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High Demand For Radar Chips Boosts Infineon's Growth

Chipmaker Infineon has grown faster than the chip industry in the 2016 fiscal year and for the years ahead, CEO Reinhard Ploss is even sure that he can increase the company's profitability in an almost stagnant global market. However, his high-flying plans depend on one factor that is not yet completely certain.

The yearly figures presented by the German chipmaker are rather unspectacular, but positive: 12% overall revenue growth (7% resulting from organic growth), segment result up 9.5%. The interesting aspect in these figures is twofold: First, it has been achieved in an environment characterised by almost zero growth for the semiconductor industry. And all four of Infineon's business units—automotive, industrial power control, power management and multimarket, and chip card and security--contributed to the growth and the profit. This was not always the case. The chip card and security business, years ago the company's problem child, continued its recovery and actually turned out to have the highest profitability with a segment result margin of 19.3%. This reflects the fact that in Europe, Infineon's security chips are provided to 70% of all ID card and passport projects, the company said.

Huawei Aims To Help Set 5G Standards

Huawei, the Chinese telecoms group, has scored a victory in the battle to set standards for the fifth generation of mobile technology.

The advent of 5G, designed to beef up capacity to cope with the increase in streaming, connected devices and other internet usage, has pitted both countries and companies against each other to spearhead the winning technology.

Unlike previous generations, some practitioners believe 5G should be a global standard to allow connected devices, such as cars, to operate across the globe. It is due to launch in 2020 and Huawei expects pre-commercial products next year.

NXP Integrates Mindtree IP In MCU

Mindtree has revealed that its BlueLitE IP is integrated in NXP's Kinetis KW41Z microcontroller (MCU) from NXP Semiconductors. The MCU was announced last month.

The BlueLitE Link Layer has enabled what the companies are called the industry's first multi-protocol radio MCU that supports IEEE 802.15.4 standard and Bluetooth v4.2. The Kinetis KW41Z MCU is being targeted at building automation and medical IoT devices, other wearable devices, remote controls and toys.

BlueLitE Bluetooth Smart semiconductor IP is certified by the Bluetooth Qualification Body. It features Bluetooth Low Energy specifications, integrated power management features, various RF interfaces and OS.

Lattice Deal May Hit A Snag

MADISON, Wis. — A buyer with ties to the Chinese central government and a U.S. company whose technology has potential for dual-purpose applications is an alarming combination that could invite suspicion among regulators concerned about national security. In theory, it could trip up any proposed acquisition involving U.S. tech firms.

This scenario might become the case with a deal announced earlier this month in which Canyon Bridge Capital Partners agreed to buy U.S.-based chip maker Lattice Semiconductor Corp for \$1.3 billion.

IoT to Get Security, Gateway Benchmarks

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The Embedded Microprocessor Benchmark Consortium (EEMBC) launched two new benchmarks for the Internet of Things. They aim to help engineers measure the effectiveness of end-node security and performance of gateways at the network's edge.

EEMBC invites interested companies to join the efforts that hope to deliver preliminary metrics early next year. The two new efforts join one already in progress, a benchmark for IoT connectivity that is shedding light on trends in IoT networks.

The IoT Connect benchmark will measure performance and energy consumption across a range of communications tasks and system profiles. The first version focuses on Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), measuring various aspects of microcontroller and RF performance and energy use on a simulated IoT end node.