360-degree view of the environment not only in self-driving but also Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) cars in the volume market, according to NXP.

Lenovo, Google team up to create Project Tango smartphone

Lenovo has partnered with Google to develop the first consumer mobile device using Project Tango technology. The new smartphone, powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, will be available in mid-2016.

The mobile device turns the screen into a "magic window" that can overlay digital information and objects onto the real world, according to the company. Lenovo, Google and Qualcomm Technologies are working to optimise the software and hardware to ensure consumers get the most out of the Project Tango platform.

"With Project Tango, the smartphone becomes a magic window into the physical world by enabling it to perceive space and motion that goes beyond the boundaries of a touch screen," said Johnny Lee, Project Tango Lead, Google. "By working with Lenovo, we'll be able to make Project Tango more accessible to users and developers all over the world to both enjoy and create new experiences that blends the virtual and real world."

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GE's Bluetooth smart control products: Light sol'n made easy

Smart lighting is generally used in various commercial and industrial applications. These days, there a number of solutions that offer over-the-top features that a full-blown smart lighting system can provide. So for many of us, systems like GE's latest family of Bluetooth-based lighting controls may be a sensible alternative. Although this cloud-enabled "semi-intelligent" lighting control system has a limited feature set, its simplicity, scalability and well-designed user interface make it one of the first products I've tested that is worth considering.

At present, GE's ecosystem of Bluetooth-enabled Smart Control products (manufactured by Jasco under GE license) consists of a basic wireless switch module ($39.99), a wireless dimmer module ($44.99), an outdoor-rated wireless switch ($44.99) and a series of wireless wall switches ($29.99 - $44.99). The plug-in lighting controllers I tested work a lot like old-fashioned mechanical lighting timers, except that they provide direct and simple scheduling and control of lighting from your smartphone or tablet.