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India wafer fab project in jeopardy

For years now, the Indian government has been set on building two wafer fabs in the sub-continent but latest developments show that the project is being put on hold, at least on one front.

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ST STM8 MCUs Surpass 2B Unit Sales

STMicroelectronics (ST) has announced that it has exceeded two billion unit sales of its STM8 microcontrollers (MCU), less than two years after reaching one billion unit sales. The company underscored strong success in China.

Aided by these accelerating STM8 sales, ST's share of the general-purpose MCU market has grown to 12.7 per cent in 2015 from 8.2 per cent in 2013, according to World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS). "The STM8 has become one of the world's most popular microcontrollers, and is a sturdy pillar of our strategy," said Daniel Colonna, microcontrollers marketing director, ST. "As with all of our MCUs, we are committed to supporting STM8 for the long term, and we'll continue to strengthen our market position."

Intel Plans To Cut 12,000 Jobs Over Next 12 Months

Intel plans to cut up to 12,000 jobs in its largest workforce reduction in a decade, as the chipmaker refocuses on cloud computing sales and moves away from the declining PC market.

The Silicon Valley company said it would increase investments in its data centre, internet of things, cloud, and connectivity businesses as it warned that PC sales were falling faster than it — or the industry — had previously anticipated. Intel expects to take a one-time charge of about $1.2bn as a result of the restructuring.

“These actions drive long-term change to further establish Intel as the leader for the smart, connected world,” Brian Krzanich, chief executive, said. “I am confident that we’ll emerge as a more productive company with broader reach and sharper execution.”

Quantum Dots Amplify Solar Cell Output

Quantum dots are already being used commercially to boost the output and expand the colour range of ultra-high-definition televisions. Quantum dots, however, can also be used to absorb light to boost the output of photovoltaics, photocatalysts, light sensors, and other optoelectronic devices according to Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, N.Y.). "Our particular 2-D material system (SnS2) [tin disulfide] is similar to Si [silicon], in that it has an indirect band gap, not providing sufficient electroluminescence for light-emitting diodes, but there are other 2-D materials with high luminescence such as MoS2 [molybdenum sulfide] WS2 [tungsten disulfide] which can be used in view of the Qdot-2D hybrid architectures for LEDs," Mircea Cotlet, the physical chemist who led this work at Brookhaven Lab's Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), a Department of Energy (DoE) Office of Science User Facility, told EE Times in an exclusive interview.

60ghz Wi-Fi Gains Traction

The increasing demand for higher bandwidth by gaming and HD video streaming applications is addressed by Wireless Gigabit Alliance's WiGig, also known as IEEE 802.11ad. Launched in 2009, it is a step change from the 802.11 evolution we have witnessed over the last few years, adding a new 60GHz frequency band to the mix of 2.4 and 5GHz offerings.

The 2.4GHz band is largely saturated today, and it is projected that the 5GHz band will also become saturated within 2-3 years due to the roll out of today's 802.11ac. Hence, introducing a new Wi-Fi protocol operating in the 60GHz license-free ISM band is a timely innovation.

India Wafer Fab Project In Jeopardy

For years now, the Indian government has been set on building two wafer fabs in the sub-continent but latest developments show that the project is being put on hold, at least on one front.

Local reports say that Jaiprakash Associates, Local cement and infrastructure company, also the top partner in a consortium with IBM and Tower Semiconductor Ltd. withdrew from its project to build a wafer fab in Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

"JP Associates has withdrawn its proposal of semiconductor plant. They have said that it is not commercially viable to set up this plant at present," Aruna Sharma, secretary of the DeitY (Department of Electronics and IT) of the ministry of communications & information technology, government of India told reporters on the sidelines of a Qualcomm event in New Delhi.